

16 Tribal members retain membership

Tribal Council votes 5-3 to not disenroll for dual membership in another Tribe

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Sixteen Tribal members who saw their enrollment cases sent back to the Enrollment Committee in mid-August for reconsideration were retained in the Tribe during the Dec. 30 Tribal Council meeting.

In mid-August, Tribal Council voted to disenroll 13 Tribal members because the members ran afoul of the Tribal Constitution's provision forbidding dual enrollment in another federally recognized Tribe. Tribal Council also sent 17 cases involving possible dual enrollment back to the Enrollment Committee for reconsideration. One of those 17 Tribal members has since walked on.

After rehearing the cases, the Enrollment Committee endorsed its original decisions, recommending the 16 Tribal members for disenrollment for violating the dual enrollment clause.

But in a series of 5-3 votes, Tribal Council voted to retain all as members.

Tribal Council Secretary Toby McClary said he voted to keep the 16 as members because his interpretation of the Tribal Constitution convinced him that they had fulfilled their obligation by relinquishing membership in another Tribe.

"I believe that these folks don't have any control over when they are relinquished and when they are enrolled," he said about when another Tribe might act on a written request for relinquishment. "I think that their responsibility was to submit relinquishment in writing and I believe that they were in compliance with the Tribe's Constitution."

McClary joined Tribal Council members Denise Harvey, Kathleen Tom, Cheryl A. Kennedy and Jon A. George in voting to retain the 16 members.

Tribal Council Chair Reyn Leno said afterward that there are differing interpretations of the Tribal Constitution that will eventually have to be settled by the Tribal membership regarding the dual enrollment wording. "We need a clean interpretation," he said.

In response to a question, Assistant Tribal Attorney Kimberly D'Aquila said the Dec. 30 vote would not affect the 13 people who were disenrolled in August for violating the dual membership clause.

In other action, Tribal Council approved the agenda for the Jan. 5 General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center.

Tribal members and Land and Culture Department employees Jordan Mercier, David Harrelson, Brian Krehbiel and Eirik Thorsgard and Tribal Council member Jon A. George performed the cultural drumming to open the meeting. ■

Tribal Council approves agreement with ODOT

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a memorandum of understanding with the Oregon Department of Transportation on Jan. 8 that will help Tribal members obtain jobs working on state road construction projects within a 60-mile radius of Grand Ronde.

During the Dec. 24 Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Employment Rights Office Director Greg Azure said that the memorandum is similar to one the Umatilla Tribe near Pendleton has with the Department of Transportation.

The Tribe stands to also collect a fee on state road construction projects that occur either on the Reservation or within the 60-mile radius when the Tribe cites Indian preference and deploys a Native workforce. For example, the Tribe would receive \$20,000 for a \$3 million road construction project within the area.

Azure said the road construction season will start in earnest in April or May, which will give his office time to recruit Tribal members who are qualified to work on state road construction projects. He added that his of-

fice is assessing training needs for Tribal members that will support the memorandum of understanding.

In other action, Tribal Council approved the Needle Pig Thin Logging Unit timber sale.

Timber and Roads Manager Jeff Kuust said during the Jan. 7 Legislative Action Committee meeting that the sale includes five areas encompassing 114 acres. The blocks used to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management and include young stands that need to be thinned, he said.

The estimated sale volume is 848,000 board feet in conifer and 76,000 board feet in hardwood, Kuust added.

The Jan. 8 Tribal Council packet also included an authorization to proceed to re-nominate Tribal Council member Cheryl A. Kennedy to serve on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.

Tribal members and employees Jan Looking Wolf Reibach, Travis Mercier and Brian Krehbiel and Tribal Council member Jon A. George provided the cultural drumming to start the meeting. ■

Elders' Activity Center Pot Luck/Game Night

Starting Wednesdays

- Canasta
- Pinochle
- Cribbage
- Pool

If you have a game you like at home, bring it. Any questions, call Dan Ham at 503-879-2233. ■

Volunteers wanted

The Tina Miller Community Center Thrift Store, 110 B. St., Willamina, helps fund the after-school and weekend youth community center located in the old Willamina High School gym. The thrift store is seeking volunteers who can help run the store, in addition to donated items and customers. The store accepts clothes, books, knickknacks, etc., as donations. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and closed Sunday and Monday. Donations also can be left at the Wildwood Hotel and Restaurant in Willamina. For more information on volunteering, call 503-876-7897. The youth center and thrift store are nonprofit and 100 percent self-sustaining and volunteer-run. ■

HelpLine Provides Free, Confidential Crisis Intervention and Resources

As 2012 begins, Oregon Partnership offers a reminder about our free, confidential alcohol and drug HelpLine (800-923-HELP; 800-923-4357).

Highly trained volunteers and staff provide compassionate assistance to people in crisis as well as to family members and friends concerned about loved ones.

The line operates 24/7, responding to those seeking crisis intervention and resources that help them heal.

YouthLine

A peer-to-peer crisis line for teens. Chat online www.OregonYouthline.org. Youth working under the supervision of an adult answer calls on diverse topics including substance abuse, depression, self-harm, dating violence and other issues, many of which have substance abuse as an underlying issue
Call 877-YOUTH-911 - (877) 968-8491

Family Movie Night Special

Sponsored by Youth Prevention



Jan. 31
6 p.m.
Tribal Gym

We will provide a nice and healthy dessert, Build your own yogurt parfait's water and fruit snacks



NON-SMOKING EVENT

"Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde's Tribal Community and Culture by not displaying Gang Affiliation and by not bringing Drugs, Alcohol or Weapons to this event"