



Tribe holding Memorial Day event — pg. 3

Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

MAY 15, 2014

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

June 6 election Proposed amendments concern BIA and term limits

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Grand Ronde Tribal members who have registered to vote in the June 6 Bureau of Indian Affairs constitutional election will weigh in on instituting Tribal Council term limits and exorcising the BIA from the Tribal constitutional election process.

Election Board Chair Penny DeLoe said that a proposed list of Tribal voters who registered with the BIA was to be posted by 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, which was after the deadline for this issue of *Smoke Signals*. Names on the proposed list can be challenged through May 27 and a final list of voters will be posted on May 28.

Tribal Council asked the Secretary of the Interior to authorize the calling of an election to amend the Tribe's Constitution on Nov. 20, 2013. The BIA's northwest regional director authorized the calling of the election on Feb. 19.

The first proposed amendment would remove the BIA's oversight role regarding Tribal constitutional elections. The second proposed amendment would institute a limit of three consecutive terms on future Tribal Council service. After three consecutive terms — nine years — a Tribal Council member would have to take a year off before being eligible to run again. The term limits, if approved, would not be retroactive and would not affect current Tribal Council members who have already served three or more terms.

To change the Tribal Constitution, at least 30 percent of those registered to vote with the BIA must cast ballots and 66.7 percent of those voting must approve of an amendment.

In a September 2010 survey, Tribal members overwhelmingly endorsed the idea of term limits, with 701 saying they liked the idea and 229 saying they didn't, for a 75.5 percent approval. Almost 61 percent of those responding to the survey said they favored two terms as the limit for Tribal Council service while a combined 93 percent of respondents said that a maximum of

See ELECTION
continued on page 10



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Officer Ron Wellborn has brought Project Lifesaver to Grand Ronde. The program is useful for parents, children, spouses or caretakers of a person with Alzheimer's, autism or any traumatic brain disorder if their relative walks off. The client wears the location transmitter watch, on the left, and a receiver is used to find the signal from the watch.

Wander bust

Project Lifesaver helps track those with brain ailments

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

There aren't many people signed up for local chapters of Project Lifesaver, but parents, children, spouses or caretakers of a person with Alzheimer's, autism or any traumatic brain disorder could find it to be a huge relief if their relative walks off.

With this program, they will likely be found within minutes.

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Officer Ron Wellborn, who brought the program to Yamhill County in 2007 when he worked for the Sheriff's Office, now has brought it to Grand Ronde.

"It's just one of the best programs around for finding persons who wander," Wellborn

said. "Nationwide, since 1999 (first year for Project Lifesaver), the program has logged over 2,800 searches and all have been successful."

The genesis for the local program came in Yamhill County, where "a little boy went lost," said Wellborn. "He was autistic. Luckily, we found him. He was in the middle of a creek and OK."

Afterward, Wellborn remembered hearing about Project Lifesaver at a Washington State Search and Rescue Conference. He called the program's main office and asked why Yamhill County didn't have the service.

See LIFESAVER
continued on page 11

Ground is broken for Tribal apartments



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

20 new units will make a dent in waiting list

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Under the gaze of Spirit Mountain, three shiny new shovels passed through the hands of five Tribal Council mem-

bers and others when the Tribe broke ground on Monday, May 5, for its sixth Tribal housing devel-

See APARTMENTS
continued on page 18

Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr., left, and Tribal Council member Jon A. George, second from left, watch as Tribal Council members Ed Pearsall, middle, and Denise Harvey and Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno break ground for the Tribe's 20-unit apartment complex on Monday, May 5. The complex will be built across from the Tribe's existing family housing.