



General Council meeting — pg. 5

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Leno wins seventh term

Voters re-elect Chris Mercier, select Tonya Gleason-Shepek

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal voters re-elected Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno to his seventh consecutive three-year term after election results were released on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Leno, who was first elected to Tribal Council in 1996, was the top recipient of votes, garnering 558, or 15.47 percent of the total.

Grand Ronde voters also re-elected Chris Mercier, who took a year off from Tribal Council after serving three consecutive terms from 2004 to 2013.

Mercier, who is attending law school at Michigan State University, received the second most votes with 543, or 15.06 percent. He said before Election Day that he will take a leave of absence from law school if elected.

First-time Tribal Council candidate Tonya Gleason-Shepek received the third most votes with 539, or 14.95 percent. She ran on a slate with Leno and incumbent June Sherer.

Sherer and fellow incumbent Kathleen Tom finished fourth and fifth with 521 votes and 424 votes, respectively. Sherer will end her fourth non-consecutive term on Tribal Council while



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Reyn Leno, left, and Tonya Gleason-Shepek give each other a congratulatory hug before the start of the General Council meeting held at the Tribal Community Center on Sunday, Sept. 7. Leno was re-elected for a seventh consecutive three-year term and Gleason-Shepek was elected to Tribal Council for the first time during the Saturday, Sept. 6, election.

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Photo courtesy of Gabe Cliff

This year, the Grand Ronde Tribe's wildland firefighting crew was sent to fight fires in Oregon, Washington and California, including the Pine Creek Fire in central Oregon.

Tribal firefighters battled 23 fires across the Northwest

Program anticipates \$1 million in reimbursements this year

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Grand Ronde Reservation and most of western Oregon has so far this season been spared wildland fires, but across the Northwest many other areas have not been as lucky.

This summer, 54 Tribal fire-

fighters have been busy in three northwestern states – Oregon, Washington and California, specifically in the north – battling 23 wildland fires, according to Jeff Nepstad, Silviculture and Fire Pro-

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State grants Grand Ronde greater control over its natural resources

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

JOSEPH – The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission unanimously approved the Grand Ronde Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Management Plan and a new administrative rule that gives the Tribe control over the take of fish and wildlife on Reservation and trust lands during its Friday, Sept. 5, meeting held in the Joseph Community Center.

By adopting the Tribe's Fish & Wildlife Management Plan, the state commission delegated its authority to the Tribe to be exercised on Reservation and trust lands in accordance with the provisions outlined in the management plan.

The new permanent plan

replaces an interim plan that the Tribe has been managing its lands under.

"It was a very historic moment for the Tribe," said Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno during the Sept. 7 General Council meeting. "We will now manage our own Reservation. It's something that hasn't been done before. ... It says a lot for our Tribe. It says a lot for our leadership because it is also the recovery of some of our sovereignty that was taken away from us 60 years ago. This is something that very few Tribes ever get to do. It was a huge day for Grand Ronde ... a monumental time for our Tribe."

Fish and Wildlife Commis-

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