



Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Constitution unchanged

Proposed amendments fail to receive sufficient support

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Two proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution failed to receive enough support to pass in the March 14 election.

The first proposed amendment, which would have removed Secretary of the Interior oversight and approval of amendments to the Tribe's Constitution, received 381 votes against and 230 in support with 28 ballots not having a vote marked.

The second proposed amendment, which would have instituted term limits on Tribal Council service of a one-year break after three consecutive terms served, was supported by 391 voters to 220 against, but the 64 percent "yes" vote fell short of the two-thirds approval required to change the Tribal Constitution. In addition, 28 ballots were submitted without a vote marked.

Since this was a federally run election, Tribal members had to specially register to vote and 1,091 did so out of more than 3,900 potential Tribal voters. With 639 ballots being returned, there was a 58.6 percent turnout, which met one of the Tribal Constitution's requirements — a minimum 30 percent turnout.

In September 2010, the membership was surveyed about instituting a primary process in Tribal elections and about term limits for Tribal Council service, and both ideas were supported by survey respondents.

However, in June 2012, a primary election amendment also failed to receive the required two-thirds approval to change the Tribal Constitution. ■

In search of smelt



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr. dips for smelt in the Sandy River during a Tribal excursion at Lewis and Clark State Park on Sunday, March 15. More photos on page 9.

Easter egg hunt set for April 4

This year's Easter egg hunt starts at 10:05 a.m. sharp on Saturday, April 4. Organizer Deborah Kroeker, Tribal Housing Services coordinator, strongly advises parents to bring their children to the covered area in Tribal housing on Raven Loop on time. Or 10 a.m.!

"It will last around two minutes," Kroeker says. "That's why I tell people not to be late."

Two minutes is about the time it will take for about 100 children to pick up 2,000 eggs.

An egg stuffing party was held Wednesday, April 1, at the Tribal Housing Department to prepare for the event. Children will hunt in four adjacent areas, all starting at the same time. They will be split into age groups that

give all the children an equal shot at the eggs: 1- to 2-year-olds; 3- to 4-year-olds; 5- to 8-year-olds; and 9- to 12-year-olds.

Parents are reminded to bring cameras for action photos and pictures of their children with the Easter Bunny, portrayed this year by Tribal Council member Jon A. George, who will be borrowing the bunny suit from and filling in for Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr.

Big prizes are inside the eggs, chosen again this year because they fit in the plastic eggs, and everybody loves the smell of candy in the morning, Kroeker said.

Tribal Council again supported the annual hunt with \$500. ■

Feds brief Tribes on marijuana legalization



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Oregon Tribes are preparing for murky legal waters that will begin on July 1 when Oregon's Measure 91 goes into effect, allowing residents 21 and older to possess up to an ounce of homegrown marijuana in public, eight ounces at home and grow up to four plants out of public view.

While it may become legal in Oregon, growing, possessing and

using marijuana remains against federal law and Tribal lands are under federal jurisdiction.

To help Tribes navigate the brave new and potentially confusing world, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer Martin and Tim Simmons briefed an Oregon Tribes meeting held Tuesday, March 17, at Spirit Mountain Casino.

See LEGALIZATION continued on page 15

Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr. gives a welcome speech at the start of the Oregon Tribes meeting held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, March 17.