



Tribal member heading to National Finals Rodeo — pg 12

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Voters select Kennedy, Tuomi and George

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal voters re-elected Tribal Council members Cheryle A. Kennedy and Jon A. George and newcomer Brenda Tuomi was elected to fill the seat of outgoing Tribal Council Secretary Toby McClary, who did not run after serving two terms.

Tribal Council election results were released following a recount at about 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, when the official numbers were posted on the door of the Tribal Community Center.

Kennedy, who has served five consecutive terms on Tribal Council, received the most votes with 459 or 14.646 percent of the total votes cast.

“I’m very serious about our culture and our traditions and our well-being. That is the backbone of our Tribe,” said Kennedy. “What I believe has held us together is our culture and our belief in ourselves. We are here with a purpose. We were intended to be here and every fiber of us is going to fight to stay here, and that comes from those traditions and those values.”

Grand Ronde voters elected Tuomi to her first Tribal Council term with the second most votes at 439 votes or 14.008 percent. Tuomi becomes the 45th person elected to Tribal Council since the Tribe was restored in 1983.

Tribal membership also re-elected George to his second consecutive term with 434 votes or 13.848 percent of votes cast.

Former Tribal Council member and Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr.

See ELECTION
continued on page 7



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Honor Guard, from left, Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno, Tribal Elder Alton Butler and community Elder Al Miller lead a procession of Tribal members down Tilikum Crossing alongside the first ride of TriMet’s Orange Line during the grand opening celebration for both in Portland on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Grand Ronde leads way at Tilikum Crossing opening

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

PORTLAND – Members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, descendants of the original tilixam – “people” in Chinuk Wawa – of the Port-

land area, appropriately lead the way at the grand opening of the new Tilikum Crossing Bridge in Portland on Saturday, Sept. 12.

With a light southerly breeze blowing, the Grand Ronde Honor Guard of Tribal Council Chair-

man Reyn Leno, Tribal Elders Alton Butler and Steve Bobb Sr., and community Elder Al Miller lined up on the new transit bridge

See OPENING
continued on pages 10-11

Tribe accepts 14-acre donation at Kilchis Point



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

BAY CITY – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is no longer landlocked. On Wednesday, Sept. 2, the Tribe accepted a donation of 14 acres from the Tillamook County

Board of Commissioners at Kilchis Point on the eastern shore of Tillamook Bay.

“This is a very historic day for Grand Ronde,”

See DONATION
continued on page 16

After Tribal Council gifted Tribal logo Pendleton blankets, Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno shakes hands with Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi during a ceremony in which the Tribe accepted a donation of 14 acres at Kilchis Point on the eastern shore of Tillamook Bay from the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, Sept. 2, in Bay City. On the right is Tillamook County Commissioner Bill Baertlein.