

Bill exempts Tribal representatives on Indian commission from 'quorum trigger'

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

A bill passed by the Oregon Legislature and now sitting on Gov. Kate Brown's desk acknowledges that Legislative Commission on Indian Services members who are Tribal representatives serve as public officials for the state only when they are at commission meetings.

"Their status is different from others who serve on public boards and commissions because they are 24/7 elected officials of their respective sovereign nations," said Karen Quigley, executive director of the commission. "Tribal leaders on LCIS are not to be held to Oregon's laws governing public officials and the quorum trigger if several of them happen to be at other get-togethers, such as NCAI, ATNI, funerals, ceremonies and powwows."

All members of the commission – four legislative members and nine Tribal members – are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President. The new bill was signed by the Speaker of the House Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney on March 2.

"The passage of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services bill demonstrates the support of Oregon for the nine Tribes," said Tribal Council Secretary Cheryle A. Kennedy, the Tribe's longtime representative on the commission. "This bill also distinguishes Tribes of Oregon as sovereigns and recognizes that the public meeting quorum rule does not apply to Tribes."

"The public meeting requirement does not work for LCIS members who are Tribal elected officials because Tribes meet in many forums. Therefore, the state recognizes the impracticality of applying this rule to LCIS commissioners because they are elected Tribal leaders and the bill made provision to omit Tribes from the public meeting quorum requirement. I am pleased with the passage of the LCIS bill and what it means for Oregon Tribes."

The bill also clarifies that each of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes have their own procedures for making their selection of a representative to the commission and that Tribal governments may have different names for their elected body, such as Tribal Council or Board of Trustees.

"The bill's term to address this is 'each Tribe's governing body,'" Quigley said.

The bill was introduced in the Oregon Senate by senators Ted Ferrioli and Arnie Roblan and in the House by Rep. Caddy McKeown.

The Legislative Commission on Indian Services was established in 1975 to improve services to Native Americans in the state.

"Importantly, the bill also explicitly makes promoting communication and positive state-Tribal relations a purpose of the commission," Quigley said. ■

Grand Ronde Housing Department



Housing Board seeks community input

The Grand Ronde Housing Board is inviting Tribal members and Tribal housing residents to provide input to assist its members in carrying out its advisory role to the Housing Department and Tribal Council regarding policy guidance. The Housing Board meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the Housing Department conference room, 28450 Tyee Road. Its chair is Matt Thomas. For more information, contact the Housing Department at 503-879-2401. ■

St. Michael's offers brunch

St. Michael's Catholic Church offers an open house brunch every Sunday following Mass. The brunch is free to the community.

Brunch begins at about 11:30 a.m. following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass attendance is not required for brunch attendance. For more information, contact Janelle Justen at 503-550-0923. ■

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will be hosting a regional meeting April 2nd at our tribal gym there will be a meal at noon and the meeting will be after the meal and then we will be doing some sharing of songs and dances so please come and join us we will have representatives from Nisqually tribe that will be joining us to fill us all in on what to expect this year going in to their territory. Tribal headquarters address is 9613 Grand Ronde Rd. OR 97347 for more info call Robby Mercier 503-879-2076 or E-mail bobby.mercier@grandronde.org

Canoe Journey 2016 to NISQUALLY

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Tech Savvy Kids and the Uninformed Parent

Presented by the Keizer Police Department



When: March 18, 2016
10am to 12pm
Where: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde – Adult Education Building

Target Audience:
Parents who want to know:
• What children are doing online via social media
• How to better monitor and protect the tech savvy child
• Parental rights

Review

- Sex Crime Laws
- Sexting
- Case Studies
- Cyber Bullying
- Suicide
- Creating the nexus between sexting, bullying and suicide
- Q & A Session
- Resources & Handouts

Presenter: Keizer Police Department
Sgt. Trevor Wenning

Contact # 503-390-3713 ext 3508

Contact Email: wenningt@keizer.org

RSVP to:

Amanda Mercier

Amanda.mercier@grandronde.org

503-879-2039