

Paddle to
Nisqually Route

Canoe Journey returns — pg. 11

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Constitutional amendments rejected

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal voters overwhelmingly rejected two proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution during a Bureau of Indian Affairs-conducted election that concluded on Friday, July 8.

The first proposed amendment, which would have changed enrollment requirements and expanded the definition of Grand Ronde blood, was rebuffed 639 to 412, or 60.8 percent of voters opposing the idea.

The second proposed amendment, which would have altered the requirements for initiating a referendum or initiative and the calling of a special General Council meeting, fared even worse, with 670 Tribal members voting “no” and 382 in favor for a 63.7 percent to 36.3 percent split.

Of the 1,546 Tribal members who registered to vote with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 68 percent participated by casting ballots.

To change the Tribal Constitution, 30 percent of those who registered to vote have to cast a ballot and two-thirds of those voting must approve of the proposal for an amendment to be incorporated.

The two proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution were sent to voters in identical 5-2 Tribal Council votes on April 6.

The first constitutional amendment proposed to changed Tribal enrollment requirements.

Currently, Tribal membership requirements for new applications include, among other things, that applicants have at least 1/16th Grand Ronde blood quantum, were born to a parent who was a member of the Tribe at the time of the applicant’s birth and at the time of application, unless the parent is deceased.

Grand Ronde blood is currently defined as “all Indian blood derived from a direct ancestor whose name validly appears on the official Tribal membership roll prepared under the Restoration Act, which may be corrected by Tribal Council with approval from the Secretary of the Interior.”

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder and U.S. Navy veteran Herman Hudson Jr., in striped shirt, and other veterans participate in the 1 p.m. Grand Entry on Saturday, July 9, of the 2016 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds.

Veterans Weekend

Powwow honors warriors from Vietnam era

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

Even rainy weather in July couldn’t keep veterans from turning out in large numbers for the annual Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held in Grand Ronde at the Tribe’s Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, July 8, through Sunday, July 10.

Friday night’s opening grand entry featured Grand Ronde Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran

Alton Butler and Tlingit/Haida Tribal member and Army veteran Wayne Chulik carrying in the eagle staffs to the sound of host drum Bad Soul.

Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Steve Bobb Sr.

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Tribe hosts fourth Veterans Summit

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The day before the Grand Ronde Tribe hosted the fourth annual Veterans Summit: Gathering of Warriors at Uyxat Powwow Grounds, the Department of Veterans Affairs released sobering statistics regarding suicides among the country’s men and women who have served in the military.

The first actual count found that 7,403 veterans killed themselves in 2014. That’s 20 veterans a day.

The issue was discussed sever-

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Joe Bertagnolli, left, Suicide Prevention coordinator at the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, leads a suicide prevention workshop during the fourth annual Veterans Summit: Gathering of Warriors held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, July 8.