



2016 Contest Powwow — pgs. 17-24

Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribal Election Day is Sept. 10

Nine vying for three open seats

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Time is running out on Tribal members to vote in the 2016 Tribal Council election.

Election Day is Saturday, Sept. 10, and ballots will be counted at the Community Center that day and results will be posted that evening on the Community Center's front doors.

Nine Tribal members, including two incumbents, are seeking three-year terms on Tribal Council.

Incumbents are Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr., seeking his fifth term, and Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, seeking her second term. Incumbent Ed Pearsall is not seeking re-election.

Challengers are Monty Herron, Michael Langley, Penny DeLoe, Kathleen George, Jason Darcy-Chantel, Lisa Leno and Jackie Many Hides. They are all seeking a first term on Tribal Council. Tribal voters can vote for up to three candidates on their ballot.

Last year, 1,151 ballots were cast out of 3,972 Tribal members who were eligible to vote for a 29 percent turnout. According to the Tribe's Member Services Department, 4,030 Tribal members will be 18 or older and eligible to vote on Election Day. Meanwhile, the Election Board reported that 2,614 Tribal members were registered to vote as of mid-August.

Eligible voters – those who will be 18 or older as of Sept. 10 – must be registered to vote with the Tribe. Tribal members can register up to and including on Election Day. Late registrants can bring their registration into the Community Center on Election Day.

The *Tilixam Wawa* with candidate statements was mailed first class to Tribal members in July and ballots were mailed to voters with verified signatures on July 27. ■



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Station Manager Lisa Nelson, right, rings up a fuel customer with the help of store employee Marianne Blanchard at the store next to Spirit Mountain Casino on Friday, Aug. 26.

Must-stop shop

Nelson turning Grand Ronde Station into a major convenience

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

It has been a great year for Grand Ronde Station Manager Lisa Nelson and there are still four months remaining.

Nelson got the job that she coveted at the Tribal convenience

store in February, said "Yes" when her fiancé asked her on the spur of the moment to marry him during an April trip to Reno, Nev., and became a grandmother in early August.

Grand Ronde Station is located at 26820 Salmon River Highway

on the Spirit Mountain Casino grounds.

"I am having so much fun," says Nelson. "I love working here. This is the best job I've ever, ever had."

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Employees honored for 861 years of service



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Sixty-eight employees were honored on Thursday, Aug. 25, for a combined 861 years of service to the Grand Ronde Tribe during a morning ceremony held in the Tribal gym.

A record 10 employees were honored for serving 20 or more years, led by Lead Groundskeeper Gregg Leno, who hit the 28-year mark.

Other employees surpassing two decades of

Tribal service included Housing Department Maintenance Coordinator Lonnie Leno, 26 years; Adult Education Coordinator Tracy Biery and General Manager's Office Administrative Assistant Barbara Branson, 25 years; Member Services Benefits Administrator Liz Leno, 24 years; Dental Director Eric Webster, 21 years; and Human Resources Specialist Cindy Mitchell,

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Tribal Fish and Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen, right, shakes hands with Tribal Council member Jon A. George as he's recognized for his 20 years of service with the Tribe during a Years of Service ceremony held in the Tribal gym on Thursday, Aug. 25.