

Former Tribal Council member Darrell Mercier walks on at 87

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Darrell Leroy Mercier, a member of the Tribe's first post-Restoration Tribal Council, walked on Friday, Sept. 22, at the age of 87.



Darrell Mercier

Mercier was born on Sept. 23, 1929, in Grand Ronde and he worked on the Tribe's Restoration efforts starting in the early 1970s.

He joined Kathryn Harrison, Dean Mercier, Candy Robertson, Frank Harrison, Merle Leno, Russell Leno, Mark Mercier and Henry Petite on the first interim Tribal Council that served following 1983's Restoration after being elected from a field of 27 candidates on Feb. 11, 1984.

He was elected to the first official Tribal Council on March 23, 1985, receiving the third most votes among 28 candidates, and served through May 1986.

"I am concerned about the needs of our people, young and old alike," he said in a candidate statement that appeared in the February 1984 edition of *Smoke Signals*. "I will work for the betterment of the Tribe, in all honesty, as I have been for the past nine years. ... I will have the Tribe's best interest in mind at all times before making any decisions."

He was a lifelong resident of Grand Ronde and had eight children.

Viewing was held Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. Recitation of the Rosary occurred Wednesday, Sept. 27, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Ronde.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Sept. 28, in the Tribal gym and private interment followed. A dinner followed the services at the Elders Activity Center on Thursday.

To leave a message or memory, visit www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

A full Waking On notice will appear in *Smoke Signals* at a future date. ■

Tribal Council changes authorized signers

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

It happens most every fall after Tribal elections: Tribal Council removes and appoints signers on Tribal bank accounts, credit cards and lines of credit.

It was no different at the Wednesday, Sept. 27, Tribal Council meeting in the wake of former longtime Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno and Tonya Gleason-Shepek leaving office and a shakeup in Tribal Council officers occurring.

As a result of the Sept. 9 election results, Tribal Council voted to grant signing authority to newly elected Tribal Council members Lisa Leno and Michael Langley on the Tribe's bank, sweep and investment accounts and authorized their use of Tribal credit cards. Tribal Council removed Reyn Leno and Gleason-Shepek as signers on the Tribe's bank, sweep and investment accounts and ended their use of Tribal credit cards.

In reaction to a new lineup of Tribal Council officers, Tribal Council authorized Vice Chair Chris Mercier as a signer on the line of credit loan and removed Reyn Leno. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy and Secretary Jon A. George were already signers on the line of credit loan because they were Tribal Council officers. Kennedy was previously vice chair before being elevated to chairwoman on Sept. 13.

In other action, Tribal Council approved the 2018 harvest licenses on locally owned lands.

Tribal Lands Manager Jan Michael Reibach and Realty Specialist Teresa Brocksen said at the Tuesday, Sept. 26, Legislative Action Committee meeting that the harvest license program has earned more than \$160,000 in revenue for the Tribe since its inception while saving resources in maintaining vacant lands.

In 2017, the Tribe received \$59,148 in revenue from hay and crop licenses. The estimate for 2018 is slightly less at \$58,967. The decrease is a result of better

calculations of acreage farmed due to aerial imagery, a staff report stated.

The staff report also said that if the Tribe were to maintain the properties as idle land, it would cost approximately \$5,000 in wages and fringe benefits in addition to fuel costs, as well as not receiving the income from the crop and harvest licenses.

Tribal Council also approved the enrollment of three infants and two non-infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance, and recommended removal of one Tribal member from the Restoration Roll because submitted documents prove that the person did not meet the requirements to be included. The Secretary of the Interior must approve any Restoration Roll changes.

By consensus, Tribal Council also set the agenda for the Sunday, Oct. 1, General Council meeting, which will be a financial overview. The meeting will be held at 11 a.m. in the Tribal gym.

Also included in the Sept. 27 Tribal Council packet were authorizations to proceed that allotted an additional \$2,000 to the Ceremonial Hunting Board due to increased harvesting and processing, waived Tribal policy to allow five members of the Enrollment Board to attend the 2017 Northwest Enrollment Conference and directed the Information Services Department to research a vendor who could create a centralized database that all Tribal departments could use to ensure data is current.

Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson opened the meeting with a cultural presentation on the Upper and Lower Table Rocks near Medford and Tribal practices in harvesting acorns from oak trees in the area.

The entire meeting can be viewed on the Tribal website at www.grandronde.org by clicking on the News tab and then Video. ■

We Want To Hear From You!

That's right, the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Comment Box is located at the entrance of the Health & Wellness Center, next to the drinking fountain.

Share your experience, good or bad with us! We look forward to hearing what you have to say. ■



Construction Workers Needed!

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) is seeking construction workers who are CTGR Tribal members and enrolled members of federally recognized Indian Tribes to participate in a workforce that is being prepared for deployment on construction projects. Projects are located on the Grand Ronde Reservation and on ODOT projects in various locations in northwestern Oregon.

TERO is looking for workers in the following job classifications:

- Carpenter
- Laborer
- Equipment Operator
- Cement Mason
- Truck Drivers
- Loggers
- Painters
- Asphalt workers
- Riggers




For an application to be considered for these opportunities or for information, go to www.grandronde.org/departments/tero email at tero@grandronde.org or call Keri Kimsey at 503-879-2188.

Ad created by George Valdez

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