

General Council briefed on
Health & Wellness — pg. 4



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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribal Council appoints Appeals Court judges

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council appointed Robert Miller, Patricia Paul and Patricia Davis Gibson to serve on the three-member Grand Ronde Court of Appeals during its Wednesday, Jan. 10, meeting.



Robert Miller

Miller and Paul have previously served on the Tribe's highest court while Gibson is a new appointee. Their terms will run two years and start on Feb. 1.

The vote was 6-1 with Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr. dissenting and Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi absent.

Tribal Court Administrator Angela Fasana said at the Tuesday, Jan. 9, Legislative Action Committee meeting that 14 people applied to serve on the Appeals Court.

Paul (Inupiaq) is a business and estate-planning lawyer specializing in land use law and federal Indian law. She lives on the Swinomish Reservation, where her husband serves on the Tribal Senate. She earned a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Antioch University in 1993 and a law degree from Seattle University in 1998.



Patricia Paul

Patricia Gibson

Miller (Eastern Shawnee) graduated from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College in 1991. He has worked

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Presidential plunge



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Tribal member Lisa Watson is the current president of City Club of Portland's Board of Governors. She is the first Native American female leader of the club.

Tribal member Lisa Watson is City Club's first Native American female leader

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

PORTLAND — Tribal member Lisa Watson smiles when she is asked about her quick rise from member to president of what is known to many as Portland's most influential civic club.

"It's been a really crazy ascension to this position," Watson, 51, says. "I was asked

in late March to be president-elect, which meant taking on the role of president in 2018. I thought about it for a few weeks and said, 'Yes.' "

However, after the president resigned this past summer for opportunities out of the area,

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Native four-year graduation rates remain a concern

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

At first glance, the graduation statistics for American Indian/Alaska Native students at Willamina High School appear alarming, with just slightly more than half graduating within four years.

But looking beyond the arbitrary four-year requirement, the numbers show 100 percent of AI/AN students completing high school in Willamina.

Tribal High School Lead Tiffany



'Typically, all of our students do graduate, it may just not be within the four years.'

~ Tribal High School Lead Tiffany Mercier

Mercier said that while the four-year statistics may sound concerning, the story behind the numbers is far more encouraging.

"Those numbers only include students who graduate in four years,

not those who take a little longer," Mercier said. "Typically, all of our students do graduate, it may just not be within the four years."

In 2015-16, 64.1 percent of students overall and 54.5 percent of

American Indian/Alaska Native students graduated on time from Willamina High, according to a statewide audit recently conducted by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office and based on the Oregon Department of Education's Oregon Report Card, among other research.

Overall, 75 percent of Oregon students graduated on time in 2015-16, compared to 56.4 of AI/AN students. Nationally in 2015-16,

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