

**First Foods
Celebration held**
— pg. 8



JULY 15, 2019

Smoke Signals

An Independent Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe **smok signalz** www.smokesignals.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Election season officially begins

Seven candidates vying for Tribal Council

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Three incumbents and four challengers were nominated to run for Tribal Council during the General Council meeting held Sunday, June 30, in the Tribal Community Center.

Incumbents Kathleen George, Denise Harvey and Jack Giffen Jr. are running to retain their seats while former Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno is seeking to rejoin council after a two-year break in service.

Tribal members Peter Grout, Lewis Younger and Victor Cureton are all seeking their first terms on Tribal Council.

George, 47, is running for her second term after leading the pack in 2016 with 624 votes. She was nominated by fellow Tribal Council member Michael Langley.

Harvey, 57, is seeking her third term on Tribal Council. In 2013, she was the top vote-getter with 444 votes and was re-elected in 2016 with 557 votes. She was nominated by Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy.

Giffen, 67, is seeking his sixth term on Tribal Council, having served from 2003 to '09 and then from 2010 to present. During his last run for office, he received 565 votes, finishing second behind George. He was nominated by Les Houck.

Leno, 68, retired from Tribal Council service in 2017 after serving 21 consecutive years. Five of those years he was Tribal Council chair.

See **ELECTION**
continued on page 5



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Salem Signs fabricator Mychal Pond and Parks Bronze owner Steve Parks prepare the “Visionaries” statue honoring Restoration figures Marvin Kimsey, Margaret Provost and Merle Holmes to be lifted by a crane for its installation in front of the Governance Center on Tuesday, July 2.

‘Visionaries’ unveiled

Bronze sculpture honors three Restoration leaders

By Danielle Frost
Smoke Signals staff writer

Three Restoration leaders will forever stand outside the Tribal Governance Center, overseeing what their years of hard work on Restoration has created.

On Tuesday, July 2, under a misty Oregon sky, the life-sized bronze sculpture of Marvin Kimsey, Margaret Provost and Merle Holmes, titled “Visionaries,” was unveiled before a crowd of Tribal members, employees, family and friends.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy couldn’t contain her emotions as she recalled the trials and tribulations to restore the Grand Ronde Tribe.

“All that we see today goes back to the visionary leadership we had in the 1970s,” she said. “We want to celebrate and commemorate that. (Kimsey, Provost and Holmes) put themselves into very un-

See **VISIONARIES**
continued on page 7

DEQ slates Blue Heron public comment meeting

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

OREGON CITY – The state Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public meeting regarding the Grand Ronde Tribe’s proposed purchase of the Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City on Wednesday, July 17.

The meeting, which will include a short presentation about the proposal and the chance to comment in person, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Museum of the Oregon Territory, 211 Tumwater Drive.

The department is seeking comments on its proposed consent order for a Prospective Purchaser

If you go
Blue Heron Paper Mill consent order hearing
When: 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 17
Where: Museum of the Oregon Territory, 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City
More info: 503-504-7906

Agreement with the Tribe concerning acquisition of the site.
DEQ enters into such agreements at the re-

**Tribal Council approves
Blue Heron purchase: page 6**

quest of purchasers to expedite the cleanup of contaminated property and encourage property transactions that would otherwise not likely occur because of liabilities associated with purchasing a contaminated site.

Until its closure in 2011, the 23-acre site was

See **MEETING**
continued on page 3