

Tribal Council re-appoints four to be Community Fund trustees

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

In its final meeting of 2019 held at the unusual time of 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, because Christmas and New Year's Day fell on Wednesdays, Tribal Council re-appointed four members to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees.

The board oversees the Tribe's philanthropic entity, which has awarded almost \$83 million in charitable grants since it was started in 1997.

Tribal Council re-appointed Tribal Council members Kathleen George, Denise Harvey and Jack Giffen Jr. to the board, as well as Spirit Mountain Casino Facilities Manager Ron Reibach.

The terms run through September 2021. George is a former director of the Community Fund, which is now managed by Tribal member Michael Cherry.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved the agenda for the Sunday, Jan. 5, General Council meeting held in the Community Center. The Lands Department made the program report and Elders Committee election results were announced;
 - Approved applying for an Oregon Youth Corps grant not to exceed \$13,000. The Tribe has received the grant for more than 20 years to help fund the summer youth crew program

- at Natural Resources;
- Approved a first reading of the new Government Administration Ordinance, which would update and replace the Government Purpose, Government Organization and Procedures and Program Authorization and Evaluation ordinances. The three ordinances have not been updated since 1994;
- Approved a confidentiality agreement between the Tribes that are represented on the Portland Harbor Trustee Council;
- And approved the enrollment of two infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Also included in the Dec. 31 Tribal Council packet was an approved staff directive allowing Tribal Council staff to help with administrative work for the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agreement and board. The in-kind contribution will reduce the Tribe's \$3,000 annual funding commitment and not exceed 85 hours a year.

The entire meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government's website at www.grandronde.org and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Conservation District seeking West Valley input

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation District and the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District are holding two Local Work Group meetings in February and March to bring together farmers, ranchers, state and federal agencies, and agriculture and conservation organizations to have a roundtable discussion to determine natural resource priorities and opportunities to invest collaboratively in Yamhill County.

"I'm really trying to reach out to local Tribal members and west Yamhill County landowners who have agricultural or forestry operations and solicit input from them," said District Conservationist Thomas Hoskins.

The meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Miller Woods, 15580 N.W. Orchard View Road, McMinnville, and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at the West Valley Fire District, 825 N.E. Main St., Willamina.

The local Conservation District office oversees Farm Bill grants to perform irrigation improvements, plant cover crops and do forest health and wildfire prevention, among other projects.

For more information, contact Hoskins at 503-376-7605. ■

About 60 people attended Chinook rally in Tacoma



Contributed photo

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey and Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George were part of the Grand Ronde Tribal contingent that traveled to Tacoma, Wash., on Monday, Jan. 6, in support of the Tribe's bid to re-apply for federal recognition.

whether the Department of the Interior can ban Tribes from re-petitioning for recognition and whether the department erred when it said that the Tribe had to be federally recognized to be beneficiaries of funds awarded to Chinook descendants for the land taken from the Tribe in the 19th century.

About 60 people attended the rally and represented, in addition to Grand Ronde, the Duwamish and Cowlitz Tribes as well.

Leighton said that he is retiring from the federal bench in August and wants to resolve some of the issues in the case before a new judge takes over.

No decision was handed down during the Jan. 6 hearing. ■

Includes information from the Chinook Observer.

CHINOOK continued from front page

On Nov. 26, the Tribe asked Leighton to rule on the case. In a post on its Facebook page, the Tribe asked people to bring drums, prayers and voices to support the Tribe's cause.

"It is extremely important that Judge Leighton sees that our case has support behind it and the decisions he makes affect people," the post said.

Leighton was asked to rule on

Massage at Health & Wellness Center

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For QUESTIONS or ASSISTANCE

Please contact Anita Espino (CTSI Tribal Member, Niece to Aggie Pilgrim)
Call or text at (503) 983-5783, or e-mail Anita.L.Espino@doc.state.or.us

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