

Tribal Council OKs three  
fall rounds of virus  
relief payments— pg. 5



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# SMOKE SIGNALS

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## Incumbents reign again

*Voters return Mercier,  
Langley and Leno to the  
2020-21 Tribal Council*

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

For the second year in a row, Tribal voters said they like the status quo on Tribal Council and returned all three incumbents to their seats for three-year terms, according to official results released by the Tribe's Election Board.

Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council members Michael Langley and Lisa Leno were the top three vote recipients out of a field of only five candidates – the smallest field since 1983's Restoration – during the Sept. 12 Tribal Council election.

Former Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno, who was making his second attempt at returning to Tribal Council after retiring in 2017, finished a distant fourth. Peter "Boon" Grout, who was making his second run for Tribal Council, finished fifth.

Mercier, Langley and Lisa Leno set new benchmarks for the most votes received in a Tribal Council election, surpassing Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy's 712 votes received in 2018.

Mercier, who received 966 votes, will begin his sixth term on Tribal Council and will become the third longest-serving Tribal member on council at the conclusion of his term in September 2023.

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continued on page 6

# Smoky skies



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

The new Spirit Mountain Casino message board glowed under the smoky sky that hung over the Grand Ronde Valley on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The smoke was the result of numerous wildfires in western Oregon. To read more about the Tribe's response to last week's wildfire emergency in western Oregon, turn to pages 8-9.

## Tribe moving forward with home-ownership development



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

By Danielle Frost

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

As early as December, the Tribe could break ground on its second single-family housing development in Grand Ronde.

It's been 23 years since Grand Meadows, located on Tribal property at McPherson and Grand Ronde roads, opened a 36-lot manu-

factured home subdivision to Tribal families. Housing Department officials say a second development is long overdue.

"Home ownership has been in the Community Development Plan for some time, but hasn't gotten prioritization until recently,"

See HOMES  
continued on page 7

Farm equipment sits on the Rink 2 property where Tribal members will eventually be able to purchase a lot to build a home. The property encompasses approximately 86.5 acres and is east of the Grand Meadows development.