

AUGUST 1, 2021

Indig-Immunity
event held — pg. 11



SMOKE SIGNALS

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Tribe holds second Candidates Forum via the Internet

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

For the second consecutive year, the Tribe held the annual Tribal Council Candidates Forum using the Zoom teleconferencing program because of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic that is currently being exacerbated by the delta variant and the need to not hold large indoor gatherings.

Starting at 6:03 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, challengers Perri McDaniel and Michael Cherry joined Tribal Council incumbents Cheryle A. Kennedy, Jon A. George and Steve Bobb Sr. for the 62-minute forum that attracted more than 45 viewers.

General Manager David Fullerton handled moderator duties and Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez watched the clock to ensure candidates did not go over their allotted time.

After three-minute opening statements, each candidate had two minutes to answer previously submitted questions from the membership. Questions covered a wide range of topics, including whether the Tribe can create its own utility companies to become more self-sufficient, whether the Tribe can create its own bank or work with other Tribal nations to create one, how the candidate sees themselves working with Tribal members and department heads, how the Tribe can become food secure and if the candidate supports services for nonTribal Elder spouses.

After answering those questions, Fullerton asked one question submitted by a viewer and each candidate had 60 seconds to answer the same question, which concerned the one important issue the candidate will work on that is affecting the Tribe.

Following the questions, each candidate was allotted two minutes to deliver a closing statement.

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Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosted Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell, left, on Wednesday, July 21. Criswell was joined by Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy as she left the Tribal Governance Center and walked to the listening session that was held outside in the courtyard in front of the center.

Tribe hosts FEMA administrator

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

Emergency Management officials from several of the state's nine federally recognized Tribes met with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell on Wednesday, July 21.

The purpose of the 90-minute meeting was for FEMA to strengthen relationships with Tribes in the areas of disaster preparedness

and emergency management. It was held in a circle format outside on the old powwow grounds on the Grand Ronde Tribal government campus with the intent to encourage open discussion between FEMA officials, Tribal leaders and emergency managers.

"I'm very excited to be here today," Criswell

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Roads to Recovery: From treatment center client to CEO

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

When Tribal member Christopher Dickie was in high school, he was voted by his classmates as most likely to end up on the TV show "Cops." Having been arrested 14 times in one year and with a 0.75 GPA, this wasn't too much of a stretch to imagine for the troubled youth.

Today, the 39-year-old chief executive officer of Natural State Recovery Centers in Little Rock, Ark., is 14 years sober and his company recently celebrated its third



anniversary. Dickie began with one location in June 2018 and has now branched out to include inpatient, sober living and outpatient

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Tribal member Christopher Dickie struggled with alcohol dependency for years before he successfully achieved sobriety. Now, he is the chief executive officer of Natural State Recovery Centers in Little Rock, Ark.

Photo contributed by Christopher Dickie