Kathleen George

Reyn Leno

Denise Harvey

Brenda Tuomi

Tribal Council Candidate Forum will be held July 27

CANDIDATES continued from front page

nominated by Tribal Council member Michael Langley. Tuomi, 62, finished second in 2015 and lost out on re-election by 24 votes in 2018.

Giffen, 70, served two terms from 2003 to 2009 and was re-elected in 2010 and has served since then. Come September, he will have served six terms, or 18 years, on Tribal Council.

Giffen will retire as the third longest serving Tribal Council member ever behind current Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, 23 years, and Leno, 21 years.

This year marks the ninth consecutive year of single-digit candidates running for Tribal Council. The last time 10 or more candidates threw their proverbial hats in the ring was in 2013.

This year's Tribal Council Candidate Forum will be held Wednesday, July 27, and the election will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10.

In addition, *Smoke Signals* will continue its tradition of interviewing all of the candidates and placing their podcast interviews on spreaker.com. ■

Aztec dancers

Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Quetzalli Carlos, 15, a member of the Ritual Azteca Huitzilopochtli dance group from Woodburn, performs at the old powwow grounds on Tuesday, June 21. The event was hosted by the Grand Ronde Tribal Library to share Aztec culture through music, song and dance.

Jose Carlos, a member of the Ritual Azteca Huitzilopochtli dance group from Woodburn, performs at the old powwow grounds.

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NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

Tribal Council member Michael Cherry recently attended her first National Congress of American Indians meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska. Cherry talks with *Smoke Signals* Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch about the experience, which included attending briefings on murdered and missing Indigenous people, cultural presentations by Alaskan Natives and seeing the sun in the sky at midnight.

For more information, contact Kamiah Koch at 503-879-1461 or kamiah.koch@grandronde.org

VISIT SMOKESIGNALS.ORG AND CLICK ON PODCAST

Ad by Samuel Briggs III