

Tribal Council approves
two supplemental budgets
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SMOKE SIGNALS

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Contest Powwow returns after two-year hiatus

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals assistant editor/staff writer

When the Grand Ronde Contest Powwow was last held in 2019, it broke attendance records with 382 registered dancers and thousands of attendees.

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribe's biggest powwow is back and organizers are once again expecting large crowds. Powwow Special Event Board Chair Dana Ainam

has fielded several phone calls from eager vendors or those who just want more information about the event.

"People are really getting excited for this," she says. "They are happy to gather again and to come here to Grand Ronde. We're doing all of the usual preparations and it's surprising how quickly you get back into gear."

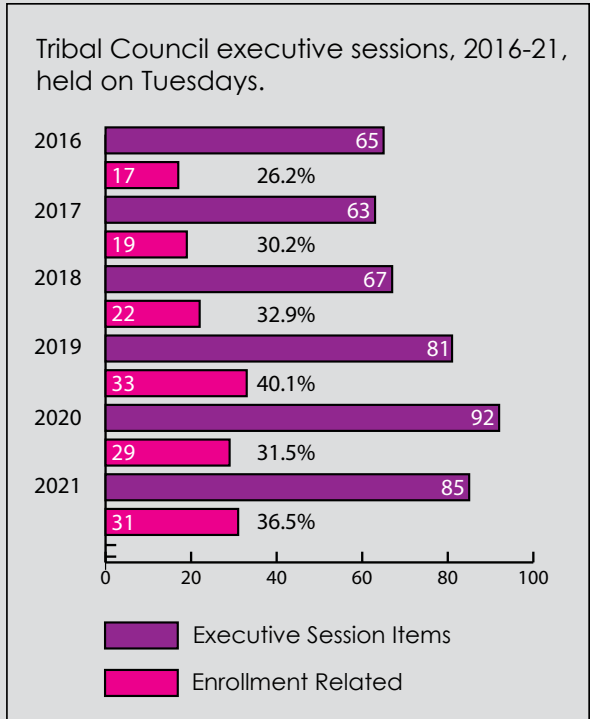
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File photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal member Ty George participates in the Saturday afternoon grand entry on the second day of the 2019 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow held at the úyxat Powwow Grounds. The popular powwow returns after a two-year COVID-19 hiatus on Aug. 19-21, 2022.

Tribal Council handling more executive session items



By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

An issue in the 2022 Tribal Council election was mentioned by outgoing Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr. while he was making the first nomination on Sunday, June 26: Does the current Tribal Council hold too many executive sessions?

"For the past few years, everybody's platform has an element of transparency," Giffen said while nominating former Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno. "I've sat at this table for 18 years come September and all that transparency has got us is executive session meetings."

Giffen's nomination statement begged the question: Does the current Tribal Council hold more executive sessions than previous councils?

The answer is yes, but first Tribal members should know that executive sessions are permitted in the Tribal Council Ordinance.

Topics allowable in executive session include employment and dismissal of employees, perfor-

mance evaluations of employees who report directly to Tribal Council, property transactions, confidential financial matters, and consulting with legal counsel on pending or threatened litigation or other attorney-client privilege issues.

Although not specifically mentioned in the ordinance, enrollment-related matters, such as enrollments, reinstatements, blood quantum adjustments, Restoration Roll corrections and relinquishments, also are traditionally held in executive session because they are considered confidential.

According to the ordinance, executive sessions are only open to Tribal Council and those invited to attend by Tribal Council. No final or official action can be taken in executive sessions and those who attend the meetings are expected to maintain the confidentiality

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Tribe holds third Candidates Forum via the Internet

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

For the third consecutive year, the Tribe held the annual Tribal Council Candidates Forum using the Zoom teleconferencing program because of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, but at least this year some Tribal members were allowed to attend in person in Tribal Council Chambers because of its better technology.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, challengers Reyn Leno and Brenda Tuomi joined Tribal Council incumbents De-

nise Harvey and Kathleen George for a 93-minute forum that attracted approximately 40 viewers. Incumbent Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr. is not running for re-election, ending 18 years of service on the Tribe's governing board.

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.

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Smoke Signals named best digital publication

Smoke Signals, the independent newspaper of the Grand Ronde Tribe, received two awards for work produced during 2021 in the Native American Journalists Association's National Native Media Awards.

Winners were announced on Tuesday, July 19, and the awards will be presented during the association's annual convention being held in Phoenix, Ariz., in late August.

Smoke Signals received a first-place award for Best Dig-

ital Publication for its website, smokesignals.org.

"I think that award recognizes the transformation of Smoke Signals moving more toward a digital publication first and a print publication second," Editor Dean Rhodes said. "We no longer wait until the first and 15th of each month to publish stories. If news happens, we publish it on smokesignals.org first and put a link on our Facebook page, and

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