



Tribal employee seeking office on Conservation District board — pg. 11

OCTOBER 15, 2022



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AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

858 register to vote in Nov. 2 election

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

About 20 percent of adult Tribal members registered to vote in the Nov. 2 constitutional amendment election that will determine whether to limit future disenrollment proceedings to only cases of fraud and dual enrollment.

According to the voter registration list released by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 858 Tribal members registered during what Senior Staff Attorney Holly Partridge said was the shortest registration process timeline the Tribe has ever had for a BIA-run election.

During the recent Sept. 10 Tribal Council election, there were 4,402 adult Tribal members.

The number of registered voters is the smallest amount for any constitutional election held by the Tribe. In all of the other seven constitutional elections, more than a 1,000 Tribal members registered, ranging from 1,091 in March 2015 to more than 1,500 in July 2016.

A “unified” Tribal Council approved sending the proposal out to voters during its Aug. 10 meeting and held its first educational meeting regarding the proposal via Facebook Live on Sept. 21. Eight of the nine Tribal Council members appear on the voting list, which is available to review at the Tribal government’s website at www.grandronde.org.

Smoke Signals’ inquiry to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to find out if any challenges to the list were

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Saluting Steve



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

The family of former Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. gathered under a new memorial sign during a dedication ceremony at the Willamina School District’s Career Technical Education automotive shop on Tuesday, Oct. 4. Bobb was a Willamina High alumnus and a strong supporter of the district. He walked on Aug. 11 at the age of 73. The Willamina School Board voted unanimously during its September meeting to rename the automotive shop in his honor.

Willamina School District’s Career Technical Education automotive shop was dedicated to former Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. Bobb was a Willamina High alumnus and strong supporter of the district. He also was a Vietnam War-era Marine Corps veteran and three-term Grand Ronde Tribal Council member.



Tribe restarts its southern Oregon outreach



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

MEDFORD – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde reinvigorated its outreach in southern Oregon by hosting its ninth Coffee & Conversation at the Courtyard by Marriott adjacent to the Medford Airport on Friday, Oct. 7.

This event also commemorated the Sept. 10,

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy greets Terry Dickey, board member of the Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, during the Coffee & Conversation event held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Medford on Friday, Oct 7. The annual meeting between Tribal representatives and local government officials in southern Oregon was held for the first time in two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1853, treaty with the Rogue River Tribes that ceded a large swath of southern Oregon that now includes Medford to the federal government.

After two years of cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff from Friends of Cas-

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