

Auger is the second Tribal member to work for a congressional office

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year term in Congress during the November election and again defeated Palin for the seat. Before joining Congress, Pelto-la was a judge on the Orutsararmiut Native Council's Tribal Court, executive director of the Kuskokwin River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and member of the Alaska Legislature. Auger became the second Grand Ronde Tribal member to work for a congressional office in Washington, D.C., in a permanent capacity after her fellowship was completed in July 2021. The first Tribal Hatfield Fellow to work for a legislator was Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez, who completed her fellowship with Schrader's office in 2010 and was hired full-time as the congressman's communications director and district representative for Tillamook and Lincoln counties. Auger's specialties while work-

ing for Schrader included fisheries, transportation, community development, grants, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and ocean issues, including tsunami, marine debris, and wave and wind energy. Auger, who lives in Washington, D.C., received a bachelor of fine arts degree in interior design from Marylhurst University and a master's of interior architecture from the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Environment. She also holds a professional certificate in Tribal Relations from Portland State University's Institute for Tribal Government and a course certificate from Northwest Energy Policy and the Columbia River-Portland State University Mark O. Hatfield School of Government. Auger was the ninth Grand Ronde Tribal member to be named a Hatfield Fellow. She also is the mother of *Smoke Signals* social media/digital journalist Kamiah Koch. ■

'When we were terminated, the BIA took all of our records'

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that the Tribal members who were identified for disenrollment because they allegedly did not meet enrollment criteria were to remain in the Tribe because the government waited too long to start proceedings against them. Kennedy said the November constitutional election result finally let all Tribal members rest assured that they will not be targeted for future disenrollment proceedings. "This is the result that the Tribal Council was working toward," Kennedy said. "That is to allow the Tribe to begin to heal. For the people and the families that were affected, it's a huge relief not to worry about 'Gosh, I wonder if there's going to be some document that might surface that might show we don't have enough blood quantum to remain a member.' ... It was to allow healing and for our members to have a sigh of relief and enjoy being a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde." In 2019, Tribal Council declassified the 2012 enrollment audit that became the foundation of disenrollment proceedings, saying the audit could not be relied upon to confirm whether an individual Tribal member's blood quantum in the Tribal records was actually correct. Kennedy said that the faulty enrollment documents received by the Tribe from the Bureau of Indian Affairs following 1983's Restoration greatly contributed to the problematic Tribal records currently being used to determine blood quantum and lineal descent.



Cheryl A. Kennedy

"When we were terminated, the BIA took all of our records," Kennedy said. "They were in charge of enrollment. When we were restored in '83, the bureau still had those records and the Tribe had to request them. What we found was that there were a lot of errors in those records. It was not a real scientific approach. It was just based on whoever was in the office. ... There are still errors being discovered from when the bureau handled all of our enrollment." Since November's vote, the Grand Ronde Tribe has received national news coverage as being one of the few Tribes in the United States to protect its members from disenrollment. In response to a question by Miller, Kennedy said she cannot speak to why other Tribes are not following Grand Ronde's lead. "All Tribes are sovereign nations," Kennedy said. "They determine who their members are. When there is a groundswell, I would think, of the membership expressing their desires ... every Tribe looks at that differently. I can't speak for my neighboring Tribe who deals with an issue in one way. I know that we are doing the best we can in recognizing our people. Perhaps other Tribes will look at what we've done." To listen to the entire 16-minute interview, visit www.opb.org. ■



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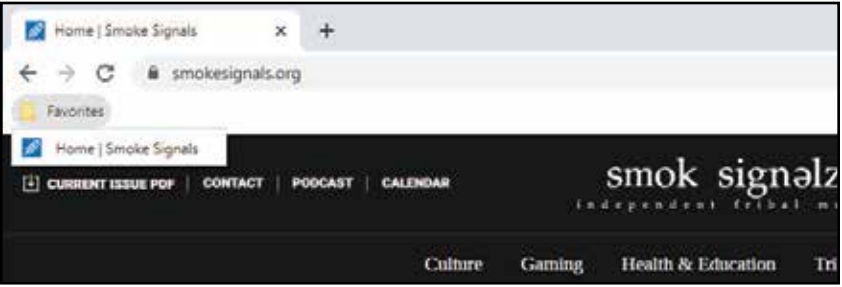
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