

Chinuk wawa
retreat
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SMOKE SIGNALS

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Six seeking election to Tribal Council

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council incumbents Chris Mercier, Lisa Leno and Michael Langley and first-time candidates Matthew Haller, Veronica Montano and Chris Bailey are seeking seats during the Sept. 9 election.

The six candidates were nominated during a General Council meeting held Sunday, June 25, in the Tribal Governance Center in Grand Ronde.

Mercier, Langley and Leno set new benchmarks for the most votes received in a Tribal Council election in 2020 with each receiving more than 960 votes apiece.

Mercier, 47, will be seeking his seventh term on Tribal Council and will tie former Chairman Reyn Leno as the second longest-serving Tribal Council member at the conclusion of his term in September 2026 if he is elected again. He was nominated by Tribal Council member Denise Harvey.

Langley, 56, will be seeking his third consecutive three-year term on Tribal Council. He has been serving as Tribal Council secretary since September 2021. He was nominated by his uncle, Ellis Langley.

Leno, 54, also will be seeking a third consecutive term on Tribal Council. She holds the record for the most votes received in a Tribal Council election with 1,047 in 2020. She was nominated by her father, David Leno.

Haller, 34, is the owner of the

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Logan Kneeland, 12, looks at a rock as he sifts dirt removed from an archaeological test unit while participating in a dig during archaeology camp at Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center on Thursday, June 22. In the background Dandez Lopez, 12, sorts dirt as well.

Sifting through time

Youths participate in first Tribal archaeology camp

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals assistant editor / staff writer

When asked what she enjoyed most about archaeology camp, 13-year-old Satara Blanchard didn't hesitate.

"I like digging in the dirt, getting dirty and not having anyone judge you for doing it," Blanchard said. "You can have a lot of fun when you're doing it, too. You're finding things, looking for old things. You also meet a lot of nice people who also like digging."

Blanchard was one of several youth who attended the four-day camp, which culminated in a public archaeology day on Friday, June 23.

The camp was coordinated by staff at Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center, Historic Preservation, Youth Enrichment, Youth Education and Youth Prevention. Youths spent the week excavating a site

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ODFW Commission pulls Grand Ronde MOU from agenda



Photo by Danielle Harrison

NEWPORT — Several Grand Ronde Tribal Council members testified at the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting in Newport on Friday, June 16, after the Tribe's proposed memorandum of under-

standing with ODFW to expand areas for ceremonial fishing and hunting was abruptly pulled from the agenda after two other Tribes

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Grand Ronde Tribal Council members, including Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, left, and Kathleen George, testified at the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting held in Newport on Friday, June 16, after the Tribe's proposed memorandum of understanding with ODFW to expand areas for ceremonial fishing and hunting was abruptly pulled from the agenda.