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AUGUST 1, 2023



SMOKE SIGNALS

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

Contest Powwow slated for Aug. 18-20



Smoke Signals file photo

By Dean Rhodes

Publications coordinator

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribe's biggest powwow attracted 290 registered dancers and eight drum groups in 2022.

Now the 38-year-old August Contest Powwow is pretty much back to normal as the memories and protocols of the COVID-19 pandemic era are fading into bad memories.

Tribal member Auburn Logan participates in a grand entry at the 2022 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at úyxat Powwow Grounds last August.

Powwow weekend will kick off with the Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at the Tribal Governance Center. The 2023-24 Royalty Court officially will be crowned later in the day at 5 p.m. at úyxat Powwow Grounds.

More than \$22,000 in prize money will be danced for and prizes range from \$100 for a consolation prize to \$1,000 for first place.

Specials will include the Saturday Night Best Dressed Drum Group with a top prize of \$800, a Prairie Chicken/Round Bustle committee special

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Tribe holds hybrid Candidates Forum

By Dean Rhodes

Publications coordinator

For the fourth consecutive year, the Tribe held the annual Tribal Council Candidates Forum using the Zoom teleconferencing program with candidates attending in the Governance Center and most other Tribal members participating remotely.

Starting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, challengers Veronica Montano, Chris Bailey and Matthew Haller joined Tribal Council incumbents Lisa Leno, Michael Langley and Chris Mercier in Tribal Council Chambers for a 92-minute forum that attracted approximately 36 online viewers and 20 in-person attendees.

Acting General Manager Chris Leno handled moderator duties and watched the clock to ensure candidates did not go over their allotted time. Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez monitored online attendees for any questions.

After three-minute opening statements, each candidate had two minutes to answer submitted questions from the membership. In a slight departure from previous forums, only three candidates answered a question before moving on to the next question that three other candidates answered.

Questions covered a wide range of topics, including increasing rental assistance for Tribal members in college, protecting the minor's trust accounts, how to make the Tribe more welcoming to visitors and employees, defining self-sufficiency and discussing views on transparency in Tribal government.

Following the questions, each candidate was allotted 90 seconds

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Shannon Ham-Teixeira plugs her Hyundai IONIQ 5 electric vehicle into a ChargePoint charging station on Thursday, July 20. The solar-powered charging station was recently installed in the Tribal Governance Center parking lot for Tribal employee use.

Tribal campus is charging up

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

The Tribe recently began offering another perk to employees with its first solar-powered electric vehicle charging station, located at the southern end of the Tribal Governance Center parking lot.

"This is a benefit the Tribe is providing to em-

ployees and to help reduce air pollution," Tribal Engineering and Planning Manager Ryan Webb said. "This charging station is completely self-contained, doesn't require any utility hookups and creates renewable energy."

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