

Editorial and Opinion

Self-governance important

By Rebecca Crocker

"No right is more sacred to a nation, to a people, than the right to freely determine its social, economic, political and cultural future without external interference. The fullest expression of this right occurs when a nation freely governs itself," Joseph DeLaCruz, president, Quainault Indian Nation.

There are 30 tribes across this nation that are forging forward in an unprecedented collective group to negotiate for self-governance compacts this year. Self governance allows the Tribes the capability to redesign programs, activities, functions and serves of the Indian Health Services according to tribal priorities.

The Grand Ronde Tribal Self-Governance Team has been meeting on a regular basis to develop strategies to ensure that the Grand Ronde Tribes can take its rightful place in the family of governments in the federal system including: reorganize tribal government programs and services, and developing future federal-Indian policy. The Grand Ronde tribal team and the 30 tribes seek an



Kennedy

orderly transition from federal domination of programs and services to allow Indian tribes meaningful authority to plan, conduct and administer those programs and services.

Cheryle Kennedy states: "Self-governance is a fulfillment of hope of determining our own future and to correct any deficiencies of the past. There have been eight meetings where obstacles occurred and we have hurdled them, but may remain in our dealings with the federal Government. However, we are optimistic that all issues will be resolved. It is anticipated that this compact will be developed by mid-August and negotiated by Sept. 15."

MOVING? Let us know!

NEW Name: _____ Address _____ _____ _____	OLD _____ _____ _____ _____
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Cut out and mail to:
Smoke Signals
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

Tribal timberlands - a tribal economic and cultural heritage

Since restoration in 1983, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon have experienced great change.

One change is a new course towards economic self sufficiency. The main reason for this is the acquisition of 9,900 acres of prime, producing timber lands.

The lands, which are carefully harvested, provide timber that is sold to Oregon lumber and pulp mills. That maintains jobs for tribal members and other Oregonians, and puts money into the economies of Polk, Yamhill, Tillamook and

Marion counties.

Guided by Cliff Adams and his staff, the tribal Natural Resources Department can give lessons to the timber industry on environmentally sensitive timber lands management.

The department operates on a sustained yield philosophy - no cut and run practices. No more timber is cut than that which grows in a specific period.

None of the timber goes to waste. Small logs and bigger slash are turned into chips for wood pulp, fuel wood is cut for tribal members, the cut areas are carefully burned to

minimize disease and return nutrients to the soil. The cut-over areas are replanted with evergreen seedlings within a year.

Many Grand Ronde tribal people are enthusiastic about progress and new developments, among them the opportunities that will be unveiled in the strategic plan, the newly approved gaming center and its promise of job opportunities and economic growth.

However, the timber lands will continue to be a stable heritage and resource for the Grand Ronde Tribes.

Editor's Note:
Last month a letter to the Editor was printed which stated "I understand last month the Chemical Dependency Program ran out of funds." This statement may have been misleading. The Chemical Dependency Program is not taking money from the general fund nor did it run out of the original funds allocated to the program. *Smoke Signals* regrets this inconvenience.

Editorial Policy

Letters From Our Readers

Smoke Signals is a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. We have recently adopted an Editorial Policy that encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Smoke Signals* as well as other tribal issues. However, all letters from readers must be received at the Newsletter Office no later than the 20th of each month, with the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication.

Letters must be printed or typed, and cannot exceed 300 words. *Smoke Signals* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain libelous statements or personal attacks. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Smoke Signals*, tribal employees, or Tribal Council. Mail letters to: SMOKE SIGNALS, 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
ATTN: Tracy Olson

Candidate Forum date

The candidate's Forum will be held Sunday, July 24 from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Tribal Community Center. Please write all of your questions down. There will be a box to place questions for candidates. Doughnuts and beverages will be served.

Letters

Know your candidates

We have sixteen people seeking a position on our Tribal Council this year. What is the attraction?

Know why your candidates are running. Does he or she have the well-being of the Tribe at heart or their own personal well-being? Are all of the candidates able and willing to commit to quality time to serve us in a positive manner, that will be beneficial to all the people of the Grand Ronde Tribe? Can they address a political assembly on issues vital to the future of our people? Do they have respectable reputations that is essential to have their words heard by us and others?

Let the General Council be heard by voting for the individuals who are a "Men or Women for Others". Not because they are family, friends, or the name is familiar. A Council member should be willing to learn, plan, contribute, listen, and unite with other members toward one common goal. Know your candidates, as the persons elected in September to represent us, the Grand Ronde people.
Respectfully submitted,
Leonette Vivette Galligher

PLEASE USE THIS REQUEST FORM OR A PHOTO COPY OF THIS FORM FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

TRIBAL ELECTIONS 1994

Absentee Ballot Request

I, _____, _____
Print Enrolled Name Roll #

an eligible voter of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon wish to have an absentee ballot sent to me at the following address:

Mailing Address

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

REQUEST MUST BE SIGNED TO BE VALID: _____
Signature

Mail this request to: Election Committee
 PO Box 99
 Grand Ronde, OR 97347

I need a Voter Registration mailed to me: () yes () no