

Editorial and Opinion

Letters

Member feels per capita is fair

To the Editor:

I am a tribal member living in Idaho, and my concerns are two things: first of all, health care. I know because I live out of the six county area I am not entitled to medical help, or my family. And I don't believe this to be right. I am on the tribal rolls, I have an enrollment number. You know, if Washington D.C. would say if you do not live in Washington D.C. or the five states around it, we can't help you even though you are an American, that would make us all mad. But that is what makes this nation strong. We are one people, no matter how big or how small. No lines can or should divide a people. The same blood that flows in your veins flows in mine, and the same in our forefathers since time began. It is not where we live that makes us a people, but the blood. We cannot care and help a few, but all, no matter where they live.

The next topic is per capita. When I think about us as a people, I think of Israel. How the Jews' land was taken from them, and how as a people they were scattered everywhere in the world. And in about 1956, our land was taken, our tribe was scattered. But just a few years before I was born, the nation of Israel was again formed, and ten years ago we have gotten our land again.

You know, it doesn't matter to a Jew if he lives in New York, Las Angeles, Paris, or Jerusalem, he is still a Jew. And it should not matter to us if I live in Idaho or if you live in Texas or California. We are one people, no matter where we are, and I believe that any money that is made should be given to each member. I know that it has been said that some would become dependent upon tribal money but we are not judges. We cannot find 100 tribal members, pick five of them and say "You five are lazy" or "You five will drink up your money" so the 95 others will not get anything because of them. As I said, we are not judges. If a few want to waste their money, then let them, but I believe most will pay their bills and pull themselves up out of poverty. We must have a little faith in ourselves that this money will help one and all, and not to a few, but one and all fairly.

Thank you,
Victor Cureton
Roll # 104

Tribal Council sponsors community meetings

Tribal Council recently sponsored community meetings in Eugene, Salem, Portland, and Grand Ronde. Over 180 tribal members participated in the four meetings which gave tribal members the opportunity to discuss six priority investment areas for tribal revenues over the next five years.

In early June the Tribal Council identified six priority investment areas for future revenue generated from Spirit Mountain Casino. The priority areas included Health Security, Per Capita, Retirement, Education, Housing, and Endowments. The community meetings were structured to allow participants to comment on Tribal Council's priorities and identify priorities of their own.

Meeting participants separated into small groups allowing for open discussion and review of Council's investment priorities. The small group format also gave tribal members the opportunity to meet other tribal members in their

area, tribal staff, and Tribal Council members.

Each group participant was asked to prioritize Tribal Council's issues by voting on the issues they felt were most important to them. After prioritizing, groups spent the evening discussing the six priority investment areas and responding to a series of discussion questions. Following the discussion, tribal members were asked to vote again on the six issues and to provide other recommendations to the Tribal Council on revenue disbursement.

Participation in the tribal investment discussion was exceptional. A full range of ideas were generated and discussed at all four meetings. Tribal Administration is compiling all of the information and comments produced during the discussions. A summary report will be sent to tribal members who attended any of the four meetings. Tribal Council has asked for a comprehensive report so that they can better understand the needs of tribal members locally and outside of the Grand Ronde area. A report will also be published in a later edition of *Smoke Signals*.

Tribal Administration would like to thank all of those who participated in the tribal investment discussion. If you are a tribal member and would like additional information on the tribal investment discussion, or would like to comment on any of the six priority areas, you can call the Administration staff offices at 1-800-422-0232, or write to: Administration, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347.



Members participate in group discussions at the community meeting.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters From Our Readers

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Smoke Signals is a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. We have established an Editorial Policy to encourage input from readers about stories printed in *Smoke Signals*, as well as other tribal issues.

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.

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