

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to a recent letter to the editor of the *Smoke Signals*. This letter recently mentioned that it is not realistic for many tribal members to move back to Grand Ronde. This is a statement I can agree with. I am sure that it may not be feasible for some tribal members to move to Grand Ronde or perhaps it isn't desirable for some tribal members to move to Grand Ronde. However, just as the Termination Act of 1954 was designed to send members away from Grand Ronde, the Restoration Act of 1983 was designed to bring members back. I believe that even the federal government realized that Grand Ronde would never again be the Reservation it once was, that's why they **required** the Tribe to designate a six county service area to allow members living within these counties to receive the same benefits available to those who live in Grand Ronde. The Tribe was also required to select counties that connected boundary to boundary.

In reference to Grand Meadows mobile home park and the perception that some

tribal members don't appreciate the investment the Tribe has made to allow tribal members a chance to purchase a home of their own, is a misconception I would like to try to clear up. When talk of Grand Meadows first started it was mentioned many times that its purpose would be a quick way to provide members a place where they could place a mobile home to live in Grand Ronde at an affordable price. I believe that anyone *purchasing* a home should be able to buy something that they know they will be happy with for years to come. The problems some members had with Grand Meadows came up when people were told that they would have to add an extra \$15,000 to the purchase price of their homes to cover the cost of the required front and back decks on the home, the paved and covered carport, sidewalks, and the required shed which has to match the color of the home. I do not think it is unreasonable for members to become upset over an unexpected \$15,000. I personally do not believe that a \$500 - \$700 house payment is affordable; especially if this doesn't include the monthly space lease

amount. Just because it is now the going rate for the area doesn't make it affordable. I can see where it could be a hardship on members living on a fixed income or perhaps a single income.

The Grand Ronde Tribe is unique as it is still a young Tribe; not quite 14 years old. Look how much we have accomplished in a relatively short period of time and lets not forget what we had before Restoration -- NOTHING. The Grand Ronde Tribe is similar to other Tribes as in almost all Indian Tribes have a reservation or a limited service area. I would like to encourage tribal members to be patient. The casino is generating much needed revenue for the Tribe, but in reality we can't expect it to last forever. Doesn't it make sense to try to keep improving the lives of our tribal members through services provided, like the recent health plan that gives all tribal members some medical coverage at no monthly premium cost to them regardless of where they live?

Respectfully submitted by,

Janell Grout Haller

Roll # 1523

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regards to the thank-you letter printed in the May issue. I am glad to see our elderly and the ones who are misfortunate receiving monthly payments. But I would like to see all members receiving this also. There are some that say the young generation would just use it on drugs and alcohol, but all are not on drugs and alcohol. The issue is that we should not judge one another, but we should be treated equally.

We as a Tribe should be as one and stand together, if not we will fall. I see members from other tribes receiving monthly or quarterly payments from their tribes and I believe we could do the same. This is what we call "per capita," and it's what most of us voted for. All members could prosper from what is put into our hands, instead of a certain few.

Karen Knight

Roll # 117

ADDITION:

The *Smoke Signals* staff overlooked the fact that Mike Larsen nominated Bob Mercier. Sorry for not mentioning this in the May 19 issue. Also, Election Day is September 6.

EDITORIAL POLICY

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS: *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. However, all letters must be received at the newspaper office with 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 Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Attn: Tracy Dugan.

SMOKE SIGNALS DEADLINES are the 5th and 20th of each month.

TRACY DUGAN: Editor

KIM MUELLER: Coordinator and Graphic Specialist

Smoke Signals SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have recently moved or plan on moving, let us know so you won't miss a single issue of your favorite newspaper. *Smoke Signals* is available to anyone at no cost. Just fill out this form with your name and address, then mail it back to *Smoke Signals*, Attn: Kim Mueller, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. E-Mail us via Internet -- tracynews@macnet.com or kimnews@macnet.com

OLD ADDRESS:

NEW ADDRESS:

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New committee format lets Tribal Council take care of business

By Tracy Dugan

The Tribal Council has recently adopted a new way of taking care of tribal business and acting on the information they receive. For the past few months they have been participating in sub-committees, in which tribal issues are discussed, and brought back to the full Tribal Council to vote on.

Every day a different sub-committee meets, and hears requests from tribal members. After the sub-committee decides on a recommendation, they bring it to the Wednesday night regular meeting for everyone to hear.

This process has proven to be more effective and expedient when it comes to hearing out all sides of an issue. The following is list of all the sub-committees, so if you have any requests or concerns to speak with Tribal Council about, you should be able to contact the Chair of the sub-committee related to the issue.

MONDAYS

*Health and Human Services Committee/
Community Services Committee*

Chair: Margaret Provost

Alternate: Kathryn Harrison

Members: Ed Larsen and Ed Pearsall

WEDNESDAYS

Legislative Committee

Chair: Kathryn Harrison

Alternate: Ed Larsen

Members: Eugene LaBonte
and Margaret Provost

Economic Development Committee

Chair: Bob Haller

Alternate: Reynold Leno

Members: Ed Larsen, Ed Pearsall,
Margaret Provost, and Leon Tom

TUESDAYS

*Tribal Government, Management, and
Budget Committee*

Chair: Ed Pearsall

Alternates: Leon Tom and Bob Haller

Members: Margaret Provost,
Reynold Leno, Kathryn Harrison,
and Eugene LaBonte

THURSDAYS

Resource Committee

Chair: Reynold Leno

Alternate: Eugene LaBonte

Members: Bob Haller
and Leon Tom

Education Committee

Chair: Leon Tom

Alternate: Ed Pearsall

Member: Reynold Leno