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"The events of today — the history of tomorrow."



SMOKE SIGNALS

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe
Umpqua • Molalla • Rogue River • Kalapuya • Chasta

Veterans article proves to be a hoax

Many organizations and agencies across the country which provide benefits and health care to veterans have recently been the victims of a serious informational error, including the Grand Ronde Tribe. In the last issue of *Smoke Signals*, we ran a story that was faxed to us titled "Public Announcements to all Veterans," which stated that if a U.S. veteran has not registered at a Veterans Affairs Hospital for medical care between October 1, 1996 and October 1, 1998, he or she will lose all medical benefits for life. **THIS INFORMATION IS NOT TRUE.**

This information was circulated on the Internet, through the mail, and was posted on bulletin boards in communities and cities everywhere. We have even heard of one instance where an announcement was made to a church congregation by a minister during Sunday services. Consequently, many veterans and their families have become concerned

about this misinformation, and have been calling service agencies. *Smoke Signals* has obtained the correct information regarding veterans' benefits.

VA health care eligibility reform was authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in October, 1996. The new law requires the VA to manage veterans' access to VA care by using a system of enrollment priorities. There are seven enrollment priority groups, and the VA will enroll veterans from as many of those groups as possible. Veterans can apply for enrollment AT ANY TIME they come to a VA medical facility for care, even AFTER the trial enrollment period, which ends October 1, 1998.

So, if you or someone in your family is a veteran who receives health benefits — don't panic! For more details, call the Portland Veterans' Administration office at 1-800-827-1000, or your local VA hospital.

Tribal Council Nominations held at May 3 meeting

The next General Council meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 11:30 a.m. at the Community Center. This will be the last meeting before the summer recess. Nominations for Tribal Council will be held.

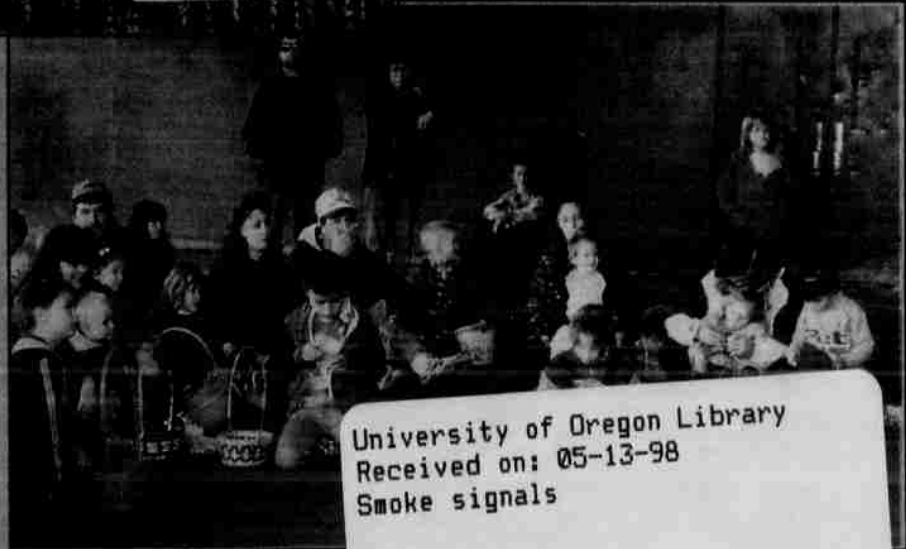
Remember, if you are planning to nominate someone, or are interested in running for Tribal Council, you must be present at the meeting to publicly nominate your candidate, or if you are nominated, to accept the nomination. Only enrolled tribal members who will be 18 years of age by the date of the election may make a nomination or be nominated to run for Tribal Council.

The 1998 Election Board consists of the following people: Cherie Butler, Dorothy Lawe, Val Sheker, Ruby Bigoni, Nancy Coleman, and Ellen Fisher. All eligible voters will be mailed an absentee ballot this summer.

The rain stopped just in time for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt



The Tribe's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by Wellness, entertained 224 children as they searched for Easter goodies. A special "Jesus Jamboree" was presented with upbeat rock and roll versions of songs held in the Grand Ronde Elementary School's covered basketball area.



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