

Members welcome to comment on proposed ordinance changes

The Tribal Council in consultation with the Tribal Attorney's office has proposed several amendments to the **Tribal Court Ordinance**. The first reading of the amendments to the Tribal Court Ordinance was presented at the November 18, 1998 Tribal Council meeting.

The purpose of the amendments is to make technical corrections to various provisions of the Ordinance and to make necessary substantive changes to the Ordinance to reflect the expansion and growth of the Tribal Court system. The numerous substantive changes include, but are not limited to, the expansion of the Tribal Court's jurisdiction, changes to the choice of law provisions, an increase in the minimum qualifica-

tions for Judges and Court Clerk, changes to the recruitment requirements for judicial positions, changes to spokesperson and counsel requirements, and the elimination of certain bond requirements. The Tribal Council believes amendment of this Ordinance will assist the Tribe in continuing to provide an efficient and effective judicial system.

For a copy of the proposed Ordinance amendments please contact the Tribal Attorney's office at (503) 879-2265. Tribal Council invites comments on the proposed amendments. Please send your comments to the Tribal Attorney's office, 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, OR 97347. **Comments must be received by December 15, 1998.**

Member becomes published again

Tribal member Veronica Gaston's latest poem, "Reflections" has been chosen as a finalist for the National Library of Poetry's newest anthology, *A Quiet Place*. Veronica has had her poetry published before, and has been recognized as a talented young author. Also, on December 6, Veronica will be one of many Portland-area competitors who have been selected to take the knowledge test for the game show *Jeopardy!*™ If she does well, Veronica will travel to Los Angeles to appear on the prime-time show with Alex Trebek.

Adopting tribal children

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asked are pretty personal."

But the questions are not asked out of a simple curiosity. The Tribe and the state must be careful about who they select as adoptive parents. Some of these children, especially older children, have gotten off to a rough start in life. Some of them have special needs. Sadly, it's the older children who have the smallest chance of ever being adopted.

In the state of Oregon in general, there are some parents whose names are in the "placement pool" through the Office for Services to Children and Families. This means their names are drawn when a child comes up for adoption through the state. Some parents have specific wishes, some don't. Some want a child who is white, some are unconcerned about race; some want a child with no physical challenges at all, some are perfectly willing to provide care for a disabled child; some want to adopt only a boy, some only a girl, to others it makes no difference. But many adoptive parents have mixed feelings about adopting older children. This means that adolescents and teens will most likely spend the rest of their childhood shuffling to and from foster homes. This lack of connection

to any one set of adults often causes problems of trust and attachment later in life. The truth is, though these children are older, they have the same ability as younger children to connect and bond in a household where the guiding values are love, understanding, structure, and stability.

Moreover, even if you are not able to become a foster or adoptive parent, as a tribal member you can contribute to helping these children gain a sense of pride and strength in their Indian identity and the fact that as tribal members, we are all part of a unique, larger family. The Tribe's Education and Wellness departments offer a variety of youth activities who are always seeking volunteers. If you don't live near the Tribe, you can find out more about youth activities by calling the State Office for Services to Children and Families at 1-800-331-0503.

Says Mercier, "We are a tribe. Raising healthy, happy children in a safe environment is a community responsibility."

Tribal members who want to learn more about adopting or foster parenting a tribal child should call Carmen Mercier at (503) 879-2036.

**Split Feathers: Adult American Indians Who Were Placed in Non-Indian Families as Children," Carol Locust, Ph.D., Pathways, Sept./Oct 1998, Volume 13, Number 4, p. 4-6.

DECEMBER MEALSITE MENU		
TUES., DEC. 1 Beef Stroganoff Garlic Bread & Salad Dessert	WED., DEC. 2 Taco Soup Jell-O Salad Dessert	THURS., DEC. 3 Spare Ribs & Corn Baked Potatoes Dessert
TUES., DEC. 8 Italian Spaghetti Green Beans and Bread Dessert	WED., DEC. 9 Enchiladas & Rice Refried Beans Dessert	THURS., DEC. 10 Honey Baked Ham Potatoes & Gravy Yarris & Broccoli Pie
TUES., DEC. 15 Stir Fry Chicken Egg Foo Young Dessert	WED., DEC. 16 Fish and Salad Garden Medley Rice Dessert	THURS., DEC. 17 Pork Steaks & Carrots Scalloped Potatoes Dessert
TUES., DEC. 22 Meat Loaf Red Potatoes Veggie Dessert	WED., DEC. 23 Stuffed Chicken Breast Cauliflower w/Cheese Green Salad Dessert	THURS., DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Lasagna & Corn Garlic Bread Dessert
TUES., DEC. 29 Tacos & Mexi-Fries Veggie Dessert	WED., DEC. 30 Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes Veggie Cake & Ice Cream	THURS., DEC. 31 NEW YEARS EVE Appetizers Mini Sandwiches <i>Come & join the fun!</i>

ELDERS' MEETING & BIRTHDAY DINNER IS DEC. 30

TRIBAL ELDERS AND SPOUSES EAT FREE. \$3.00 FOR OTHERS.
PLEASE CALL 879-2410 BEFORE 9:30 A.M.
IF YOU ARE DINING WITH THE ELDERS.

**A special SEASONS GREETINGS
to all of you
from the entire Wellness Team!**

U.S.D.A. DISTRIBUTION

— SALEM —


Dec. 7: 3 to 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 9: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 10: 8 a.m. to noon

— SILETZ —

Dec. 21, 22, 23, and 28:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Santa and Rudolph are coming to town!

When: Monday, December 14, 1998
Where: Tribal Community Center
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
For: Tribal children ages five and under



Please join us for arts and crafts, refreshments, safety and prevention activities, photos with Santa and Rudolph.

CULTURAL GATHERINGS

Please call phone numbers listed to verify exact dates and locations of these events to be held in Oregon, Washington, California, and Idaho. *The Grand Ronde Review* has no further information on these events.

DEC. 4-5: CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND ALL INDIAN TALENT SHOW. Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center. **TOPPENISH, WA.** (509) 865-5121.

DEC. 5: MASON SCHOOL POW-WOW. 2812 N. Madison. **TACOMA, WA.** (206) 596-1139.

DEC. 11: CHRISTMAS POW-WOW. Portland State University. **PORTLAND, OR.** (503) 725-4425.

DEC. 11-13: MUCKLESHOOT MONTHLY POW-WOW. Muckleshoot Tribal School. **AUBURN, WA.** Contact: Tammy or Walter at (206) 939-3311 ext. 259.

DEC. 25-28: WAPATO LONGHOUSE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION & POW-WOW. Wapato Longhouse. **WAPATO, WA.** (509) 865-5121.

DEC. 29-JAN. 1: TOPPENISH CREEK NEW YEAR CELEBRATION. Toppenish Creek Longhouse. **WHITE SWAN, WA.** (509) 865-5721.