

Thank You

I just wanted to say thank you to my family and friends that made my birthday so special. Thank you to my family that gave me a surprise birthday dinner. What a beautiful dinner setting on the table when I came home from shopping. Thanks go out to Vickie, Rick, Deana, Iola, Rodney, Carol, Danny, Cindy and family and of course — Jim.

My niece Iola gave me a night at the Spirit Mountain Lodge and I had my other nieces with me — Iva Truller, Darlene Reeves (from Roseburg), Judy Nelson (from John Day) and Violet Zimbrick. I would like to thank the staff at the lodge for the sign they made me and for all of them signing it. Also, thanks to someone very special to me (Brent) for the bouquet of flowers from his family.

I also want to thank everyone who came by the room to wish me a happy birthday including my niece Iola's bosses Mark and Sharon — who were very nice people. The lodge is lucky to have them. Also thanks to Joann, Hazel and Robert for the great service he gave us whenever we needed him.

Thank you,
Wilmadene "Tuff" Butler
 Roll # 704

More on WRI

Recently *Smoke Signals* ran an article about the Willamette Restoration Initiative (WRI). The article shared some information about a current opportunity we residents of the Willamette basin have to commit to restoration of the Willamette River. Chair Kathryn Harrison sits on the WRI Board because of the Tribe's commitment to healthy rivers.

One of the strengths of the WRI strategy is its emphasis on providing incentives to residents, landowners and business to make it easier to implement watershed restoration actions.

The cost of implementing some stream enhancements can be expensive. One of the tasks of the WRI and others who want to restore streams is finding new and better ways to accomplish this. The WRI strategy proposes actions such as increasing support to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, initiating an effluent trading pilot project and providing economic incentives to decrease water pollution.

Part of the article included reference to river polluters paying for restoration. Water pollution law is complex and there are many forms of pollution. Water pollution can include actions as extreme as illegally dumping toxic substances or as common as over fertilizing a field or garden causing excess nutrients to drain into streams.

The WRI emphasizes that all residents of the basin can make a difference in the future of the Willamette.

The article also mentioned culvert replacement and enforcement. There is no legal requirement for landowners to replace culverts causing fish passage problems. The Tribe and many others are implementing stream enhancements like culvert replacement to enhance aquatic habitats, regardless of regulatory requirements.

Anyone interested in the WRI strategy, call the Oregon Watershed Information Line at 1-888-854-8377 or go to www.oregonwri.org.

Thank you,
Kathleen Feehan — Roll # 2093



EDITORIAL POLICY

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SMOKE SIGNALS reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on individuals, staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **SMOKE SIGNALS**, Tribal staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council.

Letters

Editor's note: It should be clear that letters to the editor from Tribal members are encouraged. Letters from non-Tribal members, staff and interested parties are also encouraged, but must be written in a positive tone. No personal attacks against individuals, staff members, Tribal administration and/or Tribal Council will be accepted. In the last few weeks, four letters to the editor were received regarding Tribal enrollment. Two of these letters were from enrolled Tribal members and two were from families seeking Tribal enrollment and having other members of their family already on the rolls. Their letters appear in this edition. Also in this edition is an update on recent opinions handed down by the Tribal Judge regarding the issue of Tribal enrollment — check it out on page 4. Tribal members should view the *Smoke Signals* as a source of information and a place to express their opinions, but not a tool for airing personal grievances.

Letters to the Editor Regarding Enrollment

Dear Editor,

Concerning the amendment to the enrollment ordinance — how can this amendment be good for our Tribe when we will just phase out, getting smaller and smaller over the years?

How can it be good for a Tribe when it creates a 2001 version of the trail of tears to the family being told you are a member but your brother is not or you are a member but your cousin is not? No generation has the right to lay burdens on their own children and grandchildren. When future generations look back on us, will it be with disgust at our exclusiveness, our 'just us' attitude and our short-sightedness?

In my opinion, the amendment to the enrollment ordinance was a huge mistake, because all had not come to the table of our Tribe yet for various reasons — lack of knowledge, divorce, alcoholism and brokenness in the family. We need to propose a new enrollment amendment that would meet the needs of all the Tribal people who are eligible by blood quantum and lineage.

Rosemary Jameson
 Roll # 883

Dear Editor,

Concerning the enrollment proposal: in the past, we provided support, were more caring and were concerned for families. Now, Grand Ronde excludes some of their very own people.

Not all of us are born with equal opportunities, but over a period of time, regardless of our parentage, place of birth, the day comes when we all have to make a choice to let our past teach us commitment, responsibility and respect for others.

May I humbly suggest that all recent amendments in the enrollment ordinance be reconsidered?

Thank you,
Edward L. Allen
 Roll # 2422

World Traveler on the Road Again

Tribal member **Chris Mercier**, who has been freelancing as a writer for *Smoke Signals* for the last few months, is off to see the world again. Chris traveled to New York on his way to Germany and then... who knows. Be safe Chris and return to us *poste haste*.



To the Editor,

I was wondering if there are any others out there who like myself are seeking enrollment but are finding it hard going?

I have a brother and sister enrolled but I have been denied the same right and I can't tell you how discriminatory it feels. It seems very odd to me that I need to go through such great lengths to prove I'm who I say I am because after all my name has been included on both my brothers and sisters information when they enrolled.

I like to think of it as being semi-enrolled — as they already have my name on enrollment papers — even if they are not mine.

I know all about the amendment, but I have to say that I am surprised that a clause had not been included for siblings of already enrolled members stating that should said sibling or siblings seek enrollment they should be included as they are as close in blood as you can get. We are not aunts, uncles or cousins, but brother and sisters!

So, I would like to find out if there are more like myself out there and to see if they would be willing to exchange information about what they have done and what they are willing to do to gain enrollment. How far have they gotten and how much further do they have to go?

After all, there is strength in numbers and maybe just maybe we together can turn things around to where we will finally be included with the rest of our (family) siblings.

All in all, it has been a long haul, but I'm gaining in patience and it has, if nothing else so far, been a learning experience of how hard it is even in this day and age to communicate over distance! (Also) of how hard it is to get someone, anyone to stand up and take notice of me or anyone else like me. I can only hope I may find friends of a feather along my way.

Thank you for your time and I hope it helps you understand how passionate I am in finding other's like myself who through exchanging information may help bond lasting friendships and enrollment at the end of our journey.

Thanks again for your time,
Marleen Quesnel
 British Columbia

Dear Tribal members and families,

This letter is for all Tribal members and their families who are affected by the recent enrollment amendment.

I am hoping to reach out to others who find themselves in the same situation we do.

Since the change in enrollment policy, families such as ours are finding themselves split. It is a strange feeling, something that I don't think many people have felt before, at least not in this way. In our particular situation — siblings with the same parents, same blood quantum and same Tribal ties may not be accepted as Tribal members because of the date on which they commenced their paperwork.

It can have many ramifications for those on both sides (enrolled or not enrolled).

Feelings of disappointment, rejection and guilt can surface for all involved.

For those going through the appeal process, many questions arise. Actual questions about the court system as it relates to enrollment appeals may well be answered by the court staff... However, individual help on how best to prepare for the case on one's own may not be so easy to get. I am assuming very few of those involved will have legal counsel to aid them. I understand the process may take up to one year, perhaps more in certain cases. Most of us have had very little court experience and will find this a huge challenge, added to this is the geographical distance between many of us residing outside the state or even the country.

Support for each other at this time could be very beneficial — hearing how others are dealing with the court process, and helping each other through it. Sharing ideas and just plain talking about the emotional side of things.

If you find yourself wanting to talk to someone who understands how you feel and what you are going through please e-mail or phone.

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