

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter to *Smoke Signals* in hopes our newspaper can be used as a community forum for those unable to attend the community meetings.

Recently, there was an article in *The Oregonian* about all the energy the casinos in Las Vegas use. It started me thinking about all that beautiful flat un-shaded space surrounding the casino and hotel at Spirit Mountain and the fact that the energy crisis is not going to get better anytime soon.

Right now there are both federal and state tax credits available for residential and business users that install either solar or wind systems. Photovoltaic (just like a little solar calculator except on a larger scale) converts sunlight into electricity. The electricity generated is DC but with a few simple efficient components this DC electricity is converted to AC, which is standard usage in the US.

There are roofing tiles made of photovoltaic that could be put on the roof of both the casino and hotel. These could provide electricity for security in case of a blackout or perimeter lighting. The surrounding area of the casino and the hotel could have arrays of PV panels. I don't know what the wind speed is there, but new wind machines are capable of high efficiency — so Spirit Mountain Casino could have what is called a "hybrid system," which is a combination of two or more energy sources.

This is so beautiful and so much in keeping with Native traditions of independence and is also very salmon friendly. Grand Ronde would be generating its own power. The summers expected rolling blackouts would not impact the casino if it has its own power supply. It would be great public relations for Oregon's number one tourist attraction.

There are many companies going strong in solar now — Oregon has its own Solar Energy Association — competitive prices can be easily researched. I know Oregon is not exactly the sunshine state, but photovoltaic generated power, even in low light, could enhance in every way the electrical situation at the casino and hotel. Those casino dollars won't be rolling in if there are blackouts, plus once the system is paid for, there is no more monthly bills. In fact, if you produce more energy than you use you can run it back into the system and be paid for it (net metering).

So somebody, please think about it and thanks for listening.

**Judith Pettibone**

Roll # 717  
P. O. Box 843  
Portland, OR 97207

To the Editor,

The amendment to the Enrollment Ordinance is a major concern to me. I have this saying: what I think I must speak. I'm a Tribal member of Grand Ronde and I'm very proud of my heritage. I'm grateful to all the things the Grand Ronde Tribe has done for myself and children. Being a single parent can be hard some times.

My theory on this enrollment is that my mother and sisters are all members. And we all became members because of our "blood quantum," which is the only way to determine enrollment and who you really are. I would not like to hear my children say they were a member because their mother had a number when they were born, but rather the truth, that mother was from the Indian race, the Tribe she came from and to know her way of living and customs, and be proud of it, and to learn from me.

In the March 15, 2001 *Smoke Signals*, I read the concerns from other members on the enrollment issue and I totally agree with them. I'm in their situation also, I have a daughter that became a member this year, and a son that was denied enrollment. I grant you that his blood is the same as his sisters so why doesn't he have the same right to be a member as she does. I would greatly appreciate an answer please.

All Tribal members that are going through this situation also should write the Tribe and express your feelings on this issue with the intention that we can achieve having the amendment changed. We are blood not a number. Anyone interested in communicating on the enrollment issue with me please e-mail me at [drisland@Bendnet.com](mailto:drisland@Bendnet.com). I would like to get your input and suggestions and to the Tribal Council and all those involved, please consider a change to the amendment. It would be the right thing to do.

Thank You!

**Dolly E. Risland**  
Roll #1575

**Thank You Joe**

We needed our roses planted at the Elder Housing. We borrowed a shovel, then Joe Brisbois volunteered the manpower. Thank you, Joe.

**Donna Casey**  
**Dorothy Lawe**  
**Diane Lawe**

Dear Editor,

This letter is to applaud the members who have already written about the enrollment amendment. My family is divided. I have twin sons, Jedidiah and Samuel, who are members while their older brother and older sisters are not. You can imagine how difficult this is for the older siblings when they are asked their ethnicity. They want to be able to say that they are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. They have the same amount of Tillamook and Chinook that their brothers do and yet they cannot say that they are members.

We were seeking membership for all of them as soon as the entire bloodline was proved and the Enrollment Committee correctly figured their blood quantum.

I would like to believe that the amendment was made to prevent Natives from other Tribes joining our Tribe and receiving the benefits of Tribal membership and not meant to exclude the children of current Tribal members and harm the unity of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

It is important that we resolve this situation in peace as quickly as possible without outside interference from the federal government, who would be more than happy to impose new regulations and restrictions on all of us.

Sincerely,

**Willard (Bill) D. Adams**  
Roll # 2322



EDITORIAL POLICY

**SMOKE SIGNALS**, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. No portion of this publication may be reprinted without permission.

Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or email address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested.

**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.

SMOKE SIGNALS

9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)  
1-800-422-0232  
503-879-2190

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Fri., May 4	MAY 15
Mon., May 21	JUNE 1

**HERE WE GROW AGAIN**



Photos by Brent Merrill



**Casino Expansion** — Members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Tribal Council and members of the Spirit Mountain Development Corporation were joined by key staff members in a groundbreaking ceremony in front of Spirit Mountain Casino on Monday, April 9. The ceremony marked the addition of 5,200 square feet of additional non-smoking space to the casino. The new space will make room for an additional gaming. So far, the expansion project is on schedule.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION

**SMOKE SIGNALS** is available to anyone at no cost. Fill out this form with your name and address, mail to: **Smoke Signals, Attn: Justin Phillips, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347**

OLD ADDRESS: (Please Print)

NEW ADDRESS:

GRAND RONDE ROLL #: