

Attention Tribal Members:

The February 6, 2005 General Council meeting will be held at Embassy Suites, Portland Airport, 7900 N.E. 82nd Ave., Portland, Oregon.

An agenda has been sent to Portland area Tribal members. If you have any questions, please call Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator at 1-800-422-0232 ext. 1309 or 503-879-1309 or dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MEETINGS START AT 11 A.M.

2005 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

February 6 Portland, Oregon (see above)
 March 6 Grand Ronde
 April 3 Eugene, Oregon — Address To Be Announced
 May 1 Grand Ronde
 June 26 Grand Ronde — Tribal Council — Nominations
SUMMER BREAK
 September 11 Grand Ronde — (Second Sunday — Labor Day)
 October 9 Grand Ronde — (Second Sunday — Hunting)
 November 6 Grand Ronde
 December 4 Grand Ronde

The Tribe will provide a chartered 55-passenger bus to the General Council Meeting on Sunday, February 6 at the Embassy Suites Hotel-Portland Airport. The bus will be at the Tribal Governance Center between 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. to start boarding and it will be first come first serve. It will depart at 9 a.m. to the hotel. It will load up passengers and depart from the hotel at 2:30 p.m. and is expected to be back at the Governance Center between 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a bathroom on the bus but the Governance Center will also be open for use during the departure and return times.

For more information please call Dakota Whitecloud at 503-879-1309 or Lauri Smith at 503-879-2304.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Meetings

DATE	TIME
February 2, 2005	5 p.m.
February 16, 2005	5 p.m.

Please call 1-800-422-0232 ext. 1309 and verify the time 24 hours in advance.

Letters

Dear Tribal members,

The letter in the January 1 *Smoke Signals* from Sarah Ross spoke to my heart. I have three sons who, because they don't have enough "Indian Blood," don't qualify as Tribal members. These young men have so much to offer and would be proud to be Tribal members. We are not just talking monetary gain but a heritage to be proud of.

Our oldest son, Joseph graduated with a Masters in Physical Therapy and is serving in the Army in Germany. Patrick has a B.A. in Graphic Design and works close to home. Stephen is our computer tech who is just returning to college in Photography and Computer Animation. With our help and their hard work they have paid their own way through college.

Patrick was filling out paperwork last week for a new insurance policy at work.

He marked the box for "Native American" as his nationality. Later in the day the secretary called him into the office to ask him if he had made a mistake on that part. "No" he replied, "My mother is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde." She replied, "But are you?" He was upset he was even questioned. She then wanted him to go back and change the paperwork.

Now I wonder, which drops of blood flowing through my son's veins are Indian? Do the drops stick to themselves or do they mix with the non-Native types?

Filling out paperwork for the college funding has lists of Native American, American of African Decent, Asian, Hispanic, Caucasian, Asian Islanders and others. The only one questioned about percentages is the Native American.

When the original treaties were made and the lands were given to our departed ancestors they were for their children and their future generations. Doesn't this mean **all** the children of Tribal members and **their** children?

Wasn't it the "Wise White Man" who tacked on the quantum amount as a way to insuring that the lands would someday pass back out of the Native Americans hands and into his own again? Never even taking into account that the land, all of it, was rightfully the Native Americans all along.

As a Tribal member, I am thankful for all the council has accomplished and the wisdom used to plan for the future of our Tribe. And, I am thankful for each Tribal member who supports the hard work of this council.

How sad that my inheritance stops with me and my brothers and sisters and cousins. Our children will only inherit this wonderful heritage, in their hearts.

Peace and wisdom to all,

Judith Ellen Nesbit
 Roll #1823

Smoke Signals 2005 Deadlines

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Fri., Feb. 4	FEB. 15
Fri., Feb. 18	MAR. 1
Fri., Mar. 4	MAR. 15
Fri., Mar. 18	APR. 1
Mon., Apr. 4	APR. 15
Wed., Apr. 20	MAY. 1
Fri., May 6	MAY. 15
Fri., May 20	JUNE 1
Mon., June 6	JUNE 15
Fri., June 17	JULY 1
Tues., July 5	JULY 15
Wed., July 20	AUG. 1
Fri., Aug. 5	AUG. 15
Fri., Aug. 19	SEPT. 1
Mon., Sept. 5	SEPT. 15
Tues., Sept. 20	OCT. 1
Wed., Oct. 5	OCT. 15
Fri., Oct. 21	NOV. 1
Fri., Nov. 4	NOV. 15
Fri., Nov. 18	DEC. 1
Fri., Dec. 2	DEC. 15
Fri., Dec. 16	JAN. 1, 2006

EDITORIAL POLICY

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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.



Members of: ■ Native American Journalists Association
 ■ The Associated Press

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