

Public Hearing
Enrollment Amendment

Sunday, June 3, 2007

9am - Noon
Government Building
Council Chambers

Lunch served in the
Community Center
at noon

Attention Tribal Members:

2007 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

■ Sunday, June 24 — Grand Ronde, NOMINATIONS ONLY

NOTE THAT ALL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS START AT 11 A.M.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, June 13	5 p.m.
Wednesday, June 27	5 p.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. Please call Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator at 503-879-1309 to confirm.

Letters

A Step Back in Time

Not many people have a chance to turn back the clock, and see something they saw as a child that also brings special memories. Fortunately, I had that chance last month when Tribal Council and staff joined staff from the Willamette National Forest visited a very special place called Cascadia Cave. It was a very special trip for me because the last time I was there I was about 6 or 7 years old.

As I prepared for the trip, other memories came back that I thought about; things my uncle and grandmother had told me so long ago. I remembered my uncle carried me across the river and that the water was low, which also meant it had to have been in the summer. I don't why we crossed the river; maybe some of the property was private land.

As we walked along the trail I remembered that all the trees were big before, not the small trees there now; and there wasn't as much underbrush. It was more like a virgin forest back then with almost a carpet of wildflowers, salal and other plants on the ground.

At one point, I looked to my left and saw a bare rock face that looked familiar and a little farther along, we came to a cave-like opening that was familiar too. It was made of huge boulders and you could almost imagine someone taking shelter from a storm under the rocks.

On we walked with the smell of old woods all around us; we had to cross a small creek and move around a swampy area, but it was a pretty easy walk. As we got closer to the cave, I got a lump in my throat because I could still hear my grandmother telling me "this is important, don't ever forget who you are."

And then, we were there. I knew before we even stopped which way to turn before anyone said anything; there was only one place it could be, back against the rock wall of the canyon. As I moved closer, something was missing and at first I couldn't figure out what it was. Then I realized that the "guardian" tree was gone. One of the staff from the Ranger Station said it had fallen last year.

I walked up the incline and it was just like stepping backward in time; nothing had changed, all the carvings were still there; well almost all of them. I remembered something was over on one side and asked Eirik to look and see if it was still there. What he found was a sun symbol that was nearly weathered away, but it was still there.

As I walked around and took pictures of the markings on the cave walls, there was something else I remembered. There is a huge stone in front of the cave and I remember markings on it too, but they are covered now with moss and can't be seen. What a wonderful day. The sun came out and it was so comfortable there that I didn't want to leave, but at the same time, I knew I had to.

I don't regret going on this trip for an instant; it was a long walk for me, but I needed to go, not just for me, but for my family too. Now I have pictures that I can share with my family and the Tribe — that is what is most important; remembering and sharing a memory of long ago with people who understand that this place is special.

I hope anyone who goes there will take a minute to say a prayer and thank the old ones for the treasure they left behind. We may not know what all the symbols mean, or why this place was special; but when you see it, you just know — it's a special place.

Thank you, all the members of the Tribal Council, for the chance to go on this trip; you will never know how much it meant to me.

Dakota Whitecloud

Roll # 1587

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

The following Committees and/or Special
Event Boards have vacancies:

Fish & Wildlife Committee — 1 Vacancy

Health Committee — 1 Vacancy

Timber Committee — 2 Vacancies

For more information contact Dakota Whitecloud at
503-879-1309 or dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org

Smoke Signals

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

1-800-422-0232, FAX: 503-879-2173

www.grandronde.org



DEADLINE DATE ISSUE DATE

Tuesday, June 5 JUNE 15

Wednesday, June 20 JULY 1

Friday, July 6 JULY 15

Friday, July 20 AUGUST 1

SIOBHAN TAYLOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR
503-879-1920
siobhan.taylor@grandronde.org

TERI MERCIER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECRETARY
503-879-1418
teri.mercier@grandronde.org

JUSTIN PHILLIPS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
503-879-2190
justin.phillips@grandronde.org

RON KARTEN
STAFF WRITER
503-879-4663
ron.karten@grandronde.org

TOBY MCCLARY
PHOTOJOURNALIST
503-879-1358
toby.mcclary@grandronde.org

GEORGE VALDEZ
PRODUCTION
ASSISTANT
503-879-1416
george.valdez@grandronde.org

SHELLY KENT
CENTRAL PHONES
503-879-5211
shelly.kent@grandronde.org

KRISTEN RAVIA
PUBLICATIONS
SECRETARY
503-879-1453
kristen.ravia@grandronde.org

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.

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

2007 Tribal Council

1-800-422-0232 — council@grandronde.org

■ **Chris Mercier**
Tribal Chair
— ext. 2305
chris.mercier@grandronde.org

■ **Wesley "Buddy" West**
— ext. 2353
wesley.west@grandronde.org

■ **Angie Blackwell**
Tribal Vice Chair
— ext. 2300
angie.blackwell@grandronde.org

■ **Wink Soderberg**
— ext. 1444
wink.soderberg@grandronde.org

■ **Jack Giffen, Jr.**
Tribal Secretary
— ext. 2306
jack.giffen@grandronde.org

■ **Kathleen Tom**
— ext. 1777
kathleen.tom@grandronde.org

■ **Reyn Leno**
— ext. 2399
reyn.leno@grandronde.org

■ **Cheryle Kennedy**
— ext. 2352
cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org

■ **Valorie Sheker**
— ext. 2355
val.sheker@grandronde.org