

Food Bank help



Photo by Dean Rhodes

Grand Ronde Food Bank Director Alisa Larson holds a \$10,000 check from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on Nov. 29. The Tribal Council made the donation to help the local Food Bank buy food for area needy families and combat a shortage in food banks statewide. From left, Food Bank Board Director Nancy Holmes and Tribal Council members Steve Bobb Sr., Reyn Leno, Jack Giffen Jr., Cheryle Kennedy, Wink Soderberg and June Sell-Sherer attended the check donation ceremony.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Dec. 26	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

Dear Tribal Members:

Enrollment has been and will continue to be a hot topic in not only our Tribe, but all Indian Country.

I personally believe that regardless of how the upcoming Constitutional election fares, whether members vote for the changes or for our membership requirements to remain the same, the issue will probably not die out, ever.

In our lives I would say it is very likely that we will see other proposed amendments to our Constitution regarding enrollment requirements. What those will be exactly I can't really say, but I promise you they will come.

Frankly, I am fine with that. Much like immigration issues in our country, developing laws and policies to control population growth is naturally expected. You can't govern a nation when its population is expanding at a rate that is impossible to manage.

I think that is what our Tribal Council had in mind back in 1999 when they put forth the Constitutional amendment for the general membership to vote on.

I don't think they intended many of the side effects that have since plagued some of our Tribal families, particularly those with split siblings — one who can enroll and one who cannot. Or people who have plenty of Indian blood but cannot enroll because their parents aren't on the Restoration roll. Or those 35 children whose parents were sent letters in 2005 informing them of "errors" in their enrollment files, meaning the status they enjoyed as Tribal members would be revoked.

The proposed amendments to our Constitution will fix many of these problems. It may not fix every enrollment problem; realistically some probably can't be fixed. But it will help heal the damage that has been done to some of our Tribal families.

I know this because one of those families is my own. I am asking you as a fellow Tribal member to please register and vote "yes" on the proposed Constitutional amendments in February. You will be doing something very good, very humane and very generous. It is the right thing to do.

Dee Edwards
Roll #2979

Tribal Office Closures

All Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas. Tribal offices also will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.

Elders' committee voting

Elders can vote at the Jan. 6 General Council meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Community Center. They must present an ID to be able to vote. Four positions are open. Nominees are Linda Brandon, Beryle Contreras, Margaret Provost, Dakota Whitecloud, Louise Medeiros, Laura Gleason, Cheri Butler, Val Grout, Marcella Selwyn, Betty Bly and Monty Parazoo.

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
Monday, Dec. 17	JAN. 1
Friday, Jan. 4	JAN. 15
Friday, Jan. 18	FEB. 1
Tuesday, Feb. 5	FEB. 15

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

DEAN RHODES
PUBLICATIONS
COORDINATOR
503-879-1463
dean.rhodes@grandronde.org

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

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

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

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

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

CARLA ROBERTS
CENTRAL PHONES
503-879-1447
carla.roberts@grandronde.org

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 e-mail 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.

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2007-08 Tribal Council

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

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

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

■ **Reyn Leno**
Tribal Vice Chair
— ext. 2399
reyn.leno@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

■ **Steve Bobb Sr.**
— ext. 2353
steve.bobb@grandronde.org

■ **June Sell-Sherer**
— ext. 2300
june.sherer@grandronde.org

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