

## Departments moving to casino expansion

Spirit Mountain Casino's Human Resources Department and the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission are scheduled to move to the second floor of the new south expansion Events Center building behind Spirit Mountain Lodge in February. Because of the move, both departments will be closed to the public on Friday, Feb. 22, and Monday, Feb. 25. The departments will re-open on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

For more information, call Daphney Colton, Recruitment and Employee Relations manager, at 503-879-3025.

### NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

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

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

## Letters

### Dear Smoke Signals:

I would like to thank everyone involved in my "Indian Taco Fundraiser." Thank you kitchen staff for all your hard work and thank you to everyone for all your help!

Sincerely,

Butch Lillard & Family

### Dear Tribal Members:

I am writing this letter to give you some of my thoughts on the upcoming constitutional amendments and to make you think before you cast your vote.

First, I wanted to address this talk of "split families." What is a split family? Is it a family where not all members of the family have an enrollment number? I do not think so. Tribal families have survived for many generations regardless of whether they had roll numbers or not.

Many of our Tribal members have married non-Tribal members, adopted children who are not eligible for enrollment and have siblings who are not enrolled in the Tribe. Are they then considered split families? Are we going to be asked to remedy that problem in the future?

Just because certain members of a family are not enrolled in the Tribe does not mean that the family is "split." They are still a family unit regardless of who has a roll number.

The Tribe does not prohibit non-members from attending and participating in Tribal functions, such as pow-wow and celebrations, so I have a hard time understanding how non-member Tribal descendants are denied their heritage.

Secondly, I want to ask a question that has not seemed to have been addressed, which is what will happen to our endowment funds? With the increase in enrollment, will our endowments need additional time to become fully funded and will we need to open up those that are fully funded and add additional funds? Does this somehow jeopardize our financial stability?

Thirdly, I want to encourage people to give some attention and focus to the current Tribal members, many of whom are children who are already enrolled. A lot of focus and attention has been given to children who are not eligible for enrollment, but we also need to be the voice for those children who are enrolled and protect them as well.

Lastly, I wanted to address the idea that this amendment will only have short-term consequences. That is simply not true. If something as important as "Grand Ronde blood" is redefined as proposed, the impact will reach far into the future and affect everyone for many generations to come.

I urge you to carefully consider all possible aspects of each of the three amendments proposed and vote with seven generations in mind.

Larry Brandon

Roll #1214

See page 10 for more letters.

**Correction** — In the Jan. 1 issue of *Smoke Signals*, it was incorrectly reported that Tribal Elder Charlotte Gray is living with her brother in Tribal housing. In fact, she was only visiting. *Smoke Signals* regrets the error.

## Tribal Office Closures

All Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents' Day/Tribal Chiefs' Day.

## Attention Tribal members

### 2008 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

■ Sunday, Feb. 10 — 11 a.m.

**Monarch Hotel & Conference Center**

**12566 S.E. 93rd Ave.**

**Clackamas, OR 97015**

**Exit 14 — Sunnyside Rd/Sunnybrook Blvd. off of I-205**

## Smoke Signals

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#### DEADLINE DATE      ISSUE DATE

Tuesday, Feb. 5 .....	FEB. 15
Wednesday, Feb. 20 .....	MAR. 1
Wednesday, Mar. 5 .....	MAR. 15
Thursday, Mar. 20 .....	APR. 1

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## 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 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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