

**NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings**

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Feb. 25 .....	4 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:**

While taking down last year's Grand Ronde calendar, my eyes fell on the Grand Ronde Vision Statement:

"The Tribe's vision is to be a Tribal community known as a caring people, dedicated to the principles of honesty and integrity, building community, and responsibility and self-sufficiency through personal empowerment, and responsible stewardship of human and natural resources; a community willing to act with courage in preserving Tribal cultures and tradition for all future generations."

When I think of the division within the Tribe over the subject of enrollment, I think about the words "courage" and "all future generations." I think we need to change this Mission Statement to reflect reality.

I thought to myself, "Did the entire Tribal Council show courage in supporting the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Enrollment Committee in preserving our Tribe for future generations?" My answer was a resounding "No."

When I was asked to serve on the Ad Hoc committee, I naively assumed that the entire council would support the conclusions of the Ad Hoc committee, since it was council who appointed our committee and who paid our wages. If they had supported us, I have no doubt that our proposal would have passed. What a missed opportunity.

I hope members of council who did not support the Ad Hoc committee's proposal will not be shocked to learn that many of us who supported enrollment change look with pain at expenditures authorized by council, such as the following example: When I read in the *Smoke Signals* that the Tribe was planning to spend \$500,000 to build a plankhouse. I hope you understand my reaction.

The council is willing to spend \$500,000 on a plankhouse, but two-thirds of council cannot support keeping our Tribe together by backing enrollment change? I don't get it. How far would that \$500,000 go toward reuniting our Tribe and benefiting our children who are denied and disenrolled?

**Marilyn Portwood**  
Roll #2915

**Dear Smoke Signals:**

I appreciate the recognition and honoring to me at our Restoration celebration. I thank the Tribal Council and the Tribe for the gifts. I appreciate them.

I reflected on the event and want to express my thoughts that surfaced during an interview I participated in during that time. I was asked, because I was a founder of the Restoration effort, if I envisioned the current development of the Tribe. I responded that the Restoration work was to establish a path so our members could be self-sufficient, well able to provide for themselves, be well-educated and have good health services. It was to help the downtrodden. In looking back and up to now, I observe that some members have achieved these mentioned goals while the downtrodden are still downtrodden. I am concerned about this matter and wonder what can be done to change this. My hope and dream was that all members could participate in the advantages the Tribe has to offer. So work remains to be done.

I am concerned about enrollment requirements. They are crafted to keep our people out of the Tribe rather than be part of our family. I am saddened that our Tribe has sunk to this level and has established such restrictive rules to keep our family members, some who have one-half Grand Ronde blood, out. This is not right and in our Restoration effort we never intended this to happen. I believe we must reconsider this issue.

**Margaret Provost**  
Roll #645

See page 10 for more letters.

### Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of President's/Tribal Chief's Day.

**Correction** — The author of the submitted article "Parenting class graduates 17" was misidentified in the Feb. 1 *Smoke Signals*. The article was written by Kathy Gibbs, director of Polk County Healthy Start.

## General Council meeting

**Sunday, March 1 — Springfield**

Holiday Inn (Chinook Ballroom)

919 Kruse Way

Springfield, Oregon 97477

For information, see page 16.

**NOTE START TIME IS 10 A.M.**

# Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, Feb. 20 .....	MARCH 1
Tuesday, March 5 .....	MARCH 15

## Editorial Policy

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