

**NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings**  
**DATE** **TIME**  
 Wednesday, July 9.....5 p.m.  
 Wednesday, July 23.....5 p.m.  
*Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.*

## Letters

**Dear Tribal members:**  
 Over the past year (nine months actually), I have had the good fortune to serve you as a Tribal Council member. If it has been anything, it has been a learning experience. I thank those of you who have had the patience to stand by a new council member while they cut their teeth on a job that is immensely difficult.

Today I write about my concern over the state of affairs of the Tribe. The Tribe isn't collapsing, but there has been a growing divide that became really obvious to me at the last General Council meeting on May 18. What I am concerned about is that the uglier things get, the division will only continue to grow.

I am sure there are plenty of people who will say "Tell me something I don't know!" and there are others who will think "What is she talking about?" In my opinion, social media does not help. It simply gives Tribal members a forum where they can either sling mud or go for one another's throats. There is useful information, for sure, but much of it gets twisted to fit the agenda of whoever is writing. It really is like Fox News, CNN and MSNBC.

As we start getting into another Tribal Council election, I fear that this ugliness will make 2014 one of the most contentious elections ever. I hope I am wrong. If there is any piece of advice I can give you it is this: Contact the candidates directly with questions and concerns. You will definitely have constituents and detractors telling you that Candidate A is a saint or a jerk. You will definitely have rumors that take on a life of their own. Last, but not least, you will have false statements conveyed to you as gospel truth.

Maybe I am wrong. Maybe the candidates will read this letter and urge their constituents to help them run clean campaigns where issues, not personal dislikes, will be front and center. But as someone who has been the target of recent attacks, I am not encouraged as of late. Deep down though I am an optimist, and feel that the membership who really wants the best for this Tribe will find a way to prevail.

Sincerely,  
**Denise Harvey**  
 Roll #1874

**Dear Smoke Signals:**  
 In 2003, Focus Circle VIP opened its doors and quietly began work. We met every Tuesday to do anger management and domestic violence education. Now Focus Circle is on hiatus for awhile.

The class moved from the old module (now gone) at Social Services to a fish bowl meeting room (now a nice office) in the Culture Department, then to the Education Department, then to Behavioral Health and the well-kept lawn outside Behavioral Health on a few warm evenings. We were at the Portland satellite office on Thursdays for a few years. Eventually, we found our way to Room 204 in the Governance building. It was wonderful, with enough whiteboard space and flip charts and a movie screen, enough multimedia capacity to handle the rapidly developing ideas, class curriculum, role play and change that comprise Focus Circle.

Almost everybody and every department at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has had a part in bringing Focus Circle to life and helping to heal the effects of multi-generational trauma. Thank you, one and all.

Your work has been awesome. Call me; let me know how you are doing.  
**Priscilla Marlowe**  
 Salem

**Cover Oregon sign-ups continuing**  
 Native American and Alaska Natives can enroll year-round in Medicaid and the Oregon Health Plan, as well as for private health insurance coverage, through Cover Oregon.  
 For more information, contact Cover Oregon Certified Application Assistants Loretta Meneley at 503-879-1359, Sydney West at 503-879-2197 or 800-775-0095 for an appointment to apply for or discuss Cover Oregon. ■

**Correction** — The June 1 article "Memorial Day 2014" incorrectly identified Bob Thornburg. In addition, he was incorrectly identified as a veteran. Mr. Thornburg is a physical therapist and his business, Bridge Street Physical Therapy, is located in Sheridan. *Smoke Signals* regrets the errors.

## Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closing at noon Thursday, July 3, and be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

**Tribal Council**  
**Candidate Statements**  
 Due by 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, 2014  
**NO EXCEPTIONS**

# Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Monday, June 7 .....	July 15
Monday, July 21 .....	Aug. 1
Tuesday, August 5 .....	Aug. 15

## 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.

- Members of: ■ Native American Journalists Association  
 ■ The Associated Press  
 ■ Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

## 2014 Tribal Council

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