

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

Letters

Dear fellow Tribal members:
I have two unrelated points to make with this letter, but I will make it as brief as possible.

The July 2 “emergency” amendment to the Enrollment ordinance:

When I heard of this meeting, my first assumption was that it was a rumor gone wild. The very idea of council deciding to relinquish their duty to vote on whether to disenroll a family seemed too ridiculous to believe. Votes on enrolling and disenrolling members have been a part of Tribal Council’s responsibility since Restoration; pawning that responsibility off is just like forcing someone else to pull the trigger. I could not believe that they would make a proposal like this. As a former Tribal Council member, I would not have done it as an “emergency,” which means we, as members, don’t get to voice our opinions before the amendment goes into effect. For those of you that do not know what I am referring to, Tribal members that the committee recommends for disenrollment will be considered provisional members and most of their rights will be stripped from them until the Tribal Court makes the final determination, including the right to vote, interestingly. Suspending 60 plus voters who are definitely against the whole concept of disenrollment will have an undeniable effect on the election. I don’t expect anybody to admit this, but it sure looks like a motive to me. Furthermore, to do it in the middle of a highly visible disenrollment case is a classic example of changing the rules midway because it is obvious you are about to lose.

Council’s use of Tribal publications during elections:

This issue was raised years ago at a General Council meeting, January of 2008 to be specific, when the current Chair proposed that council articles in the *Tilixam Wawa* be voted on as they could be used to campaign. Now, years later, he appears to be doing the very thing which he opposed and even suggested a policy to govern. My issue with his report in the July 1 edition of *Smoke Signals* is that it came after nominations and he is up for re-election. In the past, council members have been restricted from contributing to Tribal publications while they are up for re-election. This is an unfair advantage. Will he be running more of these reports, using campaign catchphrases like “transparency,” “communication” and “accountability”? If so, then aren’t they basically additional candidate statements? Apparently there was never a policy enacted but the advantage here is grossly unfair.

Angie Blackwell
Roll #1089

(Editor’s note: The Message From the Chair in the July 1 Smoke Signals was submitted before Tribal nominations occurred on June 29 and is part of the Tribal Chair’s regular job duties of writing columns to keep the Tribal membership informed.)

Online degree programs

Turn your college credits or associate degree into a more powerful four-year degree from Portland State University.
Undergraduate degrees offered: BA/BS in Social Science, BA/BS in Arts & Letters and BA/BS in Liberal Studies.
For more information about online degree programs, contact the PSU Salem Center at 503-315-4281 or e-mail psusalem@pdx.edu. ■

OHP re-application process

In October 2013, the Oregon Health Plan sent out a one-page application to sign up for health benefits called “Fast Track.”
Any recipient on SNAP (food stamps) received a Fast Track letter. All Oregon Health Plan members who qualified for coverage through Fast Track must re-apply within the first year of coverage or risk losing their coverage. If it has not been a full year, you still need to re-apply to continue receiving health benefits.
In July, the Oregon Health Authority will begin sending letters to Oregonians who received the Oregon Health Plan through Fast Track explaining the re-application process. The Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center Community Partners want to help Tribal and community members make sure they retain their health coverage. If you do not re-apply, you will lose your health benefits through the Oregon Health Plan.
Please give us a call for information and assistance.
Loretta Meneley,
Cover Oregon Certified Application Assister at 503-879-1359
Sydney West,
Cover Oregon Certified Application Assister at 503-879-2197
Or call 800-775-0095 and ask to speak with Loretta or Sydney.

Candidate Forum

6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 23
Tribal Community Center

Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
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.



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2014 Tribal Council

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