

Letters

Dear *Smoke Signals*:

I would like to give a big thanks to Susie Lash, who did all of the cooking, from scratch to boot, for the Veterans Day meal held at the Tribal Community Center. I'd also like to thank all of the kitchen volunteers and Royalty girls for helping to serve the Elders.

A big thanks also for the people who made the wonderful baskets for the raffle: Rita LaChance and family, Reina Nelson, Susie Lash, Kathy Soderberg, Claudia Leno and Leonette Galligher. And thanks to Tribal Council for donating a Pendleton blanket for the main raffle prize.

Steve Bobb Sr.  
Roll #38

Dear Tribal members:

I am writing this to make you all aware of what some of our Tribal leaders are trying to accomplish. The very definition of what it means to be a Grand Ronde Tribal member is in danger of being radically altered.

In the near future, Tribal members will be receiving a letter with proposed constitutional amendments. We will be asked to vote on these initiative/referendum changes, without a clear understanding of what is trying to be accomplished. My personal understanding of the intentions behind these proposed changes has me greatly concerned. The proposed changes to initiative/referendum require far fewer voters to sign a petition (a reduction from 33.3 percent to 15 percent) in order to bring a Tribal matter forward to a General Council vote. Another requested change will allow the change to our Constitution if 20 percent (down from 30 percent) should vote on the matter.

Why do these proposed changes bother me? Because the person on Tribal Council who wrote these proposed changes is the same person who stated in his most recent run for election that he wanted to rewrite the Tribal Constitution since it has become antiquated (in his view), and he wants to change what is required to become an enrolled CTGR member. I see these proposals as his first step toward accomplishing his goals. These proposed changes are unnecessary and unwanted by me and I hope the majority of the Tribe.

Most disheartening is the fact that our Tribal leaders had a golden opportunity to fix the one enrollment issue that has affected the most Tribal families: the parent on the roll issue. The five leaders who rejected this positive solution for all Tribal members did so in order to try and force the General Council to support their other proposed enrollment changes.

In other words, they are refusing to change the parent on the roll issue unless the General Council accepts a package deal that will completely redefine the definition of CTGR members and will open the floodgates for thousands more to join our Tribe and undeservingly usurp our Tribal funds.

This package deal will also open the rolls to calculate all Indian blood as Grand Ronde blood, allowing new Indian blood to be Grand Ronde blood. This new blood does not have to be traced back to the Grand Ronde rolls and can literally be from anywhere. These same five leaders are the same people who are supporting the above constitutional amendments.

Please join me in voting NO to all of these proposed constitutional amendments. Also, I hope that many Tribal members will voice their opinions to Tribal Council by e-mail and at Tribal Council meetings. Our leaders need to fight for what is best for all Tribal members and not just for those who voted them in.

Delores J. Knight  
Roll #340

## Spirit Mountain Casino holding annual toy drive

Spirit Mountain Casino continues the tradition of giving with its eighth annual Holiday Toy Drive to benefit Oregon Health & Science University's Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Through Dec. 6, casino guests can help spread the holiday cheer by bringing in new, unwrapped toys to the Coyote Club desk in exchange for \$10 in free slot play. The hospital is in need of appropriate toys for infants and toddlers, school-age children and teenage boys and girls. A full wish list can be reviewed at [www.spiritmountain.com](http://www.spiritmountain.com).

"This is our eighth year of partnership with Doernbecher during the holiday season," said Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Stan Dillon. "The toy drive allows us to bring joy to the children at Doernbecher during a challenging time in their lives. We are grateful for the generosity of our guests who continue to make donations each year, allowing us to provide sufficient toys to meet the hospital's needs at Christmastime and throughout the year."

Toy donations are not only used during the holiday season, but are used for birthdays, special occasions, educational tools, play room toys and treatment pals throughout the entire year at Doernbecher.

"We are thankful for the continued opportunity to work with the incredible staff at Doernbecher Children's Hospital," Dillon said. "On behalf of the employees of Spirit Mountain Casino and the members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, we extend heartfelt blessings for the holiday season and the year to come." ■