

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Dec. 2.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 16.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30.....	4 p.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.

Letters

Dear Tribal members:

This is written to address a letter by Rosemary Jameson that appeared in the Nov. 15, 2015, issue of *Smoke Signals*. Her letter was misleading and included a number of inaccuracies and omissions that I plan to clarify here.

Rosemary urges that Tribal members contact Tribal Council and ask for enrollment issues to be voted on separately and to not be “bundled.” She then erroneously identifies the July 2015 proposed constitutional amendment removing a “parent on the roll requirement” as a single issue. The problem is that the “parent on the roll” is actually two different requirements that were bundled together and which consisted of:

1. Parent on the roll at time of birth;
2. Parent on the roll at time of application (unless deceased).

While Rosemary rails against voting on bundles, what she wanted Tribal Council to move forward with was a bundle. This is indisputable. These were listed on the sample ballot sent to BIA as two different requirements. They are also listed as two separate requirements on the checklist for membership which we on Tribal Council review when voting to enroll a member.

These points were all discussed at the July 29 Tribal Council meeting and again at the Oct. 22 special Tribal Council meeting. In fact, in a letter Rosemary Jameson herself wrote to *Smoke Signals* on Nov. 1, 2011, which was during the last constitutional election on enrollment, she personally identified these two requirements as being distinct and deserving to be separated out for different votes. But, for whatever reason, she either changed her mind or plain old forgot. Rosemary omitted those key facts from her letter.

The Oct. 22, 2015, meeting which took place was not easy. But those of us who chose to delay moving forward were very clear and sincere in our desire to see enrollment justice for all of those families adversely impacted by the 1999 amendment. In my opinion, to turn our backs on some families without even trying to help them would have only made a divisive issue more so. It would have created a lot of resentment among those split families as some would get to experience the joy of seeing their 16-year wait ended, while others would be left out in the cold, wondering why Tribal Council chose to leave them behind.

Mrs. Jameson mentions the Restoration Roll correction as being an avenue for correcting one of the problems created by the 1999 amendment. There may be some truth to that, but at this point we don't really know. We don't know who will apply, what their situations will be and whether they will be able to meet the requirements to be added to the Restoration Roll per our Enrollment Ordinance. For her to put that forth as an alternative to a constitutional amendment, especially when we just don't know, could be giving some people false hope. I really wish she hadn't done that.

I, too, would like to see the unintended consequences of the 1999 amendment resolved. But I would like to see a solution that does not entail helping some families and deliberately turning our backs on others. No family in this Tribe is better than any other.

Chris Mercier

Roll #1821

See page 14 for more letters.

Name changes in Tribal Court

Tribal Court provides both minor and adult name changes to enrolled members for a filing fee of only \$30. If you have any questions or would like to request a packet, please contact Devin Larsen at 503-879-2303 or devin.larsen@grandronde.org. ■

St. Michael's offers brunch

St. Michael's Catholic Church offers an open house brunch every Sunday following Mass. The brunch is free to the community.

Brunch begins at about 11:30 a.m. following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass attendance is not required for brunch attendance. For more information, contact Janelle Justen at 503-550-0923. ■

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closing on Thursday, Dec. 24, at noon and closed on Friday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. Offices also will be closing on Thursday, Dec. 31, at noon and closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2016, in observance of New Year's Day.

General Council meeting

10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

Earlier time to accommodate Tribal Council Christmas Party
Tribal Community Center

Smoke Signals

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

1-800-422-0232, FAX: 503-879-2173

Website: www.grandronde.org/news

E-mail: news@grandronde.org

Twitter: **CTGRgov**

Facebook: **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**

DEAN RHODES
PUBLICATIONS
COORDINATOR
503-879-1463
dean.rhodes@grandronde.org

CHELSEA CLARK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS/
PUBLICATIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT
503-879-1418
chelsea.clark@grandronde.org

MICHELLE ALAIMO
PHOTOJOURNALIST
503-879-1961
michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org

GEORGE VALDEZ
GRAPHIC DESIGN
SPECIALIST
503-879-1416
george.valdez@grandronde.org

JUSTIN PHILLIPS
PAGE DESIGNER
503-879-2190
justin.phillips@grandronde.org

BRENT MERRILL
STAFF WRITER
503-879-4663
brent.merrill@grandronde.org

SCARLETT HOLTZ
CENTRAL PHONES
503-879-1447
scarlett.holtz@grandronde.org

VALERIE COX
CENTRAL PHONES
503-879-1446
valerie.cox@grandronde.org

DEADLINE DATE ISSUE DATE

Friday, Dec. 4.....Dec. 15

Friday, Dec. 18.....Jan. 1, 2016

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
■ Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

2015-16 Tribal Council

1-800-422-0232 — tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

■ **Reyn Leno**
Tribal Chairman
— ext. 2399
reyn.leno@grandronde.org

■ **Jack Giffen Jr.**
Tribal Vice Chair
— ext. 2300
jack.giffen@grandronde.org

■ **Cheryle A. Kennedy**
Tribal Secretary
— ext. 2352
cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org

■ **Ed Pearsall**
— ext. 2305
ed.pearsall@grandronde.org

■ **Denise Harvey**
— ext. 2353
denise.harvey@grandronde.org

■ **Chris Mercier**
— ext. 1444
chris.mercier@grandronde.org

■ **Brenda Tuomi**
— ext. 4555
brenda.tuomi@grandronde.org

■ **Tonya Gleason-Shepek**
— ext. 1777
tonya.gleason-shepek@grandronde.org

■ **Jon A. George**
— ext. 2355
jon.george@grandronde.org