

Letters

Dear *Smoke Signals*:

We would like to thank our Tribe and community for everything they have done throughout the years for Peachie Hamm. She was very happy to be home in Grand Ronde. There are so many things she was able to do for the Tribe. There are so many things that the Tribe has done for her; they are too many to count. The benefits that our members receive are outstanding. She reminded all of her family how blessed we are compared to most other Tribes. Each and every employee, committee member and volunteer for the Tribe makes a difference for our members.

Again, we thank Tribal Council, all of our Tribal community, family and friends for their caring, help and love over the years, and during these last few weeks.

Richard Hamm and all of Peachie's family

Dear Tribal members:

I found the letter by Chris Mercier in the Dec. 1, 2015, issue of *Smoke Signals* troublesome.

Chris Mercier is a member of the Tribal Council. His letter was directed at Tribal Elder Rosemary Jameson whose letter appeared in the Nov. 15, 2015, issue of *Smoke Signals*. It is the first time I have read a letter written in this type of forum by a member of Tribal Council trying to discredit the factual words written openly and honestly by a Tribal member.

In Rosemary Jameson's Nov. 15, 2015 letter, she urged every individual who has been affected by the parent on the roll requirement to write to Tribal Council and ask them to correct each enrollment problem separately from any other corrections.

Rosemary's request made sense to me and I appreciated her submitting her letter to *Smoke Signals* for Tribal members to read. I did not find Rosemary's letter to be misleading; nor did I find it to contain a number of inaccuracies and omissions. On the other hand, I found Chris Mercier's Dec. 1, 2015, letter to be all of those.

For some time now, Chris Mercier has been referring to the parent on the roll requirement as a bundled requirement. Yet when the requirement was added as part of the 1999 amendment, the requirement was listed as part of one sentence and reads as follows: "(c) who possess at least one-sixteenth (1/16) degree Grand Ronde blood quantum and were born to a parent who was a member of the Tribe at the time of the applicant's birth and who, unless deceased, is a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe at the time the applicant files an application for enrollment; have filed an application for enrollment according to procedures established pursuant to Section 3 of this Article, and have been accepted as members in accordance with the Tribal ordinance adopted under Section 3 of this Article."

The wording on the July 2015 approved ATP was as follows: "Authorize the Tribal Attorney's Office to prepare a committee sheet, draft resolution and other documents necessary to move forward an amendment to the Tribal Constitution (enrollment requirements) to remove the requirement that an applicant for membership have a parent who is or was a member of the Tribe at the time or the applicant's birth and, if living, at the time of application."

It appears to me that it was the intent of all of the Tribal Council members who signed the ATP to treat the removal of the parent requirement as one issue. Those Tribal Council members who signed were Jack Giffen Jr., Toby McClary, Jon A. George, Tonya Gleason, Cheryle Kennedy and Ed Pearsall.

It seems to me that Chris Mercier is trying to confuse the issue in order to further his own agenda, which is to propose wording to change the current definition of Grand Ronde blood through a constitutional amendment election so it is no longer tied to the Grand Ronde Restoration Act Roll. That is why I think Chris is trying to discourage, in a sense, Tribal members from applying for the Restoration Roll Correction Application if they do not have an ancestor on the Restoration Roll. Yet the application has been approved by Tribal Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and is available through the Member Services Department or Enrollment Office.

I encourage all Tribal members to seek the truth through every avenue available in regards to what is going on within our Tribal Council and what is being proposed and what isn't being proposed.

Leroy Good

Roll #892

Shop With a Cop



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Patrick McConnell, Grand Ronde Tribal Police K-9 Officer, scans items chosen by sisters Annabelle, left, and Chloe Guardiola to add up the total while shopping during the Shop With a Cop event held at the Dallas Wal-Mart on Saturday, Dec. 12. Twenty-seven youths shopped for Christmas presents for family members and one item for themselves with volunteers from the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, Grand Ronde Wildland Firefighting crew, Independence Police Department, West Valley Fire District and Polk and Yamhill County sheriff's offices. It was sponsored by Tribal Council and the Tribe's Social Services Department and Tribal Elder Marcella Selwyn and her husband, Tony, donated \$1,000 to the event. Each child received \$50 to spend and their families also received a \$25 gift card to Safeway. After shopping, the group had pizza and wrapped the presents.



Jamie Baxter, Tribal Emergency Operations Coordinator, goes over what Lela Murray picked for presents as they shopped during the Shop With a Cop event at the Dallas Wal-Mart on Saturday, Dec. 12.

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