

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings
 DATE TIME
 Wednesday, May 18.....5 p.m.
Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.

Letters

Dear Smoke Signals:

In my time on Tribal Council, one of my biggest priorities has been to responsibly manage the Tribal budget and to protect our endowments and our investments while providing fair and equal services to our Tribal members. Last year, my priority was the same, but I wanted to make sure that Tribal members looking to increase the value of their homes or the homes they would be purchasing had access to new sources of funding.

In the 2016 budgeting process, I proposed and Tribal Council approved setting an amount of funding aside that could be used for a new program for homeowners or those purchasing a home through our Tribal Housing Department. The program would be available to those who may not qualify for some of the programs we already provide like the home repair grant. Staff is currently working with the Housing Department manager and the Executive Office to develop the program and draft policies. And while the policies are still being developed, the program should be one that matches dollar for dollar what a Tribal member will spend to upgrade or improve a feature of their home that will be semi-permanent and bring value to the home up to a certain dollar amount. Some examples would include fencing, decking, concrete paving, remodeling projects and new flooring. The goal would be that it would be a permanent project that would bring value to your home.

The program will be funded by earnings off our Tribal Housing Endowment and will have no impact on gaming revenues. For 2016, the Tribe has set aside \$120,000 for the new program and staff is working hard to have it in place by June 2016 if not sooner. The draft program and policies will be presented to Tribal Council in the coming months. Once Tribal Council has approved the proposals, the Housing Department will launch the program and will work with staff to notify Tribal members through *Smoke Signals* and the *Tilixam Wawa*.

We look forward to rolling out this new program and look forward to working with our members to develop new programs and enhance the services we already provide.

Ed Pearsall
 Tribal Council
 Roll #589

Dear Smoke Signals:

I grew up being proud of my Tribe and heritage, feeling very fortunate to be part of such a strong, supportive community that takes care of its people. I was proud to be a representative of our Tribe as Royalty in 2000-01.

Now, however, I am ashamed of Grand Ronde's unethical denial of our own people, and the greed that is undoubtedly behind it. As a Tribal member, I am writing to show my support for the reinstatement of the treaty involving Chief Tumult, and all of his descendants. I want to urge Tribal Council to stop the disenrollment of our already dwindling Tribe. Honor the lives of the dedicated Tribal members that we have abandoned, like Chuck Williams, by recognizing the treaty and reinstating them as Tribal members as they always should be.

Valerie Haskins
 Roll #4140

(Editor's note: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has never disavowed the 1855 Treaty of the Willamette Valley, one of seven ratified treaties the Tribe signed ceding most of western Oregon to the federal government.)

See page 20 for more letters.

Graduation Ceremony set for June 17

The Education Department's Graduation Ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, June 17, in the Tribal gym.

Dinner will be provided.

The ceremony will recognize Grand Ronde students who have reached an educational milestone in K-3 Chinuk language class, eighth grade, high school, GED completion, certificates and college diplomas.

If you graduated or will be graduating in the 2015-16 academic year, contact Education via e-mail at education@grandronde.org or call 503-879-2275 or 800-422-0232, ext. 2275. ■

Bike helmets available

The Tribe's Social Services Department has bicycle helmets available for distribution. Those needing a helmet need to visit the department and sign a helmet application, as well as get fitted. For more information, contact Social Services at 503-879-2034. ■

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closing on noon Friday, May 27, and closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

Tribal Council nominations

11 a.m. Sunday, June 26

Tribal Community Center

Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, May 20	June 1
Monday, June 6	June 15
Monday, June 20	July 1

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

2016 Tribal Council

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