



2013 – Navajo code talkers were among those honored at the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at the Uyxat Powwow Grounds. The Tribe wrapped the men in traditional blankets and presented them with Native American Medals of Valor. Navajo code is considered the most successful military code ever invented and remained unbroken by the Japanese throughout World War II.



2008 – Construction on Grand Ronde Road was set to begin in August and included widening the road to add bicycle lanes and sidewalks on the east side of the Yamhill River bridge to allow for safe pedestrian travel. Roadside ditches were to be replaced with storm sewers to make room for the roadway widening.

The sanitary sewer and water lines also were scheduled for upgrades. “There’s an awful lot of very serious drainage problems that we’re trying to resolve,” Tribal Engineer Eric Scott said. “We are proposing to discharge the storm water to historic and underutilized drainages. We know there’s an impact and we’re doing everything we can to mitigate it.”

2003 – The first phase in a longtime Tribal plan to provide quality, affordable housing for its members was officially enacted with the dedication of a new 36-unit Tribal housing development. Its name “Chxi Musam Illihi” means “a sleeping place” in Chinuk Wawa. “I think that we finally achieved a goal that we set many years ago about building nice housing for Tribal members,” Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority Chair Tim Holmes said. More than 100 Tribal members applied for the 36 available homes.

1998 – The Tribe hosted community meetings for urban Tribal members in Portland, Salem and Eugene. The meetings were the first three of five scheduled that summer to solicit member input on community needs, program spending and other uses of Tribal funds. Overall, members from Oregon’s three most populous cities showed “broad support” for long-term financial planning while favoring enhanced program services as the No. 1 Tribal need.

1993 – The Nanitch Sahallie employee of the month was Intake Service Counselor Karen Schmid. She was a member of the Choctaw/Apache Tribe and grew up in Portland. After graduating from Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, Wash., she also received additional certifications in her field. “I feel it is a privilege to work here,” she said. “My job is worthwhile if I can see I’ve made a difference in one person’s life. I want to help make Native people stronger.”

1988 – The class of 1988 was featured and included Tribal members Steve Bobb Jr., Jeffery J. Brickell, Mike Colton, Mychal Childers, Darren Houck, Chris Leno, Joey Larsen, LaDonna Norwest and Gina Valera. Childers said that her mother, Candy Robertson, helped her realize her dream of wanting to pursue a career in interior decorating. She said her hobbies included “everything,” but she especially enjoyed running and exercising.

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Three advisory vote sessions scheduled in July, August

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for Elders a reality.

Tribal voters voted “no” last year on all three parts of an enrollment requirements question. Removing the requirement that an applicant be born to a parent who was a Tribal member at the time of the applicant’s birth was opposed 683-541; removing the requirement that the applicant be born to a parent who was a Tribal member at the time the enrollment application is filed was opposed 705-493; and returning to the pre-1999 amendment blood quantum requirements was opposed 654-574.

A three-part question about the Tribe possibly entering the marijuana business received a “yes” vote twice. Tribal voters favored the Tribe getting involved in the medical marijuana business (818-445) and hemp production (761-467), but narrowly voted against becoming involved in the recreational marijuana business (632-601).

The first educational meeting to discuss this year’s advisory votes was held at Wednesday, July 11, following the Tribal Council meeting.

About 30 Tribal members attended the meeting, which started at about 7 p.m., and they dined on sandwiches and watched an informational video created by Deputy Press Secretary Sara Thompson.

The video told the story of Travis Wilson, son of Natural Resources Department Manager Michael Wilson and his wife, Denise. Travis is not a Tribal member while his three siblings are Tribal members. Same parents. Same blood quantum. Different enrollment results because of the 1999 amendment.

An information sheet distributed during the meeting discussed the three advisory vote questions.

Regarding the enrollment question, the sheet said: “The Tribe’s constitutional enrollment requirements were amended in 1999 and 2008. Since then, constitutional amendments to enrollment requirements have not received sufficient votes to pass. Advisory votes on enrollment requirements continue to be suggested at each of the community meetings. The most common concern raised at the community meetings is repairing split families where some siblings are enrolled while other siblings are not due to the 1999 amendment.

“One of the reasons for this split is based on whether children were born before or after the 1999 amendment. Children born and enrolled before the amendment qualified under the original requirements, but their brothers and sisters born after the 1999 amendment do not qualify under the new requirements. This split in families may be corrected by applying the pre-1999 amendment enrollment

To hear Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez discuss this year’s advisory votes, go to www.spreaker.com and search for “Smoke Signals podcasts.”

requirements to applicants with siblings who were enrolled prior to the 1999 amendment. This advisory vote is presented to see if the membership would like to fix the split family issue by amending the constitutional enrollment requirements.”

Regarding casino amenities, the sheet said: “Over the last several years, Tribal members have advocated for additional amenities at Spirit Mountain Casino, including, but not limited to, a full-service RV park, spa, pool, salon, bowling alley, cinema and shopping center. This advisory vote is presented to see if the membership would like staff to research additional amenities at Spirit Mountain Casino.”

And regarding more financial assistance, the sheet stated: “Over the last several years, Tribal members have requested an expansion of programs and services that qualify for funding assistance. More specifically, educational programs and trainings that are not covered by existing programs, including, but not limited to, additional trade school funding, tutoring expenses and private school tuitions. This advisory vote is presented to see if the membership would like staff to explore program and service expansion within the Education Department.”

Tribal members were asked for advisory vote topics after General Council meetings held in Portland, Eugene and Grand Ronde earlier this year. Tribal Council then met to review all of the suggestions and eventually selected those that “seemed especially pressing and could be dealt with in the coming year.”

Additional advisory vote informational meetings are scheduled for:

- 6 p.m. Thursday, July 26, at Portland State University’s Native American Student and Community Center, Room 170., 710 S.W. Jackson St.;
- 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Lane Community College Longhouse in the Great Room, 4000 E. 30th Ave., Eugene;
- 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, at the Tribal Community Center, 9165 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde.■

Community Health Program

Medical Transport Services

Medical transportation services are available to Tribal members within the six-county service area when an alternate means of transportation is not available. Advance notice required.

Please call 503-879-2078 to schedule a reservation.

