

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings
DATE **TIME**
Wednesday, Aug. 20.....4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 3.....4 p.m.
Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.
Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,
Lineal descent: As I see it, our Tribal voters voted for lineal descent, not a “diabolical” lottery system. Tribal members who spoke against the lottery system were totally ignored. Apparently, Tribal Council thought it was easier for them to implement the lottery system than the “first come, first serve” approach to enrollment. Yet, my guess is the lottery system has cost the Tribe more time and money than the “first come, first serve” approach, and more heartache for the Tribal membership.
From the time the CTGR was restored until sometime in 2024, applicants for enrollment were based on a “first come, first serve” basis. Once lineal descent was adopted through a constitutional amendment, it seems like members of Tribal Council sort of went off kilter thinking how a possible large number of applicants would be enrolled. Instead, they should have stuck with the traditional enrollment process of “first come, first serve,” keeping all siblings, no matter what age, together. Hopefully, Tribal Council realizes that the lottery system was not the right choice.
Those who say that those affected by the 1999 amendment should be enrolled first need to realize that applicants were affected from the end of 1999 until sometime in 2024. So, it would be near impossible to figure out how to allow them to enroll first under lineal descent.
I personally believe that the lottery system is gambling with the lives of those who applied. This comes home to me when I read stories on the Facebook group sites of how the lottery system has affected our Tribal people’s lives.
It has affected the lives of many families. Siblings who applied on the very first day via e-mail are scattered all over throughout the lottery numbers. Example, there are several cases in which an oldest adult sibling is scheduled for enrollment in 2037, while the younger adult sibling is scheduled to be enrolled this year. Again, both applied via e-mail the very first day. The lottery also created several cases in which a child and/or grandchild is scheduled to be enrolled years before their parent/grandparent.
The bottom line to me is, I thought voting for lineal descent enrollment would cure the split family situation but the lottery system will be making more split families, thanks to Tribal Council. That is not what I and most others voted for.
Leroy Good
Roll #892

Dear Smoke Signals,
I am so grateful for the outpouring of love and support from our Tribe and community after the passing of my beloved husband, Dennis Hemeon, July 10. I won’t ever forget the kindness of friends and family, support of colleagues at the clinic and Tribal leadership. I know Dennis would be so grateful for the support we received during such a difficult time.
I want to thank Vikki at Traditions Health and all of Dennis’ caregivers, especially Arnie, Missy, Leesa and Penny. I thank Dr. Lance Loberg for taking great care of Dennis. Also, thank you to Damon in Community Health. Special thanks to Greg Bruckner, Sam Thornsberry, Bianca and Maddie for dropping everything to come and help with Dennis. He loved you all and was so appreciative of everything you did. I also want to express thanks and gratitude to Crystal Scheese, who went above and beyond for the whole family the moment Dennis walked on.
I would not have been able to continue daily activities without the help of both our church and Tribal families. We are fortunate to be part of an extraordinary community of caring, generous people who always do what they can for others. The memorial service at Grand Ronde Methodist Church was perfect and I thank everyone who worked to make it beautiful. Our amazing Tribe and family all pitch in during times of loss and grief. You made my load lighter and I love you all.
Jamie Adams Hemeon
Roll #1501

Dear Smoke Signals,
I was interested to read the article by Danielle Harrison regarding the constitutional amendment that called for a vote of the Tribal members to remove the BIA due to timelines being set by federal regulations due to not enough time for all Tribal members to participate and having a varied process from election to election. The amendment failed.
I voted no because I do not want to lose BIA oversight of our activities. Termination of BIA failed. We are restored. Let it be.
Claudette Parazoo
Roll #2923

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closing at noon Friday, Aug. 29, and are closed Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Offices will also be closed Friday, Sept. 26 in observance of National Native American Day.

smok signalz

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347
1-800-422-0232 • FAX: 503-879-2173

Website: www.smokesignals.org
Email: news@grandronde.org
Email: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org

www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR/
www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel

DANIELLE HARRISON PUBLICATIONS MANAGER / EDITOR 503-879-4663 danielle.harrison@grandronde.org	MICHELLE ALAIMO PHOTOJOURNALIST / ASSISTANT EDITOR 503-879-1961 michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org
JUSTIN PHILLIPS PRODUCTION SPECIALIST 503-879-2190 justin.phillips@grandronde.org	SAMUEL F. BRIGGS III GRAPHIC DESIGN SPECIALIST 503-879-1416 samuel.briggs@grandronde.org
KAMIAH KOCH SOCIAL MEDIA / DIGITAL JOURNALIST 503-879-1461 kamiah.koch@grandronde.org	NICOLE MONTESANO STAFF WRITER 503-879-1463 nicole.montesano@grandronde.org
KATHERINE WARREN SECRETARY / ADVERTISING 503-879-1466 • katherine.warren-steffensmier@grandronde.org	

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Wednesday, Aug. 20	Sept. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Sept. 4	Sept. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Monday, Sept. 22	Oct. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Tuesday, Oct. 7... ..	Oct. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

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 email address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested. Letters must be 400 words or less.

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.

2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

CHERYLE A. KENNEDY Tribal Council Chairwoman — ext. 2352 cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org	KATHLEEN GEORGE — ext. 2305 kathleen.george@grandronde.org
CHRIS MERCIER Tribal Council Vice Chair — ext. 1444 chris.mercier@grandronde.org	BRENDA TUOMI — ext. 2300 brenda.tuomi@grandronde.org
JON A. GEORGE Tribal Council Secretary — ext. 2355 jon.george@grandronde.org	MATTHEW HALLER — ext. 1777 matthew.haller@grandronde.org
TONYA GLEASON-SHEPEK — ext. 4555 tonya.gleason-shepek@grandronde.org	LISA LENO — ext. 1770 lisaleno@grandronde.org
	DENISE HARVEY — ext. 2353 denise.harvey@grandronde.org