

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

We appreciate reading Smoke Signals, also what the Tribal Council is doing for our people and the Community.

Jimmie & LeRoy Shaw
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A Prayer

O Wanken Tanka, Let us chase away the burdens and heartaches of yesterday, and look towards a dawning of a new day, and a beginning of a new life. As the sun rises each day from the East.

Courtesy of Jimmie & LeRoy Shaw

GRAND RONDE ELDERLY TRANSPORTATION

In the month of December the Grand Ronde Elderly Transportation Tribal Car traveled 2,226 miles and transported 49 riders, as compared with the 2,016 miles traveled and 55 riders transported in the month of November. Due to the holidays and the bad weather we had in December, our number of riders decreased, but we are looking forward to an increase in riders once the weather starts warming up again.

In the new telephone books we are listed as "Tribal Council -- Outreach and Transportation" in the Grand Ronde section and the number is 879-5253. So, senior citizens, if we can be of any help to you with Transportation, or if you would like some information about the transportation program, give us a call at the "Tribal Office". We will be happy to hear from you.

OUTREACH

By this time all of the persons who receive SSI (Supplemental Security Insurance) checks (the gold colored ones) should have received an extra check, usually for \$213, to be used for their energy bills -- electric, oil, gas or wood. This "energy crisis" money is to help with the high cost of heat producing energy. Those who receive Social Security checks (green colored) should apply to their closest Information and Referral Center. If their income is at, or below the low income guidelines they will receive aid with their heat producing costs. If anyone in the Grand Ronde area has any questions, please call the Tribal Office, 879-5253, for assistance. There is a volunteer Outreach worker helping with this program.

In February there will be a survey made of the Grand Ronde service area in order to determine, among other things, how many residents are 60 years of age and older. Pamphlets describing the elderly transportation program and the outreach services will be distributed. Also, the "Vial of Life" will be available for each household. The outcome of this survey, monthly status, will be given in the next Smoke Signals.