

**Attention Tribal members**

2008 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

■ Sunday, March 2 — 11 a.m., Grand Ronde, Tribal Community Center

**NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings**

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, March 5.....	5 p.m.
Wednesday, March 19.....	5 p.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. Call Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, at 503-879-1309 to confirm.

**Letters****Dear Smoke Signals:**

Thank you to the Tribal members, family and friends for all their support, help, cards and flowers during our time of loss.

We are proud to be a part of this family and Tribal members.

The family of Norma Ruth Lewis

**Dear Smoke Signals:**

My name is Sonny Hutchins. I am a Veterans of Foreign Wars Vietnam disabled veteran. I belong to VFW Post 9611 in Cloverdale.

I am respectfully writing to give honor to two of the Tribal Elders who are part of the Tribal Honor Guard veterans. I am not able to go to the Grand Ronde Veterans Powwow every year because I am stage two congestive heart and am physically unable to attend.

I do have a scooter that the Veterans Hospital gave me due to the fact that I am a 100 percent service-connected veteran, permanent and total.

I have wanted a hat and medal from the Veterans Powwow, but been unable to get one because I am not there. I have spoken to several people, but all hats and medals were gone because there were so many veterans last year at the Powwow. However, I am friends of Tribal Elder Larry Risteen and his wife, Tammy. They said they would see if they could help me acquire a Powwow hat and medal the best they could.

Larry and Tammy are considered family to myself and my wife, Judy. Larry mentioned to two of the Tribal Honor Guard veterans that I would like to have a medal and hat due to my situation. Larry and Tammy tried very hard. One day, Larry was talking to Wayne (Chulik) of the Honor Guard about a medal. Wayne said there just were not any left.

At that point, Wayne started to walk away after conversation with Larry, and Wayne turned around and said, "Here, give him this." Wayne gave me a medal off his neck. It was the Warriors Medal of Valor, Native American Nations of the United States of America. On the back it said it was awarded "for valorous service to a grateful nation" and there was a red ribbon for me to wear. I am to wear it on my last journey. Larry and Tammy brought this medal to me one evening, and Larry presented the medal to me given to him from Wayne of the Tribal Honor Guard. I was so moved. I could not contain myself. I did something I never do. I broke into tears and wept uncontrollably. I am so honored, Wayne, that you gave me such a revered medal of Native Americans. I shook Larry's hand and hugged Larry and his wife, Tammy. I told him to thank Wayne. However, I choose to honor Wayne myself by respectfully writing this thank you to Wayne.

Thank you, Wayne, for honoring me in such a way as not only a Native American, but as a veteran. And thank you Wayne for your service to this country as a war veteran. May the Great Spirit bless you on your last journey to not only give homage to the Tribe, but to go on to be with the Great Spirit forever.

My grandmother was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian. I am so very proud of my Indian heritage. My father taught me very much about our Tribe and our ways of living. I give money every month to the Lakota Sioux Indian children to help them with school clothing and everything they may need.

Unfortunately, the white man is still treating all Indians without care of our Tribal needs or even honor our ways through our honoring of nature and animals of the Earth and all living things. White man takes these things for granted without thought of our needs or respectful at all to our beliefs. They have taken so much from us for so many years, and I do not believe they ever will stop.

White men do not know that our Tribal chiefs of all Indian Nations are the true founders of this nation as is inscribed on Mount Rushmore: George Washington and the other three presidents. The four Great Chiefs should be there on Mount Rushmore. They are the true founders.

One evening, Tammy called me and told me that she had a surprise for me. She came over and gave me a Veterans Powwow hat that was given to her by Marce (Norwest) of the Honor Guard also. I will wear it with pride. Thank you so very much Wayne and Marce with honoring me so.

I truly feel at this point as part of the Grand Ronde Tribal members. Respectfully, thank you Wayne and Marce. And Larry and Tammy for being so inspirational and getting me these very precious honor gifts.

Respectfully and with much pride in my heart.

Sonny Hutchins

Hebo, Ore.

**Correction** — An article in the Feb. 15 *Smoke Signals* incorrectly reported how many elk the Tribe harvested in 2006 in the Trask Unit. The correct number is 19. *Smoke Signals* regrets the error.

**Social & Economic Survey forms due**

The Social & Economic Survey that was mailed out in February to members 18 and older needs to be completed and returned by March 20 for those who want to be included in the prize drawing. For more information about the survey, contact Planning & Grants Development Manager Kim Rogers at 503-879-2250.

**Smoke Signals****PUBLICATIONS OFFICE**

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

1-800-422-0232, FAX: 503-879-2173

[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Wednesday, Mar. 5 .....	MAR. 15
Thursday, Mar. 20 .....	APR. 1
Friday, Apr. 4.....	APR. 15
Friday, Apr. 18.....	MAY 1

**SIOBHAN TAYLOR**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DIRECTOR  
503-879-1920  
[siobhan.taylor@grandronde.org](mailto:siobhan.taylor@grandronde.org)

**KRISTEN RAVIA**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
SECRETARY  
503-879-1418  
[kristen.ravia@grandronde.org](mailto:kristen.ravia@grandronde.org)

**DEAN RHODES**  
PUBLICATIONS  
COORDINATOR  
503-879-1463  
[dean.rhodes@grandronde.org](mailto:dean.rhodes@grandronde.org)

**SCARLETT HOLTZ**  
PUBLICATIONS  
SECRETARY  
503-879-1453  
[scarlett.holtz@grandronde.org](mailto:scarlett.holtz@grandronde.org)

**JUSTIN PHILLIPS**  
PAGE DESIGNER  
503-879-2190  
[justin.phillips@grandronde.org](mailto:justin.phillips@grandronde.org)

**RON KARTEN**  
STAFF WRITER  
503-879-4663  
[ron.karten@grandronde.org](mailto:ron.karten@grandronde.org)

**GEORGE VALDEZ**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
SPECIALIST  
503-879-1416  
[george.valdez@grandronde.org](mailto:george.valdez@grandronde.org)

**SHELLY KENT**  
CENTRAL PHONES  
503-879-5211  
[shelly.kent@grandronde.org](mailto:shelly.kent@grandronde.org)

**CARLA ROBERTS**  
CENTRAL PHONES  
503-879-1447  
[carla.roberts@grandronde.org](mailto:carla.roberts@grandronde.org)

**Editorial Policy**

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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.

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**2008 Tribal Council**1-800-422-0232 — [council@grandronde.org](mailto:council@grandronde.org)

■ **Cheryle Kennedy**  
Tribal Chairwoman  
— ext. 2352  
[cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org](mailto:cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org)

■ **Chris Mercier**  
— ext. 2305  
[chris.mercier@grandronde.org](mailto:chris.mercier@grandronde.org)

■ **Reyn Leno**  
Tribal Vice Chair  
— ext. 2399  
[reyn.leno@grandronde.org](mailto:reyn.leno@grandronde.org)

■ **Wink Soderberg**  
— ext. 1444  
[wink.soderberg@grandronde.org](mailto:wink.soderberg@grandronde.org)

■ **Jack Giffen Jr.**  
Tribal Secretary  
— ext. 2306  
[jack.giffen@grandronde.org](mailto:jack.giffen@grandronde.org)

■ **Kathleen Tom**  
— ext. 1777  
[kathleen.tom@grandronde.org](mailto:kathleen.tom@grandronde.org)

■ **Steve Bobb Sr.**  
— ext. 2353  
[steve.bobb@grandronde.org](mailto:steve.bobb@grandronde.org)

■ **June Sell-Sherer**  
— ext. 2300  
[june.sherer@grandronde.org](mailto:june.sherer@grandronde.org)

■ **Valorie Sheker**  
— ext. 2355  
[val.sheker@grandronde.org](mailto:val.sheker@grandronde.org)