

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings
DATE **TIME**
 Wednesday, March 25 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:

I would like to thank the Tribal Council and Timber Committee for rewarding me with a logo blanket for the years I was on the Timber Committee. It was a great honor to have served on the Timber Committee.

I am very proud to have been on a committee that did so much to restore the Tribe to where we are today. I would like to specially thank Cliff Adams for making forestry what it is today. In 1995, he was named Forester of the Year at the ITC meeting in New Mexico.

Eugene R. LaBonte
 Roll #1167

Dear Tribal members:

I like to consider myself amongst those next generations that our Tribe is helping build a better future for. Overall, even working at *Smoke Signals*, only recently have I taken a greater interest in the affairs of our Tribal government. It has always seemed that you really have to be at most Council meetings to follow what is going on, which isn't always convenient for me and many fellow members. Basically, I am writing this letter because there are a number of observations I've made over the past year, and I feel the need to share them.

Over the last six months, I've attended almost every General Council meeting and most Wednesday night Council meetings. I have noticed that with Tribal publications coming out less frequently, the useful and pertinent information has been restricted from us, the membership. I do believe there are more effective ways to communicate important issues to the entire membership.

There seems to be a lot of tension and unrest within the Tribe right now. I attribute that to multiple reasons, including the economy, because it has negatively affected some of our Tribal services, but also because members do not feel they are being given a clear explanation of what is going on. I wish every member could have been present at the Portland General Council meeting during the closed session when the Council explained the hit that the Tribe's portfolio had taken. I was shocked. It seems as if that should be information given to the shareholders of this Tribe. It may not make people happy, but it's better than leaving them in the dark about our Tribe's financials. I suppose anybody with Tribal kids, myself included, probably have already realized how dire the situation is since their trust funds have been "under-performing," to put it politely.

Sadly, our economic situation has also resulted in either eliminating or minimizing merit increases for both the Tribe's employees as well as those of the casino. As somebody who has worked at the Governance Center and Spirit Mountain Casino, I'm trying to figure out what good denying or minimizing people's merit increases would serve other than hurting employee morale.

I understand our economic crunch, but I also understand the increase of employee productivity when acknowledged and rewarded for their specific behaviors in a "job well done." An increase in productivity saves the Tribe money in the long run.

My last observation is taken from the Eugene General Council meeting. There was a petition presented regarding enrollment, and it was clear that to the members down there this is far from a dead issue. Now I must profess some ignorance on this issue, and to my knowledge it doesn't affect me one way or the other. But it seems that this has caused a lot of pain to some of our fellow members and their families. I don't support opening up the floodgates to this Tribe, but I do support the Tribe assuring its members that they have explored all possible solutions before making a decision.

Those are my observations and I thank you all for your time.

Toby McClary
 Roll #1471

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL EVENT BOARD VACANCIES

The following Committees and Special Event Boards have vacant positions. If you are interested, please complete an application and submit it to Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, CTGR, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

Ceremonial Hunt Board	3 Vacancies
Culture Committee	1 Vacancy
Cultural Trust Board	2 Vacancies
Education Committee	1 Vacancy
Enrollment Committee	1 Vacancy
Rodeo Special Event Board	2 Vacancies
Social Services Committee	1 Vacancy
Timber Committee	1 Vacancy

General Council meeting

Sunday, April 5 — 11 a.m.
 Tribal Community Center

Smoke Signals

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

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

Web site: www.grandronde.org/news
 E-mail: news@grandronde.org

SIOBHAN TAYLOR
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 DIRECTOR
 503-879-1920
siobhan.taylor@grandronde.org

KRISTEN RAVIA
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 SECRETARY
 503-879-1418
kristen.ravia@grandronde.org

DEAN RHODES
 PUBLICATIONS
 COORDINATOR
 503-879-1463
dean.rhodes@grandronde.org

SCARLETT HOLTZ
 PUBLICATIONS
 SECRETARY
 503-879-1453
scarlett.holtz@grandronde.org

JUSTIN PHILLIPS
 PAGE DESIGNER
 503-879-2190
justin.phillips@grandronde.org

RON KARTEN
 STAFF WRITER
 503-879-4663
ron.karten@grandronde.org

GEORGE VALDEZ
 GRAPHIC DESIGN
 SPECIALIST
 503-879-1416
george.valdez@grandronde.org

MICHELLE ALAIMO
 PHOTOJOURNALIST
 503-879-1961
michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org

SHELLY KENT
 CENTRAL PHONES
 503-879-5211
shelly.kent@grandronde.org

CARLA ROBERTS
 CENTRAL PHONES
 503-879-1447
carla.roberts@grandronde.org

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, March 20	APRIL 1
Friday, April 3	APRIL 15
Monday, April 20	MAY 1
Tuesday, May 5	MAY 15
Wednesday, May 20	JUNE 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.



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2009 Tribal Council

1-800-422-0232 — council@grandronde.org

■ **Cheryle A. Kennedy**
 Tribal Chairwoman
 — ext. 2352
cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org

■ **Chris Mercier**
 — ext. 2305
chris.mercier@grandronde.org

■ **Reyn Leno**
 Tribal Vice Chair
 — ext. 2399
reyn.leno@grandronde.org

■ **Wink Soderberg**
 — ext. 1444
wink.soderberg@grandronde.org

■ **Jack Giffen Jr.**
 Tribal Secretary
 — ext. 2306
jack.giffen@grandronde.org

■ **Kathleen Tom**
 — ext. 1777
kathleen.tom@grandronde.org

■ **Steve Bobb Sr.**
 — ext. 2353
steve.bobb@grandronde.org

■ **June Sell-Sherer**
 — ext. 2300
june.sherer@grandronde.org

■ **Valorie Sheker**
 — ext. 2355
val.sheker@grandronde.org