

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, June 3	5 p.m.
Wednesday, June 17	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:

We have been told that a people can never truly lose their culture as long as we remember how to listen to our ancestors. Many of these teachings will lay waiting for as long as it takes for the people to be ready for them.

I think that some of these things have been shown to us lately and it is truly amazing to see it happen. Our children are speaking in the language of their ancestors, dancing, singing their songs and asking for more.

In the tradition of the great houses that our people once lived in, the first plankhouse to be built in Grand Ronde is now under construction. The land and the trees, our ancestors, are asking for it. This house wants to be built, to help the people here to heal and strengthen our community. I have seen the faces of all who have participated in its building: young, old, Tribal and nonTribal people working to create something that they feel is much larger than themselves. Everything happens for a reason, and in it's time.

Our hunters are exercising their right to provide for the Tribe through subsistent hunting and fishing rights that were granted to us by our Elders.

We are also carving the first canoe to be produced in Grand Ronde in over 100 years.

The perseverance of our people and culture continues to show itself. It is important that we all listen and take notice. Our ancestors are telling us something.

It is the culture and integrity of our ancestors that defines who we are today; our songs, stories, our children. As long as we embrace these gifts that we have been given, we will always be a truly wealthy people.

These things cannot be taken away from us, as long as we nurture and care for them. The only way to lose who we are is through the degradation of the wisdom and work ethic of our Elders. This is their home.

Let's all take the opportunity that we are being given to listen, feel and hold ourselves accountable.

Hayu masi.

Travis Mercier
Roll # 1416

See page 10 for more letters.

Burial benefits reduction notice

Effective June 1, burial benefits for nonTribal members will decrease. Currently, the benefit available to all enrolled Tribal members and their immediate family members is \$5,500 to be paid directly to a funeral establishment of choice. There is also a \$300 reception benefit which is paid directly to a family member.

Regretfully, due to budgetary reasons, and with the best interest of the Tribe in mind, Tribal Council made a difficult decision to reduce the burial benefit for nonTribal members. This benefit will continue as is for Tribal members, but will decrease to \$2,500 for nonTribal members not including the \$300 reception benefit.

Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery plots are still available at no cost to Tribal members, their spouses and children. ■



Available Now!
\$5.00
Available at the reception desk in the Governance Building
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97117
postage and handling extra
503-879-5911 1-800-422-0232

Ad created by George Valdez

2009 Tribal Council nominations

Sunday, June 28, 2009 — 11 a.m.
Special General Council meeting
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
slobhan.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, June 5	JUNE 15
Friday, June 19	JULY 1
Monday, July 6	JULY 15
Monday, July 20	AUG. 1
Wednesday, Aug. 5	AUG. 15

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.

- Members of:
- Native American Journalists Association
 - The Associated Press
 - Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

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