

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, March 10	4 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24	4 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 Grand Ronde Community:**

As most of you know, I lost a battle with my addiction in 2008. The last time I saw my family and friends was during my short performance at the Restoration concert with Looking Wolf and Rita Coolidge. I was honored to be asked to play one of my songs at such an occasion.

I'll be coming home from prison in June with over a year of sobriety, which has been an accomplishment even in here.

But this letter is not about me, but about the great man, father and best friend who has become my goal to try to one day be like. I can never fill his shoes, but I'd like to learn to be counted on as he is to so many of us.

The way he never stopped believing in me has become a great strength for me. He came to see me nearly every week to include when he was using a cane just to walk. This poem is my thank you, Dad. You've given me a new heart to help me fight addiction; the heart of a warrior.

My Father — Indian Man

When I was a young boy, and afraid in the night,
I knew that he would be there, to always make things right.
He'd tell me, "Son, be strong, and dream all that you can."
Then he'd say he loved me, my father — Indian man.

I tried so hard to be just like the other kids in school,
But I never was the same as them, and followed different rules.
They said "theirs" was the real world, and from their world I ran.
I lost myself along the way, the son of an Indian man.

Then came many troubled years, still trying to find my way,
A better low, a better high, a better night and day.
But then I found that troubles had really just began,
But still he always loved me, my father — Indian man.

I tried to find a woman, and the happiness of love,
The one just like my mother, who watches from above.
'Cause my mother was the only one who could really understand,
The son she'd made together, with my father — Indian man.

Now I'm older and my father has become my closest friend,
I know his pride and love for me will be there to the end.
Just like God has loved us, since this whole thing first began.
I love my God, and my father, Indian Man.

Steven L. Hudson
Roll #1314

Dear Smoke Signals:

To my family, friends, my Tribal people. This is Michele Chrestensen, sister to Marty George, daughter of Tony George. I am currently incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville.

Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers. I want to heal the pain of my past so I can end the cycle of addiction and domestic violence so I can have my children back and move on.

I think I understand what I have been missing. There is no amount of drugs or alcohol that will take away the abandonment from when I was little, nor will it bring back my brother or my dad. It's OK that Tonia Yvonne George (me) was adopted and it doesn't mean I was loved any less.

Please support my recovery and the return of my children to me. Feel free to write and thank you.

This, from "A Course in Miracles," has brought some things to light: "Trials are but lessons that you failed to learn, presented once again, so where you made a faulty choice before, you can now make a better one, and thus escape all pain that what you chose before has brought you. In every difficulty, all distress and each perplexity, Christ (the Creator) calls to you and gently says, 'My brother (sister), choose again.'"

Michele Chrestensen

Roll #890
No. 11910792
24499 S.W. Grahams Ferry Road
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Attention all Tribal artisans

The Grand Ronde Royalty Committee is seeking bids for beaded crowns for the 2010-11 Royalty Court.

Three crowns are needed and must be completed and delivered by Thursday, July 1.

Please submit your bid to: Public Affairs, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Questions: call 503-879-1418.

General Council meeting

Sunday, March 7 — 10 a.m.
Grand Ronde — Tribal Gym

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

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, March 5	March 15
Friday, March 19	April 1
Friday, April 3	April 15
Monday, April 20	May 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.

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

2010 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

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

■ **Toby McClary**
— ext. 4555
toby.mcclary@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