

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, April 7	5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 21	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:

Our Elders are in the same recession as everyone else. Basic needs like food, gas and the cost to maintain their homes is being challenged like everyone else. Some of the Elders are having a very difficult time, in this recession, like everyone else.

In the past three years, our employees have received Cost-of-Living Allowances (COLAs), and last year they received a \$500 bonus in lieu of a COLA. The executives at the casino this year received a COLA. Now, I'm not suggesting, nor implying, the cost-of-living allowance was not merited. I'm asking why the Elders are not included in these financial questions.

Our Elders went through great hardship, racism and pervasive poverty. Because of our Elders' suffering and because of their prayers, we share success. Remember our Elders suffered equally for our success. The hardships they endured were for all to enjoy equally. Their suffering vindicates our success.

The original plan for a bonus was just the non-working Elders. This violates our discrimination laws. That would be discriminating against a group. So, as a result, the qualifications would include any Elder currently receiving an Elder pension.

By this same discrimination law, our Elders, as a group, have been victims of discrimination, because as a group the Elders have not been included in any financial assistance, COLA and/or bonuses in the last seven years.

If you, as a working Elder, or an Elder who feels you don't need or want this bonus, this is a great opportunity to give back. Donate it to the Member Services Department or to a charity of your choice. Our food bank desperately needs donations.

The Elders need to know they are valued the same as those who have received bonuses, COLAs and pay raises. The Elders need relief, in this economy, like everyone else in the Grand Ronde family.

In conclusion, the Elders have been put on the downside of advantage. They are relying purely on courage. Some of our Elders are in dire need of help. They've cut back all they can. Some go to the Elders' lunch for their meal of the day. On Mondays, they go to the casino to eat. Also, they go to the food bank to get what they can. This is unacceptable.

ADRAINNE LLANEZA
Roll #1715

Dear Tribal members:

On behalf of the Tribal Council, thank you for responding to the Per Capita Survey. The survey closed on March 19, and below are the results. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dakota Whitecloud, TCRC

503-879-1309 or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 1309

2010 Per Capita Survey

Preference	Replies	Percentage
Once per year	198	23%
Twice per year	154	18%
Four times per year	502	58%
Other comments - No selection indicated	9	1%
Grand Total	863	100%

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General Council meeting
Sunday, April 11 — 10 a.m.
Holiday Inn Eugene-North Springfield,
919 Kruse Way, Springfield, Ore.

Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, April 5	April 15
Tuesday, April 20	May 1
Wednesday, May 5	May 15
Thursday, May 20	June 1
Friday, June 1	June 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.

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