

General Council reviews preliminary 2011 Tribal budget

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal members packed the Community Center on Sunday, Nov. 7, to learn more about and provide input on the 2011 preliminary budget.

Acting Tribal Finance Officer Rick Andersen and UBS Financial Service's Senior Vice President for Investments Mark Barnum briefed Tribal members on the proposed budget in executive session, which limits how in-depth *Smoke Signals* can report on the proceedings.

About 20 Tribal members commented on the proposed 2011 budget, which was recently sent to Tribal members in the November *Tilixam Wawa*. The marathon meeting lasted until after 4 p.m.

Most of the comments in executive session centered on proposals to balance this year's budget and whether Tribal members support or oppose those options.

Tribal members have until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, to comment on the proposed 2011 budget. Comments must be hand-written and signed, and either mailed or hand-delivered to the attention of the Finance Officer, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

Andersen also can be reached at 503-879-1454.

In other business, Tribal member Bobby Mercier discussed the mid-September opening of the Tribal plankhouse near Uyxat Powwow Grounds.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor hands a proclamation to Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg during the General Council meeting at the Tribal Community Center on Sunday, Nov. 7. Gov. Ted Kulongoski declared Nov. 7, 2010, as Native American Veterans Day and a copy of the proclamation was given to all veterans in attendance at the meeting. Soderberg served in the U.S. Navy in the 1950s.

Mercier, who works in the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department as the Language & Culture Specialist, said the plankhouse will be named in December.

The Tribe also honored 19 Tribal veterans, including former Tribal Council member June Sell-Sherer, in conjunction with an Oct. 25 proclamation issued by Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

The proclamation recognizes Native Americans for their service in

the military from Valley Forge to Iraq and Afghanistan, and named Nov. 7 as Native American Veterans Day.

Tribal Council Secretary Kathleen Tom read the proclamation while Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor gave each veteran a copy of the proclamation.

Health Services Executive Director Mark Johnston said that the Tribal member health plan — Skookum — has approximately 5,300 eligible members and 4,400 use it as primary care. Many of those Tribal members, Johnston said, have other health care that

could be primary and are not using it, thereby increasing health care costs for the Tribe.

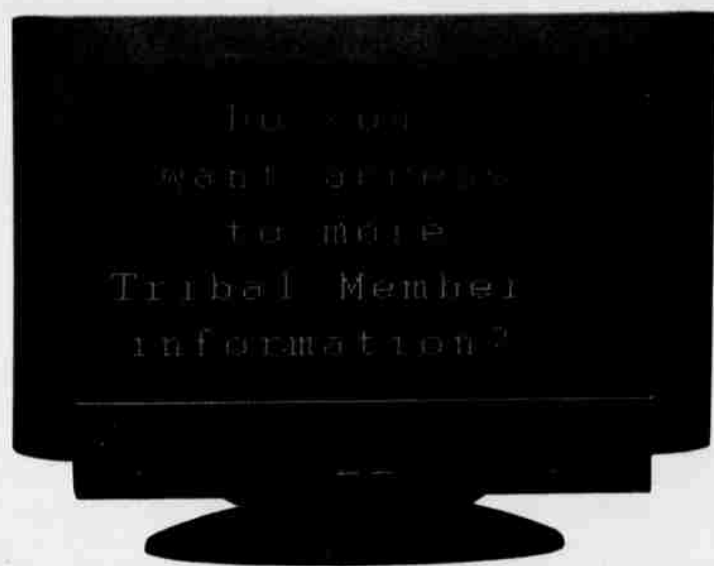
Johnston said a recent survey sent to Tribal members about other health care coverage they might have received 900 responses, or about a 25-percent response rate. He added the Tribe needs every member to respond before putting a proposed plan in place to make Skookum the secondary payer whenever other health care coverage, such as Medicare or a spouse's health plan, is available.

To encourage survey responses, the Health Services Department gave away 16 \$250 drawing prizes and one \$1,000 prize. The top prize went to Anthony Griffin while the \$250 prizes went to Kenneth Larsen, Tracy Schwarz, William McGee, Paxton Helton, Roxanne Teeter, Marietta Leith, Alicia Finney, Todd Galindo, Jeffrey Griffin, Eric Bernando, Conrad Ibabao, Janet Taggart, Micky Herron, Tony Cummings, Lori Markey and Rose Teem.

Survey drawing winners need to contact Barbara Steere at 503-879-2487 to complete a W-9 form before the Tribe can send them their checks.

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the Tribal Community Center with the Tribal Council-sponsored Christmas Party and meal to follow in the Tribal gym.

Tribal Elder Wayne Peters, Tribal member Steve Hudson and Tribal spouse Kathy Soderberg won the \$50 door prizes and Tribal member Shelly Staubes won the \$100 door prize. ■



Graphic by George Valdez

In an effort to more efficiently and more rapidly communicate with Tribal members, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is asking Tribal members to register at the Tribal Web site and allow the Tribe to electronically send them news updates, e-zines and PDFs of *Smoke Signals*, among other news and informational items.

To register, go to www.grandronde.org.

Click on the "Log in here" link in the upper right-hand corner.

Enter your user name and password, and click the "login" button, or if you are not registered, click the link below the login button to register with the Web site.

If you have registered with the site before and have forgotten your login information, you can click the link to recover it by providing the e-mail address that you verified when you registered with the site.

If you have not registered before, you will need to do so to view the Tribal member-only section of grandronde.org.

First-time users will need to fill in the required fields and click the register button at the bottom of the form.

After you click the "register" button, you will need to check the e-mail address that you provided and click on the link in the e-mail that our system sent to you. The e-mail should arrive moments after you click the register button. If you do not see an e-mail you will want to check your junk mail folder/spam filter. Clicking the link will verify that the e-mail address you provided is correct and active, and you will be able to log on to the Tribal member section of the Web site. ■

Notice to Indian Contractors

Bids will be solicited for the Tribal Library addition. Details will be available in the Nov. 15 issue of *The Daily Journal of Commerce*. Call 503-226-1311 for more information. This is a HUD-funded Indian Community Development Block Grant project and Indian preference rules apply. ■

Would you like to learn more about becoming a foster parent or respite care provider and making a difference in the life of a child?

If so please contact Amanda Mercier, ICW Foster Care Recruitment Specialist, at 503-879-2039 1-800-242-8196 or e-mail amanda.mercier@grandronde.org for more information

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