

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Feb. 2.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 16.....	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.

Committee/SEB Summit set for Feb. 9

The annual Committee/Special Event Board member summit will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, at Spirit Mountain Casino in the Molalla A & B conference rooms.

Lunch will be provided as Tribal members who volunteer for committees and special event boards are briefed about their roles and responsibilities.

For more information, contact Tribal Council Senior Administrative Assistant Lauri Smith at 503-879-2304 or lauri.smith@grandronde.org. ■

Letters**Dear Smoke Signals:**

I am writing in full support of Tribal member Rebecca Knight's letter in the Jan. 1, 2011, issue. When I first began receiving per capita payments, I was a kid living on my own, supporting myself and trying to finish high school. Those payments helped me persevere and get that diploma.

Many moons ago, I, too, remember those per capita payments being higher. Recession or no recession, Spirit Mountain Casino was able to renovate its already stunning hotel. I can't imagine what the bill was for all those brand new furnishings. Furthermore, I can't imagine our own people starving for it. Wake up Grand Ronde, these are the issues!

Elaborate trips are being made, all on the Tribe's dime. Sending council and committee members here, there and everywhere. Sure, a representative from the Tribe is needed at many of these functions, that's how work gets done in many cases. However, many of the trips I saw in the budget reports are questionable, needless spending. It seems as though our Tribe is getting more government as we go along. I would encourage more to look over those budget reports we're let in on. Half the problem is that everyone blindly allows them to make decisions and spend money.

Many wonderful programs are in place, that I'm certain of. But I think it's becoming less about our people and more about hitting a donation race and reaping that glory. \$50 million in giving? What about us?

My two children are Grand Ronde Tribal members. Or, at least they should be. I've been told numerous times that I look like I've just stepped out of a tepee, but my children are denied recognition and benefits they deserve. It's not funny. It's about preserving our people, and it'll be over soon if we continue to squander away members with Native blood, no matter how much of it.

I broke my back two years ago. I'm still fighting the U.S. government for disability. I thought I could turn to my Tribe for aid, but turns out the government has to declare me disabled before my own Tribe will help. What a joke! I thought we were our own, sovereign nation?

My wife works full-time and my family depends on per capita payments when they come and the amounts have been heartbreaking. Please give us what we need and deserve so desperately. Enrollment policies need amendments before we disappear.

Tribal members, please stand up with Rebecca Knight and I to fight for what is ours. Our Elders did it before and we can do it again. Write your letter of support, air your concerns and copy each of the council members on it.

Adam Jeffers
Roll #3779

Dear Smoke Signals:

On behalf of myself and my brothers and sister and our families, we want to thank everyone for the love and support you have given us during the passing of our father, Russell (Russ) Leno. The flowers, cards, food, hugs and kind words mean so much to us and have helped as we learn how to cope with our loss.

Special thanks to Deitz Peters for his flute song and spiritual guidance, the Grand Ronde Color Guard for the military honors, Ken Haller for officiating the services, Eagle Beak for the prayer songs, all of the speakers and attendees and those who prepared and served the meal.

We are deeply touched by all that has been done in his honor. I think someone said earlier, and I cannot agree more, Dad never really knew how much of an impact he had on people and how much he was loved. My first trip home since his passing was difficult and my sorrow was eased by the people in the community who make the community special. Thank you for being there for us.

Our prayers and love for you,
Jackie Leno Grant, Roll #895
Ron Leno, Roll #1054
Rusty Leno, Roll #1055
Rhonda Leno, Roll #1097
Randy Leno, Roll #1053

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of Tribal Chief's Day.

General Council meeting

Sunday, Feb. 6 — 11 a.m.
Tribal Community Center

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, Feb. 4	Feb. 15
Friday, Feb. 18	March 1
Friday, March 4	March 15
Friday, March 18	April 1
Tuesday, April 5	April 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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2011 Tribal Council

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