

General Council reviews 2012 preliminary budget

Two comments accepted during executive session briefing

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal members provided two comments on the preliminary 2012 Tribal budget during the Nov. 6 General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde.

During a 31-minute executive session, Tribal Finance Officer Julio Martinez went over the preliminary budget and then opened the floor for comments. Since the budget hearing was conducted in executive session, *Smoke Signals* cannot delve into the details of what was discussed or commented on.

Tribal members received the November *Tilixam Wawa* recently, which explains the Tribe's revenue and spending plan for 2012. Tribal members have until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, to submit written comments.

Comments must be signed and either mailed or hand-delivered to Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347, Attn: Finance Officer.

Comments will be taken into consideration before Tribal Council adopts a 2012 budget on or before Dec. 31.

In other action, Tribal member and Cultural Resources Department Manager David Lewis discussed the Tribe's Ceded Lands Sign Project, which is installing



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Finance Officer Julio Martinez goes over the preliminary 2012 Tribal budget with the Tribal membership during the General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center on Sunday, Nov. 6.

information signs in various locations throughout western Oregon that explain the Tribe's history and connection to the area.

Lewis said two signs have already been installed, in Wilsonville's Graham Oaks Natural Area and at the Scio Historical Society, and the department is working on a third sign to be installed at the Delbert Hunter Arboretum in Dallas.

Eventually, Lewis said, about 20 signs will be erected in the Tribe's ceded lands, which stretch from the Washington border to the Califor-

nia border between the Cascade and Coast ranges, explaining the Tribe's history.

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy, who attended the recent sign dedication in Scio, said the Tribe's concerted effort to inform people about its ceded lands is starting to pay dividends.

"The people in Scio were so receptive to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde being a partner with them," Kennedy said.

Kennedy also briefly informed

Tribal members about the recent National Congress of American Indians conference held in Portland between Oct. 30 and Nov. 4 and the Tribal Government Day held Sept. 23 with Portland city officials.

Kennedy said that Tribal Council members take their leadership roles "seriously" and that "many first beginnings are happening right now."

She added that although Tribal Council members might not be in their offices all the time, it doesn't mean they are not out working for the best interests of the Tribal membership.

Kennedy added that thanks to her membership on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Tribal Advisory Committee, more federal agencies will start compacting their funds, which will mean an increase in federal dollars reaching the Tribe.

Tribal Council members Kathleen Tom and Valerie Sheker also thanked Tribal staff for their help at the NCAI conference, particularly Tribal attorney Rob Greene and Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor.

Tribal members Samantha Dala and Bill Lafferty and Tribal spouse Bob Duncan won the \$50 door prizes and Tribal descendant Wynter LaChance won the \$100 door prize.

The next General Council meeting is scheduled to be held 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. ■

Elders' Christmas Party set for Dec. 16

The Elders' Christmas Party will be held starting at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at the Elders' Activity Center.

The event will start with snacks followed by dinner served at 4 p.m.

In lieu of a gift exchange this year, Tribal Elders will be accepting blankets or lap blankets for needy Elders, or toys, hats or mittens that are unwrapped for the Willamina Tree of Giving.

The party is for Tribal Elders 55 and older.

For more information, contact Linda Brandon at 971-267-0918. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

Below is the most current information on the meeting days and times for Tribal Committees and Special Event Boards:

- Ceremonial Hunt Board meets as needed. Chair: Shonn Leno.
- Cultural Trust Board meets at 4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Chair: Perri McDaniel.
- Culture Committee meets at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Modular No. 3. Chair: Kathy Provost.
- Education Committee meets at 5:15 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Adult Education Building. Chair: Shelby Rogers.
- Elders' Committee meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders' Activity Center. Chair: Gladys Hobbs.
- Enrollment Committee meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Building. Acting Chair: Robert Schmid.
- Fish & Wildlife Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- Health Committee meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Tribal Wellness Center. Acting Chair: Patti Tom-Martin.
- Powwow Special Event Board meets at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- Rodeo Special Event Board meets at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Rodeo Office. Acting Chair: Harold Lyon.
- Social Services Committee meets at 4 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Social Services Conference Room. Chair: Ron Hudson.
- Timber Committee meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Bob Mercier.
- Veterans Special Event Board meets at 4 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dakota Whitecloud.

Searchable *Smoke Signals* database up and running

A database of past *Smoke Signals* is now up and running on the Tribal Web site, www.grandronde.org.

All issues from 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are currently available and searchable, said Tribal Records Specialist Kim Mueller.

To access the back issues, go to the Tribal Web site and click on "Archives" on the upper right side of the home page. Then click on the *Smoke Signals* folder. A search function allows the public to search for a specific name, topic, word or date.

Mueller said the Records Department staff will continue to post current issues as soon as they become available and work on past years of *Smoke Signals* when time allows. ■

Chuck Williams appears in OPB production airing Nov. 17

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signal staff writer

Tribal member Chuck Williams, well-known Gorge-area photographer and author of "Bridge of the Gods, Mountains of Fire: A Return to the Columbia Gorge," will appear in the Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Field Guide.

"Columbia Gorge: The Fight for Paradise" airs at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act turns 25 years old on Nov. 17. "Columbia Gorge: The Fight for Paradise" examines how the Scenic Act has balanced the stresses of tourism, recreation, wind energy development and a population boom in the Gorge.

President Ronald Reagan signed the act on Nov. 17, 1986. From that moment on, Gorge land managers had a dual mandate: protect an 85-mile stretch of incredible scenery and encourage economic development.

Policy and land-use controversies are part of life in the Columbia River Gorge. But for the Tribes, the issues run much deeper. The program also examines the evocative Confluence Project by artist Maya Lin that spans the Scenic Area, and what the Gorge Act means to the Tribes that have long called it home.

Videos of the stories featured on "Field Guide" are available at opb.org/programs/ofg/ or watch entire programs at watch.opb.org. ■