

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 8
Tribal Community Center

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Sept. 11.....	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 25.....	5 p.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.

Letters

Dear Smoke Signals:

It is nearing a year since my grandmother, Margaret Provost, has walked on. The family has mourned her loss and experience heartache each time we reach for the phone to call her and remember she is now with the Creator.

She was a wife, mother, grandmother and auntie to her family and Tribe ... a leader, pathfinder and inspiration to us and so many more. She gave us love, strength and might; a stronger person would be hard to find and we miss her dearly.

Her legacy is that she believed in the impossible and lived her life striving for what she believed was right for a nation of our Tribal people.

We would like to thank the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for the tribute statue of her, her brother, Marvin Kimsey, and their good friend, Merle Holmes. It serves as a reminder of their collective vision for the welfare of our Tribe.

On behalf of the family, we wish to thank everyone who attended her service, helped officiate, provided the opening ceremonies, drummed, sang and gave tributes, as well as all of the flowers, plants, cards and sentiments that were sent.

The family will be honoring her memory with a giveaway at the 2019 Restoration Celebration in November. Everyone is welcome.

Most sincerely,

Camille Mercier & the family of Margaret Provost

Roll #1982

Dear Smoke Signals:

On Aug. 15, I picked up the annual distribution of salmon for our family. We get three portions because of the three Tribal members in our house and we are thankful to the Tribe for the salmon.

My family loves salmon and I have been smoking about half of it most years. But this year our salmon was white, not pink. The last time this happened was two years ago and the salmon was terrible tasting. I tried to cook it and none of the meat had any consistency; it was like eating paste. We ended up throwing most of it out. This had happened before, too. In 2014, the salmon we got was very pale, white and pasty and I tried to smoke it. The smoked salmon turned out inedible and I had to throw it out.

Studying up on this, it turns out that when salmon spawn, they travel far and use all of their energy. The closer to the spawning ground the salmon is caught, the worse tasting they are as they are losing their nutrients. The meat turns white and they will die soon. Historically, Native people did eat these salmon, but only when they were starving or poor.

I wondered if anyone else had the same feelings about their salmon distribution. A poll on Facebook revealed that many other people have problems with the white, tasteless and pasty salmon and that some people now no longer pick up their salmon because this has happened so often.

I question the mission and policies of the salmon distribution program if people are not actually able to eat the salmon they are getting. We appreciate the fish, when it is edible, but I feel a little put off when the fish is inedible, and I am not alone. I wonder if there is a policy that ensures the quality of the salmon and, if so, how do we make sure that policy is being followed? Unless changes occur, I will no longer be taking advantage of the salmon distribution program.

I know a lot of Tribal members who feel the same way. I urge Tribal Council and the administrative staff to make changes to ensure there is effective oversight to ensure that Tribal members get quality services at all times.

David Gene Lewis

Roll #2741

Sewing class participants wanted

The sewing classes that have been held at the Elders Activity Center have been canceled due to lack of participation. Classes could resume if at least six people commit to attending. To commit or find out more information, contact Elders Activity Assistant Virginia Kimsey-Roof at 503-879-2233. ■

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day. Offices also will be closed on Friday, Sept. 27, in observance of National Native American Day.

smok signalz

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

1-800-422-0232, FAX: 503-879-2173

Website: www.smokesignals.org

E-mail: news@grandronde.org

Editorial.Board@grandronde.org

Twitter: [CTGRSmokeSignal](https://twitter.com/CTGRSmokeSignal)

www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR/

www.youtube.com/channel/UCMDXdTzfGjz_j3NPpCrtcw

DEAN RHODES
PUBLICATIONS
COORDINATOR
503-879-1463
dean.rhodes@grandronde.org

CHELSEA BARANSKI
PUBLIC AFFAIRS/PUBLICATIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
503-879-1418
chelsea.clark@grandronde.org

DANIELLE FROST
STAFF WRITER
503-879-4663
danielle.frost@grandronde.org

TIMOTHY J. GONZALEZ
PHOTOJOURNALIST
503-879-1961
timothy.gonzalez@grandronde.org

JUSTIN PHILLIPS
PAGE DESIGNER
503-879-2190
justin.phillips@grandronde.org

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, Sept. 6	Sept. 15
Friday, Sept. 20	Oct. 1
Friday, Oct. 4	Oct. 15
Monday, Oct. 21	Nov. 1
Monday, Nov. 4	Nov. 15
Wednesday, Nov. 20	Dec. 1

Editorial Policy

smok signalz, 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. Letters must be 400 words or less.

smok signalz 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 **smok signalz**.



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2019 Tribal Council

1-800-422-0232 — tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

■ **Cheryle A. Kennedy**
Tribal Council Chairwoman
— ext. 2352
cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org

■ **Jack Giffen Jr.**
— ext. 2300
jack.giffen@grandronde.org

■ **Chris Mercier**
Tribal Council Vice Chair
— ext. 1444
chris.mercier@grandronde.org

■ **Denise Harvey**
— ext. 2353
denise.harvey@grandronde.org

■ **Jon A. George**
Tribal Council Secretary
— ext. 2355
jon.george@grandronde.org

■ **Michael Langley**
— ext. 1777
michael.langley@grandronde.org

■ **Kathleen George**
— ext. 2305
kathleen.george@grandronde.org

■ **Lisa Leno**
— ext. 1770
lialeno@grandronde.org

■ **Steve Bobb Sr.**
— ext. 4555
steve.bobb@grandronde.org