

General Council meeting
11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 7
Being held remotely using the Zoom teleconferencing program.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Feb. 10.....	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 24.....	10 a.m.

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

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals:
 In these times of a pandemic and social distancing, I am so grateful for the stewardship and support of our Tribe. The past and present integrity of caring is evident in today's leadership and staff.
 Our Tribal people have been blessed beyond measure. The Elders meals, clinic, COVID support programs and much more have produced the fruits of labor that started out as dreams in the 1970s.
 Our Tribal leadership has provided unprecedented solutions in a world of disease, death and social discord. I hope that all of our Tribal families join me in thanking our leaders and staff in a job well done.
Margo Mercier
 Roll No. 885

Tribe expands vaccinations to those 55 and older

The Grand Ronde Tribal Health & Wellness Clinic has expanded its COVID-19 vaccinations to Tribal members 55 and older, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe announced on Thursday, Jan. 21.
 However, she added, priority still will be given to Tribal Elders 65 and older.
 According to the clinic, there are currently 14 active COVID-19 cases and 60 people have recovered from the virus as of Thursday, Jan. 28. The clinic has conducted 1,732 coronavirus tests and recorded 59 positives for a 3.4 percent positivity rate.
 As of Thursday, Jan. 28, the clinic has delivered 655 doses with 499 of those being given to Elders. Tribal health care workers and employees who have frequent contact with the public, such as first responders and Adult Foster Care staff members, were some of the first to receive the vaccine.
 The Grand Ronde Tribe received its first 300-dose batch of the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 22. The vaccine requires two doses given approximately 28 days apart to help the body build up resistance to the virus.
 Tribal members 55 and older should call 503-879-2032 to schedule a vaccination appointment. ■

Letters welcome

Letters should be exclusive to **smok signalz**.
 Letters should be 400 words or less and must include the writer's name, address, phone number and Tribal roll number. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.
 All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy. Only two letters per writer are allowed during a three-month period.
 Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the other writer by name, should refer to the date of the letter published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters deemed in poor taste will not be printed. Send letters via e-mail to news@grandronde.org, or submit in person at the Tribal Governance Center in Grand Ronde, Ore., or mail to **smok signalz**, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347.

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
MONDAY, FEB. 8	FEB. 15, 2021
MONDAY, FEB. 22	MARCH 1, 2021
MONDAY, MARCH 8	MARCH 15, 2021
THURSDAY, MARCH 25	APRIL 1, 2021

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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