

# General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7

Tribal Council Chambers

Tribal members can participate remotely via Zoom and in-person attendance. Call 503-879-2304 for more information.

## NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Jan. 10.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24.....	4 p.m.

## LETTERS

### Dear Smoke Signals:

At noon Friday, Jan. 12, I will no longer be an employee of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. I will be ending a more than 16-year run as editor of *Smoke Signals* – the longest tenure of anyone who has ever held the high-profile and high-pressure position.

The last 16 years have been a professionally satisfying experience as the newspaper has won 131 combined awards from the Indigenous Journalism Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. I am most proud of the seven times the newspaper was recognized for general excellence from the two journalism organizations.

The biggest change that has occurred since August 2007 is *Smoke Signals* becoming an independent newspaper; not independent from needing Tribal funding to exist, but independent from undue influence by either Tribal administration or the whims of the majority of the sitting Tribal Council.

Although I have tried to maintain a certain amount of professional distance from Tribal members and fellow employees so I could remain objective and not be influenced by personal opinions, I have to admit that I have privately shed tears at the passing of several memorable people: former Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Dakota Whitecloud, former Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. and former Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor to name a few.

As I move into retirement to write for myself, I want to let the general membership know that working for the Grand Ronde Tribe has been a positive experience in myriad ways. The best example is how the Tribe cared for its employees during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 by continuing to pay people despite the 74-day closure of Spirit Mountain Casino. You should be proud of your Tribe!

I have worked with many fine journalists along the way and Tribal member Justin Phillips will go down as the colleague that I have worked with the longest in my more than 40-year career.

The Editorial Board made an excellent decision in promoting Danielle Harrison to succeed me as editor. I am confident that she will continue the tradition of journalistic excellence that has made *Smoke Signals* one of the best newspapers in Indian Country.

Haya masi — many thanks in Chinuk Wawa — seems paltry in expressing my gratitude to have worked for the membership during the last 16 years, but it will have to suffice.

Dean Rhodes

Port Angeles, Wash

**Clarification** — A story in the Dec. 15, 2023, edition of *Smoke Signals* contained incomplete information. Yamhill County Transit does not currently offer weekend bus service in Grand Ronde, as it has been suspended.

## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year’s Day. Offices also are closed on Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## 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](mailto: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.

# smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
MONDAY, JAN. 8.....	JAN. 15
TUESDAY, JAN. 23.....	FEB. 1
FRIDAY, FEB. 23.....	MARCH 1
FRIDAY, MARCH 8.....	MARCH 15

## 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**.

- MEMBERS OF: ■ INDIGENOUS JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION
- OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
- 2022 IJA GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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