

# General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 5

Tribal Council Chambers

*Tribal members can participate remotely via Zoom and in-person attendance. Call 800-422-0232 for more information.*

## NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Oct. 8.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 22.....	4 p.m.

*Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.*

## LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,

I am taking this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to the many Tribal members who either mailed in their ballots, hand delivered their ballot to the drop box or came to Grand Ronde and voted in person! By taking this step, you've shown that you're wanting change and to move forward toward a brighter future for our people. If I could, I would thank the 153 people who voted for me, personally. I can't express to you how humbling and encouraging it was for me to see my numbers go up from 99 last year to 153 this year.

This process is challenging and difficult at times, but it afforded me many opportunities to connect with our people. My involvement with Tribal activities has increased and as time goes on, this will not diminish but rather, expand and continue onward and upward. Together, we can make a difference!

I have the utmost respect for those who walk their talk and I strive to emulate this in my day-to-day life. We can't make any changes at all unless we are willing to suit up and show up, every day. I'm not just a Tribal Elder from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. I'm still here, every day and I still want to be of service to our people.

Until next year folks, I hope you have a great one! See you soon.

With utmost respect and continued gratitude,

**Pamala Warren-Chase**  
Roll #1081

Iaxayam Grand Ronde people,

I will begin by thanking each of you, our Tribal members who took part in this year's Tribal Council election. Your participation is a powerful expression of our sovereignty and a reminder that the strength of our nation lies in the voices of our people.

To those who placed your trust in me with your vote — hayu masi. I am truly humbled by your support and the trust you carried in my leadership. While this was not the outcome we hoped for, please know my commitment to our people, our sovereignty and our future remains. I will continue to serve in every way I can, guided always by the values and teachings of our ancestors.

I also extend my congratulations to the newly elected council members. With this role comes a great responsibility: To put our people first in all decisions, uphold our sovereignty and ensure the wellbeing of both present and future generations. I encourage you to carry this responsibility with humility, strength and the knowledge that our people must always remain at the heart of your service.

With gratitude and respect,

**Valeria Atanacio**  
Roll #3527

## Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

Grand Ronde Tribal members who are incarcerated, have been recently released from prison or are involved in addiction treatment programs don't have to face challenges alone.

The Tribe has a post-prison/post-treatment peer support specialist, Tribal member Joe Ulestad, who is also a certified recovery mentor.

"I want our members who are incarcerated or need help to know we haven't forgotten about them and we're here to help," he said. "They can call me, email or text."

Ulestad can be reached at joe.ulestad@grandronde.org, by text/call at 971-237-5262 or on office line, 503-879-1389. ■

## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' 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](http://www.smokesignals.org)

Email: [news@grandronde.org](mailto:news@grandronde.org)

Email: [Editorial.Board@grandronde.org](mailto:Editorial.Board@grandronde.org)

[www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR/](http://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR/)  
[www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel](http://www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel)

### DANIELLE HARRISON

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER / EDITOR  
503-879-4663  
[danielle.harrison@grandronde.org](mailto:danielle.harrison@grandronde.org)

### MICHELLE ALAIMO

PHOTOJOURNALIST / ASSISTANT EDITOR  
503-879-1961  
[michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org](mailto:michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org)

### JUSTIN PHILLIPS

PRODUCTION SPECIALIST  
503-879-2190  
[justin.phillips@grandronde.org](mailto:justin.phillips@grandronde.org)

### SAMUEL F. BRIGGS III

GRAPHIC DESIGN SPECIALIST  
503-879-1416  
[samuel.briggs@grandronde.org](mailto:samuel.briggs@grandronde.org)

### KAMIAH KOCH

SOCIAL MEDIA / DIGITAL JOURNALIST  
503-879-1461  
[kamiah.koch@grandronde.org](mailto:kamiah.koch@grandronde.org)

### NICOLE MONTESANO

STAFF WRITER  
503-879-1463  
[nicole.montesano@grandronde.org](mailto:nicole.montesano@grandronde.org)

### KATHERINE WARREN

SECRETARY / ADVERTISING  
503-879-1466 • [katherine.warren-steffensmier@grandronde.org](mailto:katherine.warren-steffensmier@grandronde.org)

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Tuesday, Oct. 7.....	Oct. 15	Indigenous Journalists Association
Wednesday, Oct. 22.....	Nov. 1	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Wednesday, Nov. 5.....	Nov. 15	2022 IJA General Excellence
Tuesday, Nov. 18.....	Dec. 1	2023 IJA General Excellence

### 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 email 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.

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.

## 2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

[tribalcouncil@grandronde.org](mailto:tribalcouncil@grandronde.org)

### CHERYLE A. KENNEDY

Tribal Council Chairwoman  
— ext. 2352  
[cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org](mailto:cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org)

### KATHLEEN GEORGE

— ext. 2305  
[kathleen.george@grandronde.org](mailto:kathleen.george@grandronde.org)

### CHRIS MERCIER

Tribal Council Vice Chair  
— ext. 1444  
[chris.mercier@grandronde.org](mailto:chris.mercier@grandronde.org)

### PETE WAKELAND

— ext. 2300  
[pete.wakeland@grandronde.org](mailto:pete.wakeland@grandronde.org)

### JON A. GEORGE

Tribal Council Secretary  
— ext. 2355  
[jon.george@grandronde.org](mailto:jon.george@grandronde.org)

### MATTHEW HALLER

— ext. 1777  
[matthew.haller@grandronde.org](mailto:matthew.haller@grandronde.org)

### LISA LENO

— ext. 1770  
[lisaleno@grandronde.org](mailto:lisaleno@grandronde.org)

### TONYA GLEASON-SHEPEK

— ext. 4555  
[tonya.gleason-shepek@grandronde.org](mailto:tonya.gleason-shepek@grandronde.org)

### TOBY MCCLARY

— ext. 2353  
[tobymcclary@grandronde.org](mailto:tobymcclary@grandronde.org)