

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

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

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. Call Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, at 503-879-1309 to confirm.

Letters

Dear Tribal members:

I would like to start my letter by giving thanks to our Social Services, Housing Authority and Tribal Council for the services they have given me.

Sometimes I look back through the years and wonder what would have happened to me without the Tribe's help. Plus the prayers from friends and family, and the Lord keeping his hand on me along the way.

After many years of suffering, God delivered me from drugs and alcohol on Nov. 9, 2005, while in the Polk County Jail. Ever since that night, I can't even stand the thought of using.

After my release, it was very hard for me to put the pieces back together again. My destructive lifestyle had robbed me of everything. I was homeless, without a car and broke, and had to pay more than \$3,000 to reinstate my driver's license.

I tried very hard to find a job and after many months was finally successful. But after working a few years, I hurt my back and went through two major surgeries. I am so thankful for our per capita payments and our Housing Authority for the help. Without it, I probably would have remained homeless and out of experience homelessness is not good for a person trying to stay clean and sober.

I know that now in this time of recession and high unemployment rates that life is financially hard for many of us and I want to express the importance of our members' benefits for the many Tribal members facing difficult times.

I hope our Tribe is very careful right now with our funds. It is my belief that we could slow down with many of our construction projects until our economy picks up again. There are too many Tribal members who need the extra help right now.

I do hope we remember to keep our priorities straight and that the casino keeps a careful watch on its budget. With the continued overspending, our future could change for us real quick.

Anyways, please don't get me wrong. Like I said people, I am very thankful for all the help I have gotten. I am just voicing the way I see things and in these rough times I am really concerned about the future of all of us.

Thank you very much and God bless.

Rex D. Haller
Roll #905

Dear Smoke Signals:

As the Tribe grows, our money is being sent farther and farther away. As Tribal Council meets with politicians from all over, they think they are doing more for the reputation of Tribal members, but I think that all this attention is going the wrong way.

Tribal Council should be looking at Grand Ronde to take care of Tribal members, not to Salem or Portland or Washington, D.C.

Our money should be used to take care of us here at home. Our buildings are not being maintained. Our retirement money is going out across the state to buy buildings and so on.

Let's take a new look at what's important — and I think that what's important is right here under our noses in Grand Ronde.

Nadine McNutt
Roll #49

See page 13 for more letters.

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of Tribal Chief's Day.

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9615 Grand Ronde Road
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General Council meeting

Sunday, Feb. 7 — 10 a.m.

**Monarch Hotel — Pacific Ballroom
12566 S.E. 93rd Ave.
Clackamas, OR**

Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, Feb. 5	FEB. 15
Friday, Feb. 19	Mar. 1
Friday, Mar. 5	Mar. 15
Friday, Mar. 19	April 1

Editorial Policy

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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.

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**, Tribal staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council.

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2010 Tribal Council

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