

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings
DATE **TIME**
 Wednesday, June 25.....5 p.m.
Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.

Letters

Dear Smoke Signals:

I would like to thank Adult Foster Care’s Cougar Lodge for the wonderful and loving care they gave my late Uncle Eugene “Gene” Hudson, 93 years old and a World War II veteran. He was the last of 13 children of Abe and Maude “Warren” Hudson.

I was so happy when I learned Uncle Gene was coming out here to live right next door to me. But I was a little worried because I knew Uncle Gene was known to have a little temper! And I didn’t want him to get ornery with the girls.

But wouldn’t you know he was on his best behavior and they spoiled him. One caregiver, “Ginger,” would even warm his blankets in the dryer at bedtime so he expected all of them to do it!

Thank you so much to all the caregivers of the Cougar and Elk lodges; you take such good and loving care of all of your residents and Elders. We all loved him and will miss him.

Val Grout
 Roll #268

Dear Smoke Signals:

I was pleased to see Gov. Vic Atiyeh’s photo in the June 1 *Smoke Signals*. His receiving a blanket is well-deserved recognition of the years — decades, actually — of support he has given Oregon Tribal communities. The photo’s caption says, “Atiyeh supported Grand Ronde during its Restoration effort and started the commission while in office.” While true, that statement is incomplete, so here’s a little more historical context.

Gov. Atiyeh was instrumental in starting the Oregon Commission on Indian Services as a state senator in 1975, when he co-sponsored and got both legislation and an appropriation approved. At the time, he was Senate Republican leader, heading what was then called the “Phone Booth Caucus” because there were so few Republicans in the Senate that they could have met in one. Ever since, including the eight years he served as Oregon’s chief executive, he’s been a stalwart supporter of maintaining government-to-government relationships between Oregon Tribes and state government. That’s what the ceremony in the photo celebrated last month.

But the commission is not just another state agency. It’s a legislative commission, an anomaly in Oregon state government, but one well-suited to its role. Ironically, the commission’s location in the legislative branch was probably a quirk of politics. It’s unlikely that the governor in 1975 would have supported a new state agency for Tribal and Indian issues. So Sen. Atiyeh put it in the legislative branch, outside the executive’s control. Had it been an executive agency, it might well have dissolved by now. But with strong legislative involvement like Gov. Atiyeh modeled, the commission has functioned successfully within the legislative branch for nearly 40 years.

The reason this history matters to me is that it was my privilege as a young attorney to be the first full-time staff director of the Commission on Indian Services, a position I held from 1976 (when Atiyeh was still in the state Senate) until 1980 (while he was serving his first term as governor). I learned a lot about Oregon Tribes and state government from Vic Atiyeh, then-Rep. Sam Johnson and other members of the Commission on Indian Services.

Next year, it will be the commission’s 40th anniversary, and I trust that Gov. Atiyeh will be honored then too for his vision and leadership.

Bruce Bishop
 Portland

See page 13 for more letters.

Fee assistance

Enrolled Tribal members can request assistance with test fees (i.e. GRE, SAT, LSAT, ACT) and admissions application fees.

Contact Higher Education for more information at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2275. ■

Cover Oregon sign-ups continuing

Native American and Alaska Natives can enroll year-round in Medicaid and the Oregon Health Plan, as well as for private health insurance coverage, through Cover Oregon.

For more information, contact Cover Oregon Certified Application Assistants Loretta Meneley at 503-879-1359, Sydney West at 503-879-2197 or 800-775-0095 for an appointment to apply for or discuss Cover Oregon. ■

Tribal Council Nominations

Sunday, June 29, 2014
 Special General Council Meeting
 Tribal Community Center — 11 a.m.

Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, June 20.....	July 1
Monday, June 7.....	July 15
Monday, July 21.....	Aug. 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.

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2014 Tribal Council

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