

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7
Tribal Community Center

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Dec. 27.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 24.....	4 p.m.

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

Letters

Dear Smoke Signals:

Our nation recently celebrated Thanksgiving Day. To me, Thanksgiving is not about an opulent meal; it is to remember that our ancestors reached out to those in need.

I am thankful for my family, for my brothers and sisters, and for my extended family. The Tribal family blesses in so many ways, reaching out to those in need like our ancestors did.

I recently lost my Dad, Darrel Mercier, and dear friend, Mary Ring, both residents of the Adult Foster Care Program. The AFC has provided personal care and medical supervision with an abundance of love and respect. The staff members are to be commended for their professionalism and are held in my heart as precious for their loving care. I am truly grateful. This opportunity to show my gratitude is a shadow in the light the staff shines on their residents.

I am grateful for the Burial Fund the Tribe provides. What a blessing! I am very impressed with Bollman's/Dallas Tribute Funeral Home. The professional services are offered with respect, love and kindness. The willingness the staff provides to stretch the Burial Fund is above and beyond. This establishment has proven through the years that they are family. They repeat dedication over and over.

I am thankful for our Tribal Council and staff. The past vision of returning Tribal families to Grand Ronde for building strength, love and respect could not be possible without programs. We have health care, education benefits, housing, cultural ties nationwide and professionalism of staff whose purpose is rooted in love and respect.

I am thankful for our economic ventures. I love to take friends to our beautiful casino and library, and tour our community. These improvements are not possible without the economic proceeds.

I am thankful for our non-Tribal families. Those who provide services to our community: stores, utilities, churches and schools.

All of the above are precious and not possible without our veterans, military, police force, security and first responders in our medical field. I have witnessed the positive and continual evolving of love, respect and dignity of our community.

I am truly grateful!

Margo Mercier
Roll No. 885

Dear Smoke Signals:

I am writing this letter in regards to lodging at Spirit Mountain Casino. As a Tribal member who lives out of the Grand Ronde area and a pet owner, I find it very inconvenient that the Lodge does not have any pet-friendly rooms. I would stay at the casino nearly every visit if my pet was allowed, but I am forced to spend my money elsewhere. I would imagine that I am not alone in feeling these frustrations. It would be nice to see someone look into the option of adding some pet-friendly rooms.

Manny Mercier
Roll No. 1478

LIHEAP program open in service area

The Tribal Social Service's LIHEAP – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – is open to eligible Tribal members in the six-county service area and Clackamas County.

This is a first-come, first-served program and income criteria applies.

LIHEAP is federally funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and is designed to help low-income households with home heating costs.

For more information, contact Social Services at 503-879-2034. ■

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closing on Friday, Dec. 22, at noon and closed on Monday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. Offices also will be closing on Friday, Dec. 29, at noon and closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, in observance of New Year's Day and closed on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Smoke Signals

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Thursday, Dec. 21.....	Jan. 1, 2018
Friday, Jan. 5.....	Jan. 15
Friday, Jan. 19.....	Feb. 1
Monday, Feb. 5.....	Feb. 15