

## General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 3

Monarch Hotel & Conference Center

12566 S.E. 93rd Ave., Clackamas

*The Natural Resources Department will be distributing fish. Must be present and show Tribal ID. For more information, call 503-879-2192.*

**NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings**

| DATE                    | TIME   |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Wednesday, Jan. 23..... | 4 p.m. |

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

## Constitutional amendment election could be affected

### SHUTDOWN continued from front page

Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez noted that the Grand Ronde Tribe runs its budget on a calendar year, which begins Jan. 1, while the federal government uses the fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

“We won’t see any immediate impacts,” she said. “We are monitoring it closely and unless it goes on for more than a few weeks (longer), we won’t need to worry about anything.”

“The Tribe is able to fund many of our services,” said Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy during the Sunday, Jan. 6, General Council meeting.

Nationwide, the Bureau of Indian Affairs currently has 2,455 furloughed employees, approximately one-third of its labor force.

Additionally, 54 percent of funding for the Indian Health Service, which offers health care to more than 2 million Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, and is normally distributed through Tribal governments, has been halted during the shutdown.

Although Grand Ronde has yet to feel the effects, what could become an issue if the shutdown continues is the date of the Tribe’s constitutional amendment election. The election is currently scheduled for Feb. 25, when the membership will vote on whether nonTribal siblings

who have brothers and sisters enrolled in the Tribe and have the same parents, and who meet the membership requirements under the Tribal Constitution before Sept. 14, 1999, should be allowed to enroll to resolve the split-sibling issue affecting some Tribal families.

If non-essential federal employees remain on furlough for an extended period of time, then the BIA-run election would have to be moved to a different date.

### Regional effects

Even eastern Oregon Tribes such as the Umatilla, which was never terminated and has more of a traditional trust relationship with the U.S. government, only receive 23 percent of its funding from the federal government.

This means despite the fact that regional BIA offices have been shuttered since Dec. 21, Tribal operations are continuing to run smoothly.

“We do retroactive budgeting only with monies accounted for in the previous year,” Communications Director Chuck Sams said. “We will be fine for up to 90 days until we need to look at using other funds.”

During the last economic downturn, when national unemployment rates peaked at 10 percent in October 2009, Sams said no employees were laid off, in large part due to retroactive budgeting.

“We are very fortunate to be able to do that,” he said. ■

### Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 21, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## Letters welcome

Letters should be exclusive to **Smoke Signals**.

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 **Smoke Signals**, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347.

# Smoke Signals

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| DEADLINE DATE             | ISSUE DATE |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Friday, Jan. 18.....      | Feb. 1     |
| Tuesday, Feb. 5.....      | Feb. 15    |
| Wednesday, Feb. 20 .....  | March 1    |
| Tuesday, March 5.....     | March 15   |
| Wednesday, March 20 ..... | 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. 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**.



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# 2019 Tribal Council

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