

Letter to the Editor

To all tribal members,

Can we remember what our mothers and fathers told us about their lives, coming from a family that migrated at will throughout the northwest?

I would like to say that being a member of a tribe which is recognized by the federal government is a relief. (Which enrollment should be open to all tribal members.) Often I have heard of my heritage as a boy. The land was territorial with large borders, they moved about it at will and then came the land grabbers, they put tribes on reservations so today we still have those who keep all tribal benefits restricted to the reservations.

Now is a time for change once again. All members need to look strongly at candidates running for election. I encourage you all to vote as I am. If you want a council and those governing us who will benefit all tribal members...VOTE! Look for those that are working to benefit us as members. What, as a tribal member, do you want? A council that works for all! Or those who are for a few? My family and myself will live day to day as we always have, but there is a choice! Please support those working to improve the lives of ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS, not a few.

What we need is young educated members to work with their elders. These are modern and fast moving times. June Sherer is such a person. Please pick whoever you feel strongly about, at least VOTE! So as Chief Joseph of the Kalapuya might have said, "Follow the rules for the betterment of all tribal members. Freedom lives as the bird flies, as the wolf roams, and the bear dominates." Vote as your ancestors would!

William A. Jones Kellogg

EDITORIAL POLICY:

Smoke Signals is a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. We have established an Editorial Policy to encourage input from readers about stories printed in *Smoke Signals*, as well as other tribal issues.

Letters must be printed or typed, and cannot exceed 300 words. *Smoke Signals* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain libelous statements or personal attacks. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Smoke Signals*, tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Tribal Council minutes

~ June 27 ~

ENROLLMENT — NEW MEMBERSHIP. Information was presented pertaining to 203 new membership applications. The Enrollment Committee recommended approval for membership for 172 of those applicants. Council adopted **Resolution No. 037-96** approving tribal enrollment for the 172 members as recommended by the Enrollment Committee.

TIMBERSALE APPROVAL RESOLUTION. Following a presentation, Council adopted **Resolution No. 038-96** approving the Running Bear timber sale as presented.

SELF GOVERNANCE ANNUAL FUNDING AGREEMENT — 1997. Council consensus was to continue negotiations with the Indian Health Service on the 1997 agreement.

ELECTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. Council appointed Tracy Dugan, Dorothy Lawe, and Dakota Whitecloud as Election Committee members, and Heather Blivens as an alternate. Election Committee will appoint a Chairperson to be approved by the Tribal Council.

~ July 2 ~

BOND RESOLUTION. Council adopted **Resolution No. 040-96** to authorize the Tribal Chair to execute the Bond documents including the Bond Purchasing Agreement with Seattle National Securities, the Reimbursement Agreement with Bank of America, and the Trust Indenture with First Trust Washington. This was done in order to move forward with selling bonds for the Wellness Center/Health Clinic.

ELDERS' SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM ORDINANCE. A note will be made in the resolution to declare an emergency and waive the mandatory 21-day waiting period. (All checks were mailed out the week of July 14.)

COLUMBIA SOUTH SHORE ARTIFACTS. Council approved to draw up a lease for storage with the Oregon Historical Society in Portland.

WATERLINE EASEMENT RESOLUTION. A recommendation was presented to approve easements and waterline easements for properties of Darrel Mercier and Don McMillan to provide for tribal services now and in the future. **Resolution No. 041-96** was adopted as presented.

~ July 17 ~

NEW NATURAL RESOURCES FACILITY. Tribal Council voted unanimously to begin construction of the Natural Resources office building. The division offices were located along Highway 18, but the division had to relocate to make room for the Casino. For the past year, Natural Resources have worked out of trailer offices on Hebo Road, on another land parcel the Tribe owns. Council approved construction of permanent offices in this location, with a building cost not to exceed \$850,000.

HOUSING PLAN. The Council unanimously approved the Housing Plan. See sidebar story below.

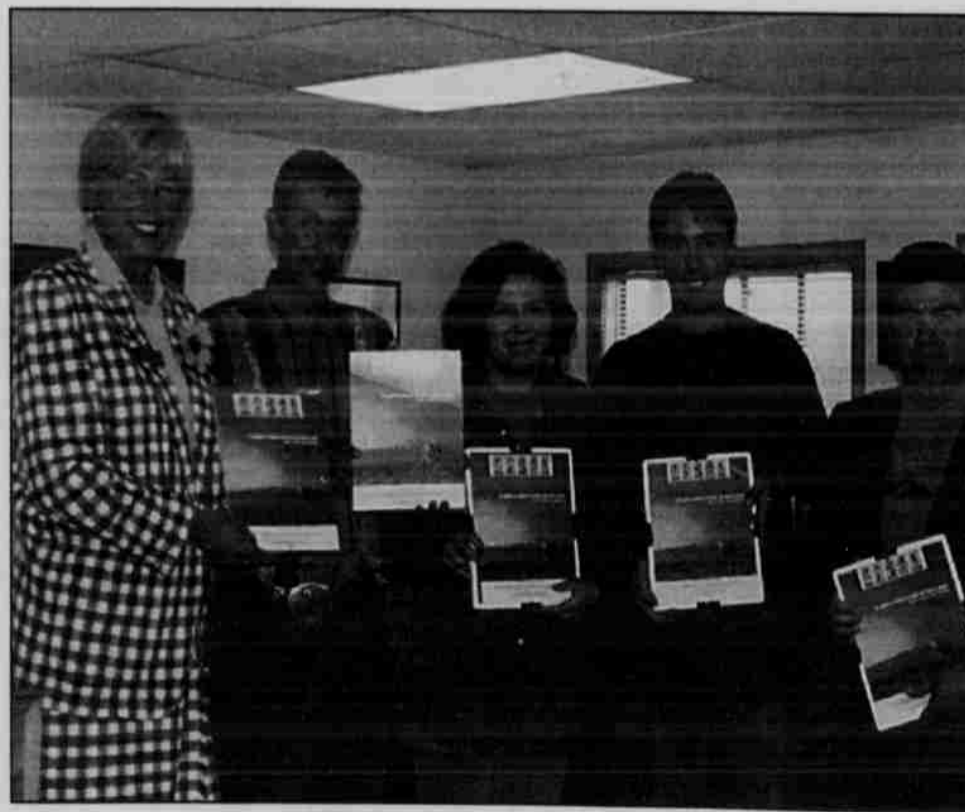
POSTAL PRESENTATION. Sharon Kesey, Grand Ronde Postmaster, made a presentation with commemorative plaques depicting the new series of stamps recently released by the U.S. Postal Service. The new stamps commemorate different Native American dance styles from tribes across the nation. Sharon gave a plaque to Tribal Council, Spirit Mountain Casino, the Tribal Mail Department, and *Smoke Signals* in appreciation of the business relationship we have with them. Many items available to the public, see front page.



Model of the future Natural Resources Facility.

Housing plan approved

The Tribal Housing Ordinance adopted by the Tribal Council in March established the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority for the purpose of developing and implementing housing programs for tribal members. The Ordinance requires that the Housing Authority develop a Housing Plan as a guide for this work and present it to Tribal Council for their review and approval. The Housing Plan was presented to Council and approved at the July 17 meeting. The plan includes specific goals, objectives and strategies over the next five years, as well as some longer term objectives. A summary of the Plan's five-year goals and objectives can be obtained by calling the Housing Authority office at 879-2401. Look for additional information about the Housing Plan and specific housing programs available to tribal members through the Housing Authority in the September issue of *Smoke Signals*.



POSTMASTER PRESENTS PLAQUES OF APPRECIATION. From left: Sharon Kesey, Grand Ronde Postmaster; Mark Mercier, Tribal Council Chairman; Tracy Dugan, *Smoke Signals* Editor; Jeff Mercier, Tribal Mail Department; and Mike Larsen, Chairman of Spirit Mountain Board of Directors.