

Letters

Dear Editor,

Having just read the *Smoke Signals* issue for Feb. 15, 1998 we were pleasantly surprised to note the Casino is doing so much better than our expectations (\$40 million gross/1997).

However, there is considerable concern expressed among our family group as to the disbursement of this revenue. It appears the Tribe is investing considerably in expansion and development along several fronts (e.g., Casino expansion, hotel, retail center). Although we understand that it is to our benefit if these projects succeed, what if they fail? We question the wisdom and qualifications of those making these decisions. As we remember, it was not too far in the past that the Spirit Mountain Development Corporation (SMDC) made several poor financial decisions (e.g., Special forest products loss). It may be noted that several of the parties involved in that fiasco are still working at SMDC and although recent projects seem to be doing well, we question such rapid expansion. Perhaps SMDC should learn to walk before they run?

We would also like to point out that just prior to Christmas 1997 it was proposed at a Tribal Council meeting that the tribal membership be allowed to share in this Casino "bounty" with a \$500 payment. However, without consulting their constituents, several Council members opposed this proposition. These are people we voted to represent us.

Although we are grateful to Council for the benefits we currently share and for providing for the welfare of our Elders, we feel they should consider "investing" in their fellow tribal members. They can do this with increased payments now and less development, which may or may not pay off in the future.

In conclusion we wish to express a heartfelt thanks to the Tribe for all it has done for us and to *Smoke Signals* for providing a forum for our opinions. Thank you.

The Lancour Family,
Marlena J. Lancour, Roll #733
Novalee J. Lancour, Roll #1645
Ernest H. Lancour, Roll #2377
Joseph R. Lancour, Roll #2376

Corrections

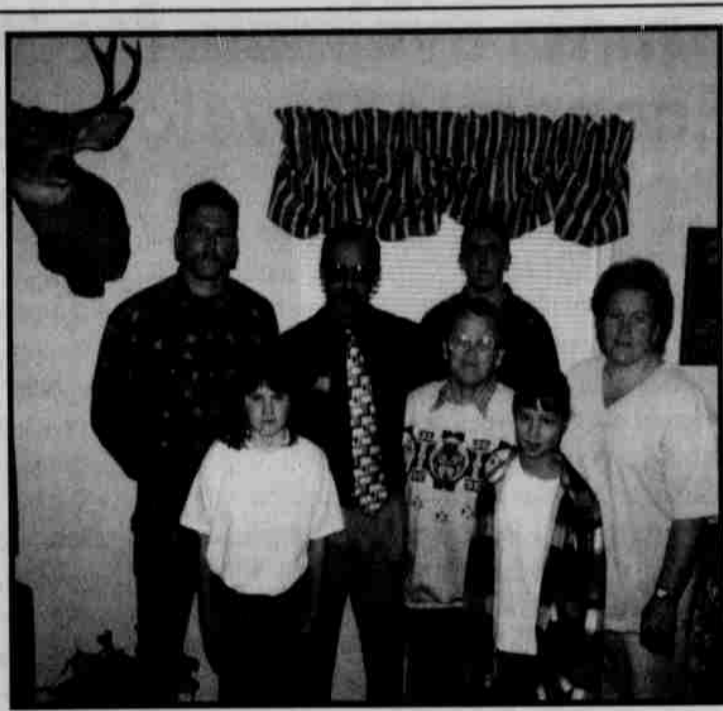
Smoke Signals apologizes for incorrect information printed in the last issue: at the February General Council meeting, the raffle winners were Dana Leno, Mychal Leno, Lydia Logan, and NORMA LEE; and Happy Birthday to Kalim, from KIANA and Caden.

Dear Editor,

We would like to take a moment to thank the Grand Ronde housing grant program to make a dream come true. We have wanted to own our own home for some time, but it seemed we never had enough money for a down payment until we signed up for the down payment program.

We are very proud to be part of the Grand Ronde Tribe. We want to send a special thank you to Bryan Langley, he helped out a lot. But all in all, the whole Tribe deserves a great big thank you!

Thank you,
Fred and Robin Wertz and family
Ruby Golden
 Prineville, OR



Dear Editor,

I read the editorial in the *Smoke Signals* of February 1 with much interest. After finishing I felt as if I were in a big cloud of smoke. So I read it again with the same feeling.

If your worried about paying 12 million — stop spending. Does Grand Ronde need to be a miniature Vegas? The old saying goes, "If you want the wagon to go faster, run the horse down hill." Are we going too fast?

As for added benefits to members, I for one would welcome it. It would help to relieve the pressure of working six days a week. The benefits we now receive are a blessing. But I fear they won't last. For those of you who are so worried, why not donate your tribal salary to the Tribe?

Not all members can be in Grand Ronde or afford to move there. We received nothing for years. Then we got a Council that worked for all members. Now I get the feeling we need to shut up and be thankful for what we have. I have a ancestral right to benefits from the Tribe's growth past, present and future.

We receive revenue from the Casino, timber, and BIA. Maybe the Council needs to take a course on money management.

Speaking of Council, why are elected members not attending meetings? Or should I say entering and then leaving out the back door. They get paid to be there. Putting fines on those not attending full Council meetings might help.

Somebody turn on the fans and blow away all the smoke to see what's burning.

William Kellogg
 Box 569
 Dighton, KS
 (316) 397-2718

Dear Editor:

I want to extend a warm thank you to Tribal Council and the Tribal Housing Authority for all the help I received when purchasing my new home in Grand Meadows. Without this program, my husband and I would not be moving to the area. I am very thankful for the chance to live and work in Grand Ronde. Everyone went to a lot of time and trouble to help us.

Sincerely,
Louise Coulson

SMOKE SIGNALS

9615 Grand Ronde Road
 Grand Ronde, Or 97347



Internet e-mail addresses:

tracynews@macnet.com
 kimnews@macnet.com
 Editor:
TRACY DUGAN (503) 879-2254
 Graphics & News Coordinator:
KIM MUELLER (503) 879-2264
 1-800-422-0232 FAX: (503) 879-2263

SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR READERS:

SMOKE SIGNALS, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. All letters must be received at the newspaper office with author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. **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.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 20

In memory of Pete Grout

The family of **PETE GROUT** would like to thank all of our family, friends, staff, and Council members for the love they have shown us through his passing and the love they have shown Pete while he was in the hospital. We appreciate all the food, flowers, prayers, and cards. We especially want to thank Susie and her helpers for the fine dinner they prepared after the service. We love you all and thank you. Pete will be missed so much and each one of you has made this time a little easier.

Val Grout

Janell and Tim Haller and family
Sharon and Rick Hutton and family
Rick Grout and family
Penny and Lloyd DeLoe and family
Boon Grout



DAD, and what he meant to me

P = Pleasure (for mom, won't go there)
 E = Earnhardt (winning, so dad can finally wear his coat)
 T = Tough (on you, if you wrecked the car)
 E = Excited (if he could make you cry)

G = Good (son, husband, father, grandfather)
 R = Real (he put on no airs)
 O = Outdoor (his joys, hunting & fishing)
 U = Until (he hunted, fished, logged until he passed on)
 T = Teaser (he loved and lived to tease)

DAD, thanks for all the GOOD memories
 Love, Sharon