

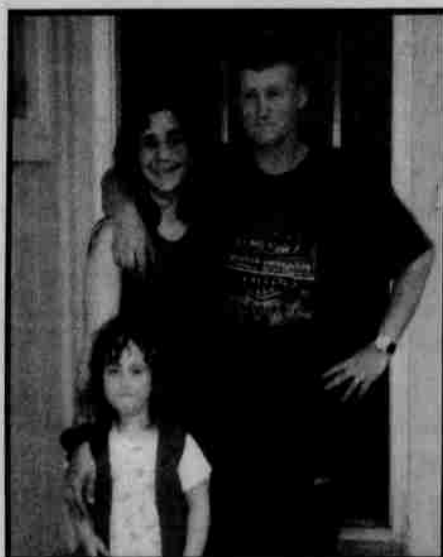
Letters

Dear Tribal Housing Authority,

I just wanted to write to you to tell you thank you. You have given us an opportunity to purchase our first home. We are enjoying our home, and couldn't have done it without you. Enclosed is a picture of my family in front of our house. Again, thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,

The Meagher Family



Dear Editor:

My name is Shereena DeJulio. I live in Montrose, Colorado, more than 1200 miles from Grand Ronde. I dropped out of school at age 14, and by my 18th birthday, I was contently caring for my three children. I never really had a chance at a decent education. But since education is important to me, I returned to get my G.E.D. when I was 19.

Recently, I was awarded an undergraduate Trust Fund Scholarship that will enable me to attend college. Due to my limited finances, I would not have been able to attend without this generous scholarship.

I would like to thank the Tribal Education staff for putting their faith in me and giving me the greatest gift of all, an education. A special thanks to Marion Mercier, who helped me with all the paperwork, answered my questions, and gave me moral support. Another special thank you goes to Dean Azule, who gave me the tastes, and now a hunger, for a higher education through a short-term program last spring. And finally, a warm thank you to my sister, Roxanne Teeter, for attending the 1998 Honor and Recognition Dinner in my behalf.

Even though I am far from my roots in Oregon, my tribe gave me the support I needed. Since leaving school more than 22 years ago to raise my family, I am now able to return and further my education. On August 19th, I will become a full-time Freshman! Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Shereena DeJulio
Roll #1986

To tribal members:

I was reading the *Smoke Signals* with the new Tribal Council candidates. I do agree on some of the things they brought up. But I don't understand what they are talking about on the programs they keep bringing up to other members. Because most of the programs they have now do not help the members. You call up for help and they tell you that they don't have the funding. They always have an excuse. They act like you are conning them out of money.

There is always going to be drug abuse and alcoholism in every nationality. That's their excuse for not giving us per capita. They say a lot of us will use it for that. Well, that will be the individual choice. I think everybody should be treated equal and get the four hundred per month. The candidate who was speaking about welfare and how per capita would decrease it, that four hundred per month would be more than what welfare would give them. My husband is deceased and I am a single parent raising two children ages 15 and 11. I have always worked and that four hundred would help out a lot.

I am back in college to further my career to get a better paying job so I can support my kids and am not always struggling from paycheck to paycheck. Then they talk about giving more help to those who want to go through college. It's still a struggle to make it. You try to pay rent, utilities, food, clothing, etc....and it's hard.

It's all right to invest our money, but let's not overdo it. I believe in twenty years they will still be investing it, and tribal members will not see any of that money so how is that helping us? The Casino was put up to help the Tribe become self-supporting, but how is that helping the members? Only a few are prospering. I know when I call for help, I am given the run-around. Finally, I have to get ahold of one of the Tribal Council, then they do help me. I am thankful for that, but it's what you have to do to get it. We shouldn't have to do that. There is always a few who abuse the system, but we shouldn't all have to pay for it. That per capita will help out on a lot of things. That one thousand we get so often helps out. So, the ones who are thinking about stopping it, I don't want them on Council. That's my opinion on everything.

Brenda Gray
Roll #339

Dear friends and relatives:

This is a belated thank you to the Grand Ronde Tribe for their assistance when my wife, Louise, passed away last month in Warm Springs. Louise and I were married for 53 years, and I have lived in Warm Springs since 1946.

I would like to apologize to my friends and family in Grand Ronde for not doing a better job of notification. In our grief we only notified one person in Grand Ronde with the news of my wife, so I guess the word didn't get passed on. I later learned that friends and family were upset about not being notified. I am sorry.

We had many relatives come to Warm Springs for my wife's services on July 7. All of my immediate family from Grand Ronde were here, as well as my brother's family, who live in California. Also our Nisqually relatives were here. One of the things we talked about was having a Langley family reunion in Grand Ronde sometime next year as we have a lot of extended family living out of the area. So we are thinking we would like to do that probably next July. We will be working with Berle Contreras and her family to plan this event.

Again, I would like to thank the Tribe for sending the beautiful flowers to the service, and check to the funeral home.

Allen "Biff" Langley

Dear *Smoke Signals* Editor,

Hi, my name is Kalene Contreras and I am on the Pow-wow Committee. I am writing this letter to thank all of my volunteers that helped out with the meals at the Pow-wow this year. I believe that it was a great success, I would like to give special thanks to Glen Blackwell and all the employees/tribal members from Spirit Mountain Casino who worked very hard to make this the great success that it was — everyone was such a great help. Some Spirit Mountain Casino employees were working overtime just to make this a great success. I really appreciate everyone's help and cooperation at this year's Pow-wow.

Once again, thank you very much for all your help.

Sincerely,
Kalene Contreras
Roll # 3286

TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION DAY: September 5, 1998

TRIBAL OFFICES & CLINIC CLOSED:
Labor Day, Monday, September 7

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, September 13
11:30 a.m. at the Community Center. Meal Provided.
Last day bricks will be sold & Health Committee raffle.

SMOKE SIGNALS

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SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR READERS:

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UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Thursday, Sept. 3, 1998

Friday, Sept. 18, 1998



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