

Letters & Opinions

Dear Editor,

Could you pass on a very big thank you to Travis and all of his helpers in charge of the Benevolence Fund.

In October I injured my back at work. Instead of getting better it has gotten worse. At this time I can only lay on my back from doing any more damage.

Because I lost work and Labor an Industries only paying 65% of my wages I feel behind in some of my monthly accounts. I didn't have any way of catching up on these back bills. Then I read in Smoke Signals about the Benevolence Fund and how someone had received financial help in times of emergency.

From the first phone call I was treated so nice. The proper paperwork was sent to me and returned, if any questions needed answered, my phone would ring and Travis was there to unravel the problem.

When a person is in constant pain and everyone seems out to get you it feels so good finding a friend.

My husband and I want to thank the Tribe and its many workers who have made life a whole lot easier at a difficult time.

May God bless you all —

Judy Nesbit

Roll #1823

(Granddaughter of Cecil Porter)

Dear Editor,

We look forward to receiving and reading our Smoke Signals and want to thank everyone who is responsible for putting it out, and to everyone else at the Grand Ronde Community for all their hard work for all members, and for all the wonderful things they have accomplished on and off the reservation.

We would love to hear about what is happening at St. Michael's Catholic Church, and the Catholic Community at Grand Ronde. Maybe someone from the church could submit an article every once in a while to let us know. We just love the church and the beautiful stained glass windows in memory of family members who lived at Grand Ronde. We also enjoy Father Rays homilies.

All the Dowd family attending are looking forward to Pow-wow this year and meeting more family. Those of us who made it last year had a great time. This year we have Dowd's coming from as far as Florida, Iowa, and Georgia, as well as those living in the Pacific Northwest.

God Bless you all,

Craig & Elizabeth (Dowd) VandePutte, Roll #125

Tom & Mary Pat (Dowd) Lord, Roll #134

Kathy (Dowd) Houle, Roll #132

Tom & Corinne Dowd, Roll #140

Barbara (Dowd) Gurnett, Roll #121

Mike & Helene Dowd, Roll #136

SMOKE SIGNALS, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. We have an Editorial Policy to encourage input from readers about stories printed in **SMOKE SIGNALS** and other Tribal issues. However, 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.

SMOKE SIGNALS ELECTION EDITORIAL POLICY

In order to ensure a balanced election campaign and fairness to all candidates, the **SMOKE SIGNALS** 2000 Tribal Council Election Editorial Policy for letters to the editor will be as follows:

Subject to existing editorial policies regarding libel, personal attacks, and unsubstantiated facts,

1. Letters in support of candidates will be published in regular editions of **SMOKE SIGNALS**.
2. Statements from candidates will be published in a special election edition of **SMOKE SIGNALS**, currently scheduled for July 1, 2000.
3. Letters to the editor from candidates will not be published during the time period from nominations to the conclusion of the Tribal Council Election.
4. Feature articles and spotlights involving candidates will be suspended during the time period from nominations to the conclusion of the Tribal Council Election.

This policy is intended to ensure an equal forum for all candidates.

To the Grand Ronde Community,

It's fun and rewarding to be told that you are doing a good job. It's nice to receive good reviews. The community, along with the Sheriff's Office has received lots of good press recently. Most notably for the Sheriff's Office the recent article in the *Salem Statesman Journal*. That's great stuff. Positive press sends an appealing message to the rest of the state. Grand Ronde is developing into a destination community and can only grow and prosper from it.

All this good press is the end product of lots of hard work done by lots of dedicated people over long periods of time. It has not just happened. The marketing ads on television for Spirit Mountain Casino are original and have not just happened. The marketing folks have done a great job in selling the Casino and all it has to offer.

The Natural Resources Division has recently received notoriety for its environmental and land management programs. The Public Works and Housing Authority have also received their share of notoriety for their many accomplishments in the development of the Grand Ronde Community. The Family and Elders' housing projects, along with a new culture center are some of the more recent obvious developments. A new and much needed communications tower is planned and is expected to be completed soon.

I could continue mentioning the achievements of several more divisions, from Education to Health and Wellness, the Social Services Division, the Tribal Court and the direction provided by the EO, Council and legal staff. I cannot effectively comment on all that has been accomplished by these folks who work in and manage these departments but I can do so with the Sheriff's Office.

The Grand Ronde Deputies have over time managed to gain the trust and respect of the people in Grand Ronde Community. Most people know us by our names and because this is a family community we are known from word of mouth from one family member to another for what we might do or even say. One does not have to read about something concerning the Grand Ronde Deputies to get to know them.

The feeling of belonging within the Grand Ronde Community is strong with the four Deputies assigned here. That same feeling is shared by Jeff VanLaanen. Jeff returns soon as the new Sergeant along with a fifth Grand Ronde Deputy. One of our newer deputies, Kevin Haynes has managed to become part of this community almost over night with his open and caring attitude as demonstrated in his approach to the D.A.R.E. program.

It's nice to be part of a team, to hear good things and see great accomplishment.

Thank you Grand Ronde.
Deputy Tom O'Brien

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Wed., July 5	JULY 15
Thurs., July 20	AUGUST 1

Welcome to Smoke Signals: Teresa Henry

My name is Teresa Henry. I am sixteen years old. I am currently working as a summer intern at CTGR for *Smoke Signals*.

My mother is Angela Ellis, my sisters are Ashley Bedortha and Miranda Ellis. My grandparents are Jess and Candy Robertson. My extended family is Darren Blackwell and his children Meg and Ryan Blackwell. My father is Patrick Henry, my brother is Anthony Henry and my sister is Candi Koehler. My extended family is my step-mom Melinda Henry. Also my brothers Joe and Miah Mercier, and my sisters Erica and Summer Mercier.

My interests and hobbies are sports, family, friends, Royalty, and work. I enjoy playing volleyball and softball and watching basketball and wrestling. I also have fun spending time with my huge family. This year I'm also spending a lot of my time in Royalty. I am running for Sr. Miss Grand Ronde 2000-2001. I enjoy Royalty because I get to travel a lot, learn about my culture, and get to meet and communicate with many new people. Another way I spend



Teresa Henry

my time is work. I work for the Tribe at *Smoke Signals* as a summer intern. I have fun doing this because I am learning how to use the cameras and computers for future use. I hope to establish a newspaper for my Native American Youth Club.

When I graduate from high school I plan to go to college. My goal is to become a lawyer or a psychologist. Then I plan to have a family.

Summer Youth Interns

The Tribe's Youth Education program sponsors an eight-week summer employment program for Tribal youth, ages 14-17. This is a great opportunity for our young people to gain work experience for the first time. The following is a list of the 24 students involved in this year's program and where they are working at the Tribe.

Preschool —

Andrea Childers, Highpine Eastman, Alex Bishop, Ali Holsclaw, Caitlin Zimbrick, and Matt Zimbrick

Before & After Care —

Brett Leno and Rebecca Knight

Facilities — Gary Guzman, Nick Kimsey, Kevin Sierra, Jeremy Trammel, Lee Wilson and Chad Peters

Cultural Resources —

Emma Leno and Aliea Finney

Youth Center — Janel Lara

Enrollment — Shannon Wilson

Medical Records — Adam Sierra

Information Systems — Jack Provost

Public Relations — Teresa Henry

Natural Resources — Brittany Thomas

Small Business — Daniel Garrison

Health & Wellness Business Office — Cristina Lara