

Letters

Dear *Smoke Signals*,

This letter is to tell you all what happened recently and how it has upset our family. On the Friday before Memorial Day, someone went to the Tribal cemetery and stole a big blue Toyota truck and some other articles off of Jerry Brandon's grave. I cannot tell you how totally disrespectful this is to Jerry and his family. We are very upset! We would like for the person or persons to return these items. These things do not mean anything to anyone else like they do to us. They were placed there by his family as a tribute to Jerry.

Our families were taught that a cemetery is sacred place. A place where you leave your family members to rest in peace. We leave things at the grave to help us cope with our loss. We leave things in remembrance and we leave things because it is a sacred place where our husband, brother, father, son, grandson and friend was laid to rest. Not a place where you steal and take things that do not belong to you.

Jill Brandon
Roll #1895

Dear Tribal membership,

As the temperature rises this summer, so does the political activity in Washington, D.C. This summer I am fortunate to be serving in our State Senator Gordon H. Smith's office as a Morris K. Udall Intern. The late "Mo" Udall was an Arizona congressman and former presidential candidate who fought for American Indian rights and sovereignty. He supported the restoration of our Tribe and many others during his 30 years on the hill.

Senator Smith, a distant relative of Morris Udall, has recently been appointed to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, which is the most important committee in the nation pertaining to Native issues. He truly looks forward to helping Oregon's Tribes continue to develop and prosper. Now that I am working in his office, I hope that you all will take the opportunity to contact me to share information on any issues that may affect Indian Country. If someone is visiting Washington, D.C. and would like a tour of the capitol and a photo with the senator, that can also be arranged.

All commentary is welcome and even desired, as your input helps the senator shape his legislation. Please do contact us. I look forward to hearing from all fellow Tribal members.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mercier,
Roll #1357

Office of Senator Gordon H. Smith, 404 Russell Building, Morris K. Udall Intern, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone — 202-224-3753

Dear Tribal members,

I am grateful to be able to clear up some recent statements about me. For the record: I am not, nor have I filed any suit against our Tribe. Immediately after a letter was sent to the Tribe, I contacted council and the Tribe and made it clear, in writing that "I would NEVER litigate against my own people." This issue is about two years old and everyone on our Tribal Council knows this.

I am truly sad that there are those who feel the need to attack people and their families publicly. I live and work for the Tribe here in Grand Ronde and can see that we just want to move on to good things for our people.

Thank you all, I apologize again for any misunderstanding. If you receive any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Take good care,

Jan Michael Reibach
Roll #3227
503-879-5734

In the last issue of *Smoke Signals*, we reported that the student longhouse was being built at Oregon State University. This is incorrect, it is being built at the University of Oregon.



Photo by Ron Karten

New Project — Dan Kauffman Excavating has begun site work for the Tribes' upcoming convenience store and gas station. The company is reprocessing the old asphalt, mixing it with gravel to use for fill for parking and roadway construction. Reusing these materials will save the Tribes about \$12,000, according to Tribal Engineer Eric Scott. This part of the project should be finished by the time this issue of *Smoke Signals* is out, and general contractor PNE Corporation will begin laying the foundations for the building, the gas service canopy and some underground utilities. Project is scheduled for "substantial completion" by late November with a projected opening date in mid-December.

Tribal Council Candidate's Forum

Sunday, July 20, 2003
12 p.m. — Tribal Gymnasium

SMOKE SIGNALS 2003 DEADLINES

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SMOKE SIGNALS

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Fri., Jul. 18	AUG. 1
Tues., Aug. 5	AUG. 15
Wed., Aug. 20	SEPT. 1
Fri., Sept. 5	SEPT. 15
Fri., Sept. 19	OCT. 1
Fri., Oct. 3	OCT. 15
Mon., Oct. 20	NOV. 1
Mon., Nov. 3	NOV. 15
Mon., Nov. 17	DEC. 1
Fri., Dec. 5	DEC. 15
Fri., Dec. 16	JAN. 1, 2004



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EDITORIAL POLICY

SMOKE SIGNALS, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. No portion of this publication may be reprinted without permission.

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 email address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested.

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**, Tribal staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council.

ELECTION EDITORIAL POLICY

In order to ensure a balanced election campaign and fairness to all candidates, the **SMOKE SIGNALS** 2003 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 **NOT** be published in regular editions of **SMOKE SIGNALS**.
 2. Letters to the editor from candidates will **NOT** be published during the time period from nominations to the conclusion of the Tribal Council Election.
 3. 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.



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