

Letters

Dear Tribal members:

Following publication of the Candidates' Statements in the July 1, 2003, edition of *Smoke Signals*, the Tribal Council received a number of inquiries about whether it had passed a resolution approving a \$475,000 payment to Jan Michael Reibach. The answer is no. The Council has not passed such a resolution, nor has it made any payment to Mr. Reibach. Please call the Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, Charles Haller II, with any questions at 503-879-1309.

Sincerely,

Tribal Council
Confederated Tribes of the
Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Dear members of the community of Grand Ronde:

My name is John Mercier. I am the director of Public Works for the Grand Ronde Tribe. It saddens me to have to write this letter, but I must alert the community regarding abuse that is wreaked upon the community recycling center in Grand Ronde. The Grand Ronde Tribal Council has graciously allowed us to place a community recycling center on a small portion of Tribal property. The availability of this recycling center is a joint effort between the Tribe and our local sanitary service provider. The recycling center is a free service extended to the public so they may drop off disposable household items that would otherwise be thrown in the trash. The Tribe provides the site and the sanitary service picks up the recycled materials.

I am a member the Grand Ronde Tribe and I feel a personal sense of pride when our Tribe allocates our precious resources to benefit the public. Providing a free recycling service only serves to support proud feelings for my Tribe and community. Unfortunately, the recycling center is being used as a garbage dump. It makes me sad to visit our recycling center, a place attempting to encourage people to be friendly to our environment, only to see the place cluttered with household waste.

This type of abuse often makes me feel discouraged to provide services to the public. As Public Works Director, it is the responsibility of my department to keep our Tribal Lands safe and clean. Due to the abuse of a free public service, I must now arrange to clean up other peoples' garbage. That type of activity does not create a sense of pride and enthusiasm to me, or the employees within my department.

I may express sadness and discouragement with this letter, but I am not without hope. I plead to the members of the Grand Ronde community to be respectful to our Tribal lands and services. Grand Ronde is a beautiful community and we want to help keep it that way. Our recycling center is an expression of our desire to keep our community clean and healthy. Please feel free to use the recycling center as intended. Please do not use the center to dispose of household garbage.

John Mercier

Public Works Director, Grand Ronde Tribe

Dear *Smoke Signals*,

Hello, my name is Janell Grout-Haller, roll #1523. I am writing to voice my concerns about recent campaign material that I received in the mail. I am currently the Self-Determination Coordinator, I work with the budgeting process for DOI/BIA Self-Governance and Indian Health Service. With this I am actively involved with the total Tribal budget annually. Currently, the annual per capita distribution to the membership is 25 percent of gaming revenue.

That amount is approximately 3 million more than what we receive in the federal monies that are currently compacted with the BIA and IHS. The services these compacted monies provide are the majority of programs offered at the wellness facility, social services, Tribal court, JOM, *Smoke Signals*, enrollment, fish & wildlife, forestry and education. This list is by no means a complete list. I am just offering a picture of what the same amount of money provides in needed services instead of a one-time payment. I am not saying to stop the current 25 percent that is already in effect, as I have been here long enough to know what problems can occur when something is taken that has been given and expected. What I am going to say is to those who are promising 45 percent per capita — what services do you see that can be cut? The reason I ask this is the gaming revenue currently funds the health insurance programs, education programs, housing and cultural programs, to name a few. In order to give an additional 20 percent in per capita something has to be cut from the programs currently funded with the gaming revenue. I personally feel that the gaming revenue is currently funding the mission and long-term strategic goals of the Tribe and it would be a very sad day to take for additional monies for a one-time payment to each member. I would much rather see our Elders have health insurance and the beautiful homes that they currently live in. If my grandchildren choose to further their education then that is what I see as the benefits of our Tribal members having the opportunity to become self-sufficient.

Janell Grout-Haller

Roll #1523

Correction: Twins Jada and Julie Endicott are not Tribal members as reported in the last issue.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Surplus Equipment Sale

No Early Sales!

Desks, Bookshelves, Office Chairs, File Cabinets, Printers, Fax & Misc. Items.

There are no computers for sale.

Saturday • August 16 • 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Tribal members Only

Sunday • August 17 • 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Open to the General Public

Location: Maintenance Shop next to the Tribal Powwow Grounds.

SMOKE SIGNALS 2003 DEADLINES

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

1-800-422-0232 • FAX: 503-879-2173

www.grandronde.org



BRENT MERRILL
PUBLIC INFORMATION
COORDINATOR/EDITOR
503-879-2321
brent.merrill@grandronde.org



JUSTIN PHILLIPS
PRODUCTION SPECIALIST
503-879-2190
justin.phillips@grandronde.org



WILLIAM MERCIER
PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN
503-879-2254
willie.mercier@grandronde.org

SMOKE SIGNALS

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
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



RON KARTEN
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
503-879-4663
ron.karten@grandronde.org



SHELLY KENT
CENTRAL PHONES
503-879-5211
shelly.kent@grandronde.org



PETA TINDA
FREELANCE JOURNALIST
503-879-1416
peta.tinda@grandronde.org

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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