

## Tribe Now Brings In A Profit From Cell Phone Tower

■ Nextel Communications is on board, others could follow.

By Peta Tinda

The 195-foot tall steel latticework Grand Ronde cell tower, which provides cellular phone service to the Tribe, Spirit Mountain Casino and Polk county fire and rescue, has a new customer and has begun to generate revenue for the Tribe.

Late last year, worldwide wireless giant Nextel Communications placed a host of equipment on the tower.

Nextel pays the Tribe \$1,000 a month to put their equipment on the tower.

In 2005, the rate will go up to \$1,500, with a small increase each year following.

An added benefit of this is that Nextel custom-

assigning it an available radio frequency channel.

Transmission and reception of these signals transfer the voice information to the tower. Next, the calls are sent to a switching center, which transfers the call to its destination.

The communications equipment is installed on a four-foot high by 13-foot wide platform at the top of the tower, called a "top hat."

The tower is a self-supporting structure, with no cables or guy lines. It is

designed to resist ice and high winds, with concrete pilings sunk

30 feet into the ground.

In the event of a disaster, the tower has its own 100-kilowatt propane generator that can operate for two weeks without power.

"If anything happens where we have no power, then the Tribe and Polk County will still be able to communicate," said Kraemer.

In addition, there are still four spots available on the tower for other cell companies to use, something the Tribal Communications Department has been actively pursuing.

"MetroCall, a paging company, is also interested," said Kraemer.

"We're hoping to get them up there within 60 to 90 days."

*Nextel pays the Tribe \$1,000 a month to put their equipment on the tower.*

ers will have much better cell phone coverage in the Grand Ronde Valley.

"Nextel phones stopped working somewhere between Fort Hill and Grand Ronde. Now Nextel phones will get much better reception," said Tribal Telecommunications Specialist Jodie Kraemer, who has worked on the cell tower since it was set up just north of Spirit Mountain Casino three years ago.

"We've definitely been finding more and more uses for it," said Kraemer. The Grand Ronde cell tower has already proven its versatility by transmitting classes from Chemeketa Community College to the classrooms of the Tribal Education Department.

When somebody makes a cellular phone call, a signal is sent from the phone's antenna to the cell tower. The tower responds to this signal by

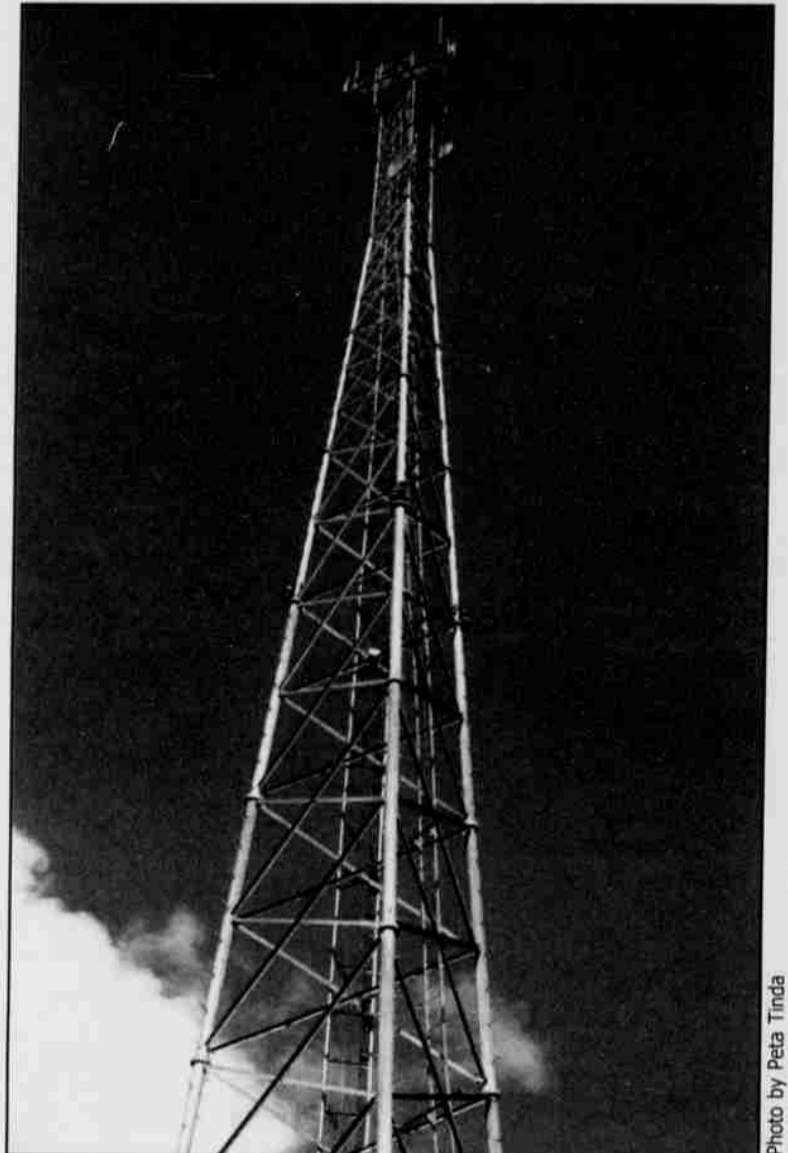


Photo by Peta Tinda

## Golden Bears' Marching Band Features Grand Ronde Tribal Member

■ Angelina Ahedo attends the University of California in Berkeley.

By Peta Tinda

Tribal member Angelina Ahedo is a junior at the University of California in Berkeley. She is the daughter of Gina and Peter Ahedo and granddaughter of Lorene Smith.

Ahedo has played the clarinet for 10 years and is a part of Cal's marching band.

She is an Ethnic and Mass Communication double major and is heavily involved in school activities.

Last year she was the Band Director's Assistant and spent many



hours writing music and teaching other students how to play during halftime shows for football games.

She called this experience one of the most rewarding in her life.

She has attended many conferences, such as the Young Women's Health Conference, The Empowering Women of Color Conference

and the Native American Recruiting Conference.

In her spare time, Ahedo enjoys playing clarinet, reading, salsa dancing and spending time with

*"The importance of family. I want my family to always be involved in my life."*

her family and friends.

She also volunteers at the Native American recruitment and retention center on the Berkeley campus.

She was involved with the Native Student newspaper, before going to study abroad in Spain for the spring 2004 semester.

In the future, Ahedo wants to join the Peace Corps, or attend graduate school on the East Coast.

When asked about what values will guide

her, she said:

"The importance of family. I want my family to always be involved in my life."

## Faith Leads Tribal Member To Pursue Her Education Goals

■ Cyndi Bates attends the University of Phoenix in Tigard.

By Peta Tinda

Cyndi Bates is a Tribal member attending the University of Phoenix in Tigard, Oregon. She is the daughter of William and Delores Parmenter, and the granddaughter of Ray and Thayus Parmenter on her father's side and Domingo and Pauline Lomboy on her mother's side.

Her educational goals include earning her bachelor of science in business management, followed by her master's degree in health or business administration.

After accomplishing these goals, Bates wants to attend a one-year women's ministry course.

She has received help with her education from the Tribal Educa-

tion Department.

She received higher education program fund assistance to help with her tuition, supplies and miscellaneous expenses.

Bates said she would like to thank April Campbell "and all of the employees from the Tribal Education Department who have assisted me in pursuing my goals," said Bates.

Bates is a deeply religious person, saying "My values are directly drawn from my Christian faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior."

She says that she is enjoying school and she believes that it is God's will for her life.

In her time off from her full-time

class schedule, Bates likes to go hiking, watch drag races and enjoys attending church activities.

When she is finished with school, Bates wants to work at a Christian nursing home or Christian assisted living facility as an administrator.

She believes that God has a specific plan for her life.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord," said Bates, quoting directly from Jeremiah 29:11, "...plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

"I would like to encourage everyone to ask Jesus the plans he has for you, then to pursue them."

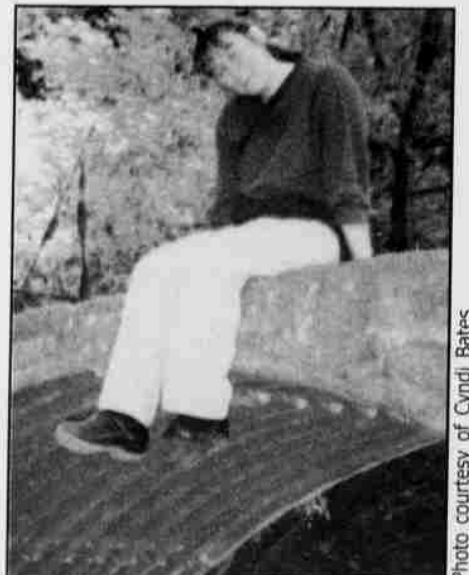


Photo courtesy of Cyndi Bates

Tribal Member Cyndi Bates