



SMOKE SIGNALS

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Mercier, Sell-Sherer and Bobb Sr. Win Tribal Council Seats

■ Two-thirds of slate win as Grand Ronde voters unseat two incumbents



Tribal Elder and newly elected Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. shakes hands with Tribal member Kathryn Coley on Sunday, Sept. 9.

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde voters re-elected Chris Mercier to the 2007-08 Tribal Council and, after a two-year hiatus, re-elected Tribal Elder June Sell-Sherer and gave Tribal Elder and veteran Steve Bobb Sr. his first term.

Vote results of the 2007 Tribal Council election were announced Sunday, Sept. 9.

Mercier, 32, the top vote-getter, received 16.3 percent of the vote, and beat his last election win by 14 votes with 607. Sell-Sherer and Bobb won with almost 15 percent of the vote each, with 548 and 539 votes, respectively.

"I would like to see positive energy for everybody," Bobb, 58, said. "When you have that and the Council can work and get along, I'd like to think that trickles down to everybody."

"If the people running the show are battling it out, that reflects on everybody and everything. Positive energy is coming. And everybody joins in the success that way."

Sell-Sherer, 59, said she was not surprised by the election results.

"I would like to try and see if we can work together in peace and unity," Sell-Sherer said about her immediate goals. "I think there has been a lot of division."

Incumbents Tribal member Angie Blackwell and Tribal Elder Wesley "Buddy" West finished fifth and sixth, securing almost 11 percent and 8 percent of the vote, respectively. Only the top three vote-getters won seats on the council.

Half of the 10 candidates running for Tribal Council teamed up within

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Tribal Members Were Jammín'

■ At the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations, canning industry flourished for several decades

By David Lewis

Cultural Resources Department manager

At the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation, work was difficult to come by.

A few people obtained jobs with the Indian agent around the agency, but the pay was very slim; one-half the pay of white people doing the same job.

The assumption was that Indians would make a living and sustenance in farming their allotments, and that many Indian children would become assimilated enough in boarding schools to leave the reservation and become employed in the surrounding society.

Despite this, many families chose



Unidentified Tribal Elders can on the porch of the Tribal Community Hall in the 1930s in Grand Ronde.

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Tribal Member Promoted in Spokane County Sheriff's Office

■ Spitzer to investigate property crimes in new post

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

A seemingly odd combination of actress Angie Dickinson and Tribal Education Division grants has inspired and helped Tribal member Tamie (Turman) Spitzer become a detective/corporal with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office in eastern Washington state.

More than 10 years ago, Spitzer received an educational grant from the Tribe and earned her associate degree in criminal justice from Spokane Community College in June 1997.

"Being a full-time mother, it was instrumental in getting me

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Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich presents Grand Ronde Tribal member Tamie (Turman) Spitzer with her detective/corporal badge. Spitzer was promoted Aug. 16 from deputy to detective/corporal.