

Friends, Family and Community Members Rally to Benefit Injured Tribal Member

■ Sept. 17 Indian taco fundraiser to benefit Courtney Galligher

By Angie Sears

Smoke Signals staff writer

On July 15, Tribal member Courtney Galligher, 29, was involved in a serious automobile accident.

Her spinal cord was injured and she has spent more than a month in the intensive care unit at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland.

Last week, Galligher was transferred to the Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital, where she will remain for up to 12 weeks.

"Courtney has a good attitude and is working hard," said Leonette Galligher, her mother.

In 1995-96, Courtney represented the Tribe as Senior Miss Grand Ronde, but some may recognize her as the model for the Grand Ronde Veterans' Memorial Statue located outside the Tribal Governance Building.

In 2002, she graduated from the nursing program at Chemeketa Community College and transferred to OHSU to continue her education.

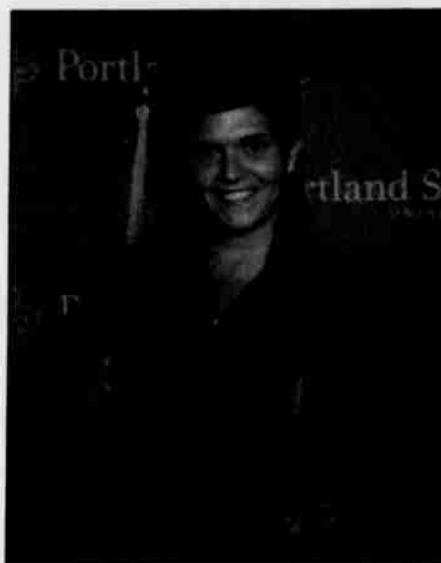
Later, she transferred to Portland State University to pursue a bachelor of science degree in community health. She graduated

in June, just a few weeks before the accident.

"I have a picture of Courtney holding her diploma," Leonette said. "It was the last thing she did."

A group of family, friends and community members are raising money to help Courtney and her family.

The group will hold an Indian taco, fry bread and bake sale fundraiser at the Grand Ronde Community Center from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17. ■



▶ Tribal member Courtney Galligher

Half of Candidates Ran on Slates

ELECTION continued from front page

"slates" for voting. This year, the slate of Sell-Sherer, Bobb and Tribal Elder Bernadine Shriver brought success to two candidates, and Shriver, who received almost 11 percent (401) of the vote, finished fourth.

The slate of Tribal Elders Dean Mercier and West did not help in their election efforts as both candidates finished the bottom half of the 10-person field.

Mercier was part of a slate when he came into office three years ago, but ran alone this year. Still, he continues to hold the other members of his former slate in high esteem.

"I'm really going to miss Angie and Buddy. I think they brought a lot to the Tribe," he said. "When Angie, Buddy and I got elected three years ago, the thing we stood for was 'communication.'"

Mercier added that improving communication is not something he can check off as finished.

"It's an on-going process," he said. "I'm looking forward to having another term because I think there are still ways



Newly elected Tribal Council members were sworn in Sept. 12 in the atrium of the Governance Building. Chief Judge Suzanne Ojibway Townsend reads the oath of office to Steve Bobb Sr. as June Sell-Sherer and Chris Mercier look on.

to improve communication, and we've got a lot of resources at our disposal."

"This is the fourth straight year where people who won are part of slates," Mercier said. "I think a lot of it is that people look at slates as standing for something."

Bobb said he also sees slates as pro-

moting "some important consensus" among all who run with it.

"I think that we all wanted the same thing, to get some unity back within the council," Bobb said. "So that we all get along at the end of the day. You're still family. That's the way it is with us."

"Our goal is to unify the Tribe," Sell-Sherer added.

The process of building a slate has made the goal of winning a Tribal election more complex and time-consuming, according to Mercier.

"The level of organization needed in an election continues to get higher," Mercier said.

Tribal Elder and former Tribal Council member Val Grout said she was pleased with the results.

"I'm happy with it," Grout said from her home in Grand Meadows. "I'm hoping there'll be no us and them, just a straight council. I hope they'll make it a body of one, not separated."

Tribal Elder Louise Madieros said, "I'm very, very excited (by the results). Thumbs up. Now, I'm telling people, 'If you don't talk to the council, they don't know what you're thinking.'"

More than one-third of eligible Tribal voters (37.4 percent) participated in the 2007 election. The turnout was similar to previous years' tallies. In 2003, 37 percent

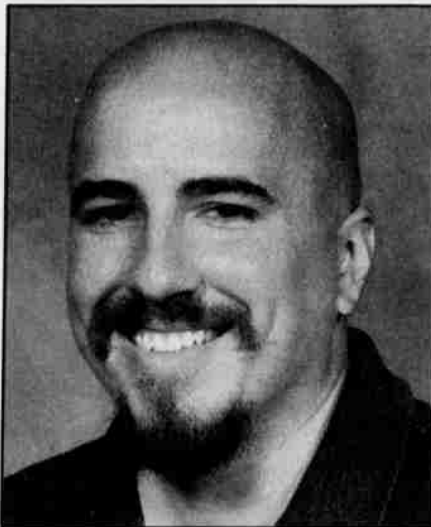
voted; in 2004, 41 percent voted; in 2005, 34 percent voted; and in 2006, 36 percent voted.

On Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 11 a.m. in the Governance Building Atrium, Tribal Court Chief Judge Suzanne Ojibway Townsend swore in the winners to serve their three-year terms on the Tribal Council.

Later that afternoon, the Tribal Council met and elected its officers for the 2007-08 year.

Tribal Elder Cheryl Kennedy was elected chairwoman and Elder Reyn Leno was named vice chair.

Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr. remains in that post. ■



Chris Mercier



June Sell-Sherer

Unofficial election results of the 2007 Grand Ronde Tribal Election are:

*Chris Mercier	.....	607	(16.3 percent)
June Sell-Sherer	....	548	(14.72 percent)
Steven Bobb Sr.	.....	539	(14.48 percent)
Bernadine Shriver	...	401	(10.77 percent)
*Angie Blackwell	.....	400	(10.74 percent)
Andy Jenness	.....	315	(8.46 percent)
*Wesley West	.....	291	(7.82 percent)
Dean Mercier	.....	262	(7.04 percent)
Loretta Knight	.....	190	(5.1 percent)
Michael Haller	.....	170	(4.57 percent)

* denotes an incumbent

Infographic created by George Valdez

Photos by Toby McClary