

Letters

Dear *Smoke Signals*:

My name is Aubrey Leno. I live away from the area and spend my summers with my aunt and uncle. I entered the Summer Youth Program and worked in our beautiful Tribal library with Marion Mercier and I really enjoyed working there.

I am 14 years old and I'm beginning my first year of high school. Entering my freshman year has sparked my thoughts as to what I want to be or do after I graduate. As a proud Tribal member, I would love to work for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, but lately I have had some doubts.

I have heard accusations towards my family and friends that are starting to make me see that maybe the Tribe isn't the right place for me to work; for fear that I might also experience that kind of negativity and harassment. I feel that people need to see that this kind of rude behavior is offensive to many people and could drive them away from a future at the Tribe.

Aubrey Leno
Roll #3459

Dear *Smoke Signals*:

I am writing to you just to say a few things. I am currently incarcerated in Coffee Creek and I read every *Smoke Signals* I receive, and it really has affected me with all the letters and rude stuff made to the Leno family.

I cannot understand why everyone can't get along. We are supposed to bring our nations together and support one another. As I read the letters to Tribal members and *Smoke Signals*, it really saddens me to see how all of our people just can't get along.

I would just like everyone to see there is really no need for all of this dysfunction. Tomorrow is not guaranteed and you never know what could happen to family, friends and loved ones, so why not try? Try to get along with others, especially in our nations.

Even all of us who are locked up from the "real world" get along. We have our circle and any and every time we come together is very special to each and every one of us. From prison to prison, we keep our faith and our support is there for one another. So why can't all of you out there in the "real world" support one another and give each other the courage to move forward with life?

I hope one day we can all come together and fully support each other.

Kristie Jeffers
Roll #1896

Dear *Smoke Signals*:

I was reading all the letters in *Smoke Signals* and noticed that people are still talking about something that happened awhile ago.

I never received this letter regarding the Lenos and I don't really know them, but I do know one thing; this is not the way we were all raised. We were not raised to talk badly of each other, but to love one another because "each other" is all we have.

And I am not just talking about the writers of slanderous letters, I'm talking about the people who are hating those writers. It may have hurt some close friends of yours or even family members, maybe even yourself, but if whatever was said is not true then it doesn't matter, does it? Let it go because holding grudges only hurts you in the long run.

We have always been a very peaceful people and I for one would like to keep it that way, if not for the sake of us adults, for the sake of the next generation; my children's generation. If we continue with all this hate, what are we teaching the future leaders of our people?

Barbara J. Weatherall
Roll #3257

Attention Parents and primary caregivers of Grand Ronde children with disabilities, special needs, or extra challenges:

We are creating a support group for parents and caregivers of Grand Ronde children with special needs. We will first begin an e-mail and telephone contact list and later we will be coordinating meetings with the group.

If your child, grandchild, foster child, etc. has extra challenges (medically, emotionally, or developmentally) and you would like to collaborate and share resources with other parents, please send your contact information in an e-mail to: lewis.dan@comcast.net or call us at 503-566-3093.

Thank you,

David (2741) and Donna Lewis

parents to Saghalie (5132) and Inatye (5323)

Ad created by George Valdez

Open for comment

Right to Work Ordinance

The Tribal Council, in consultation with the Tribal Attorney's Office, is considering adoption of a Right to Work Ordinance. The proposed Ordinance was given a First Reading at the Aug. 13, 2008, Tribal Council Meeting.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to ensure the right of persons to work and pursue employment on the Reservation without the restraints of mandatory membership in, or payment of dues, fees or other financial support to a labor organization.

For a copy of the proposed Right to Work Ordinance please contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. The Tribal Council invites comment on the Ordinance. Please send your comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347.

Comments must be received by Oct. 1, 2008.

Financial Wellness support group starts

The Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority is sponsoring a Financial Wellness support group that will start meeting weekly at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays on Sept. 4 in the Housing Authority conference room.

The support group will discuss, share and learn ways to stretch dollars and protect the money participant's make.

The group will be informal and will decide on the topic to be discussed and researched each week. The Housing Authority has computers and worksheets to help people develop and track spending plans.

For more information, call Deborah Kroeker at 503-879-4522 or send her an e-mail at deborah.kroeker@grandronde.org. ■

Elder Foster Program

"A Place To Call Home"



The Tribe's Elder Foster Care lodges are committed to offering quality care to our Elders and helping them remain as independent as possible, while providing the personalized assistance they need. At our lodges, a wide range of services is available in a comfortable setting where privacy is respected and maximum independence is supported. For information, contact the Elder Foster Program director, at 503-879-1694.

SAVE THE DATE!

Chankal Celebration

Saturday,

September 20, 11-3

Salem, Oregon

