

SILETZ NEWS



Siletz News
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Siletz Indians
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Alfred "Bud" Lane III gives a speech during the Buffett Award ceremony as other award nominees look on. (photo by Brent Merrill)

Gordon Named Employee of the Year

by Laurel V. Johnson

With tribal employees coming together on Dec. 7 for the Winter All-Staff meeting held at Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City, the highlight of the day was the Incentive Awards presentation. This year's Employee of the Year award went to Outpatient Counselor Sandy Gordon, who retired this past month after 11 years of service to the Siletz Tribe.

As introduced by Tribal General Manager Brenda Bremner, Sandy has provided more than 11 years of outstanding service to the tribal community. She has consistently gone beyond what are the normally expected job duties of a counselor.

She has gone to court with and for clients; visited them in hospitals, jails and at home; and has given gift bags when baby are born. These are among the many ways Sandy has gone the extra mile for the people she has served.

Most importantly, she has been a counselor who listens and cares,



Sandy Gordon (right) accepts congratulations from Brenda Bremner. (photo by Laurel V. Johnson)

See Gordon on page 6.

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"Knowledge Allows Us to See Further"

Siletz Tribal Council Member Bud Lane Nominated for 2007 Buffett Award

by Brent Merrill

Siletz Tribal Council member Alfred "Bud" Lane III was recently nominated for the prestigious Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership for his leadership in the Tribal community and his work with saving Tribal languages.

This year's 7th Annual Buffett Awards dinner was held in Portland, Ore., and hosted by Ecotrust. For the past six years, The Buffett Award has recognized Tribal leaders for their drive as catalysts for better conditions in their communities.

Also nominated this year were Carol Craig (Yakama), Dr. Michael Pavel (Skokomish), and Lillian Moyer (Tahltan). The winner of this year's award was Roberta "Bobbie" Conner of the Umatilla Tribe. Conner was honored for her work representing the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation as a community and national leader, museum director, curator, speaker and author.

"Culture brings us together," said Conner. "Culture reflects our values. It's what we hold closest to our hearts and cling to in times of need."

Lane attended the dinner in Portland on Nov. 29 with his family and spoke to the audience about the importance of his work in saving and teaching ancient Tribal languages. He was honored as a finalist for focusing his time on strengthening cultural activities through basket weaving, teaching the Athabaskan language and helping construct the Siletz Dance House and restoring many ceremonial activities.

"Knowledge allows us to see further," said Lane.

In 2003, Lane left his job at the local paper mill to accept a position created within the Tribe as a Language and Traditional Arts Instructor. Since

See Lane on page 6.

Storm Damages Tribal Properties with Wind, Rain

by Diane Rodriguez

Tribal members on the Central Oregon Coast survived wind gusts of 125 miles per hour and pounding rain in early December as two winter storms moved through the area in a two-day period.

In addition to rain and wind, area residents survived power outages of a few hours to a few days, lack of both cell

See Storm on page 13.