

Kevin Goodell: One man helping many

By Andy Taylor

Kevin Goodell is one of four children born to Joyce and the late David Goodell Jr. Kevin served as a U.S. Marine, active duty 1981-1984 and inactively until 1987, then was honorably discharged. He's a devoted husband to Kim Goodell and a proud father of five.

Unfortunately a battle with addiction led to his being sentenced to prison from 2005-2007. Getting out on parole, having lost his house and neglecting making a plan, he fell back into his previous lifestyle. In late 2009, sitting at his rock bottom, Kevin made a realistic plan for sobriety.

He called Kim and told her to move now, to leave Lincoln County altogether. "If we had stayed here I would have gone back to it all. We had to leave," he said. Kim packed all their belongings and moved into her dad's garage in Portland.

During this time, Kevin used the prison's in-patient treatment to help him to stay drug-free. With high test scores, he earned his GED and asked Katy Holland, education specialist at the Tribe's Portland Area Office (PAO), for help getting to col-

lege. His classes started shortly after his release in December 2010.

Katy connected him with the 477 Self-Sufficiency Program, which gave him General Assistance to buy clothes and bus passes. He participated in the Alcohol & Drug Program (A&D) and got outpatient treatment support. He credits Katy, Anna, Sherry and Verdene from PAO, saying, "We'd be lost without all of their help. I'm so grateful for everyone at the Portland office."

Kevin graduated Phi Beta Kappa, an honor roll student with an associate degree and a welding certification. Getting a job was extremely difficult since most employers weren't willing to overlook his criminal history. Still uneasy about coming to Siletz, he was hired in December 2012 as a Natural Resources crewman and was promoted to crew foreman in October 2015.

To avoid the commute between home in Portland and his job, Kevin slept at his parents' house in Siletz, going home on weekends. Later he was offered a room at the Men's TLC (transitional living center)

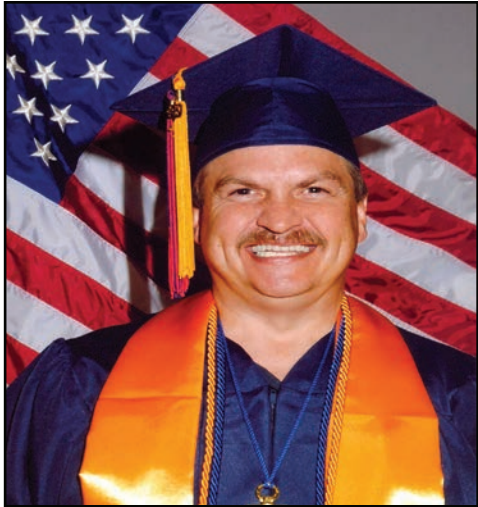
and in exchange, they asked him to assist the residents. Kevin accepted with delight.

Committed to helping others, he picked up TLC residents after work and took them shopping, to GED class and NA/AA groups, or stayed up with someone needing support. This continued until he left the TLC in December 2016. He again is staying with his mom on weekdays.

Future plans of homeownership are on hold until Kevin and Kim's student loans and other debts are paid. "I can't believe after all these years, my choices are still following me. This process is so hard, but 100 percent worth it. If you really want to make a change in your life, do it. Use the programs, they're here to help you," he said.

Kim and Kevin defined his parents as "the most unconditional love we could have ever imagined. I'm so thankful, I love my parents. I couldn't have done it without my mom's continual love and support!"

Since being released, everything has changed. "Life is a gift," he said, talking about how consciously making good



File photo

Kevin Goodell

choices led to reunification with family members. After 10 years together and against all odds, Kevin proposed to Kim and the two were married Dec. 6, 2013.

Kevin spends his time volunteering with the veterans Color Guard, helping at Culture Camp and going to every Tribal activity he can.

He was determined to change his life and make new marks on his community as someone people love. This is exactly what he's done.



Culture in the Park
Portland and Salem Area
Offices
July-August, 2018

Photo by Andrew Johanson

Several youth display their baskets prior to a planned swim, but the smoky air in mid-August from the multitude of wildfires in the West caused the swim to be canceled.

Photos by Marnie Griffin

Below: Sasha Griffin (left), Danikah Washington and Malaysia Griffen enjoy a dip in the Sellwood Pool in Portland.

Right: Summer intern Marnie Griffin (left) and summer TYEE worker Alanna Peevy take time out for a selfie.

