

Business

Entrepreneur of the Month: Clyde Stryker

By Tracy Olson

Tribal member, Clyde Stryker of Sherwood Oregon has owned Spirit Communications since 1993. He also owns Spirit Furnishings. He and his wife, Gretchen operate the business from their home.

Spirit Communications is a voice and data insulation company. The Strykers are in the business of installing and maintaining these systems for commercial and private use.

Their broad customer base includes such companies as Textronix, the City of Eugene, Valley Insurance and all the K-Mart and Payless stores in Oregon and Washington.

Clyde was one of the founding partners of Data Devices, a company which has grossed ten million annually in sales. When Clyde separated from Data Devices, he took his expertise in systems with him to develop his present company.

Voice and data installation can include fiber optic cable, data network cabling and wiring, voice processing products and the sales and service of telephone systems.

Spirit Communications employees seven people who are trained to be price competitive with other



Clyde Stryker with one of several company vehicles.

agencies.

"One of the reasons I started this business was to create job opportunities for Indian people. For those who are interested in this trade, training is available," said Clyde.

Clyde is interested in training tribal members in a 2 or 4 year apprenticeship program.

"Once a person receives a

Journeyman license, he or she can go to work for anyone in the state," he said.

Clyde has utilized Small Business Development in his efforts to get a loan from the BIA and set up his business plan.

"Mitch Conley and Elaine Moore were most helpful in giving advice on how to structure my business."

Tribal member business registry

Tribal member businesses wanting to bid on projects with Spirit Mountain Development Corporation will need to be registered with the Small Business Development Department of the Tribe. As a registered Grand Ronde tribal business, participants will receive all tribal and Spirit Mountain Development RFPs (request for proposals) and bid requests. (Keep in mind that Spirit Mountain Development Corporation will not accept bids from tribally-owned business not registered.) Small Business Development will assist tribal members in meeting the bonding and insurance requests per bid specifications. Start-up businesses can receive planning assistance to qualify for future tribal business projects. Any Grand Ronde tribal member owned business can register by contacting the Small Business Development staff members: Mitch Conley, Shelley Hanson, Elaine Moore, or Debby Childers at 1-800-422-0232.

Computer class schedule

WORD FOR WINDOWS: Offered July 7, 2-4 p.m. and July 21, 2-4 p.m.

WORKS: Offered July 13, 1-4 p.m.

BASIC COMPUTERS: Offered July 13, 6-8 p.m.

PRINT SHOP DELUXE: Offered July 14, 2-4 p.m.

QUICK BOOKS: Offered July 20, 1-4 p.m.

All classes held at the Business Development Center. Monthly seminars will be halted until September.

Tribal artist wins contest

Lon Mercier, of Mercier Fine Art, recently became one of the winners of the 1995 Native American Artist Calendar contest sponsored by Heritage Printing, Inc. Mercier's egg tempera painting will be featured in the calendar on the month of July. Calendars will be available for sale August 15. For ordering information, call 1-800-364-7615.

Survey reminder

Small Business Development mailed a survey to all clients asking for input on the monthly seminars. It would be very helpful to have them returned with date and time ideas. Please return them.

Education

Summer School to begin this month

This year's summer school program will begin July 11, and run through July 29th. The first week will be video/film instruction with the Northwest Film Center for middle school/high school age children. The age range could be lowered if participation in the targeted range is not sufficient to complete the project.

The second week will be a combination video/film preschool/kindergarten and parent program. Educational activities will be conducted for the children and their

parents. Positive parenting will be modeled and encouraged of all adult participants. The video/film participants will then film the parent/child interactions. It is hoped that the final video can be used in parent and child care provider trainings.

The third and final week of the summer education program will be for children, grades 1-5. Some activities planned include Chinook Jargon classes, Cedar Bark presentation, weaving, and career

development presentations and exercises.

All of the summer program activities, as outlined, will operate throughout the morning and be concluded with lunch, except for the scheduled field trips. For more information, call the tribal education office and ask for Shawn Hostler or CeCe Kneeland.

The final week's schedule will be as follows:

Monday through Friday:

8-8:30 a.m.: breakfast

8:30-9 a.m.: Chinook Jargon class
On Monday and Tuesday a craft class will be offered, followed by games, career presentations, prevention activities, and lunch.

Thursday and Friday the children will learn about Cedar Bark, followed by sign language classes, and lunch. Wednesday is reserved for a field trip to an Indian Village in the coastal town of Florence. Career presentations will feature tribal employees who come to the summer school and talk to the kids about their jobs, education, and what they do for the Tribe. Parents are encouraged to sign up their children today!



Wendi Spencer gives certificates to the participants of the Johnson O'Malley Program.



EDUCATION HONOR DINNER: Shelley Hanson was one of several scholarship recipients for the 1994-95 school year. She will be working towards her Master's next year. She thanks Dean Azule at the Honor Dinner.