

Business

Clyde Stryker receives national attention

Grand Ronde tribal member, Clyde Stryker, owner of *Spirit Communications* in Sherwood, Oregon has been appointed to the White House Conference on Small Business. As one of 8 representatives from Oregon, Clyde will meet with the small business owners to carry their concerns to President Clinton at the White House. Since his appointment, Clyde has made several trips around the state to meet with tribal leaders, and Native American business owners to discuss issues hindering small business development in the State and in Indian country.

The White House Conference on Small Business was created as a communication mechanism between small business owners and the President and his chief advisors. Small businesses are currently the number one employer of Americans, so the success of entrepreneurial ventures is critical to the U.S. economy. The May 16, 1995 issue of *Inc.* magazine highlights U.S. small business activity. In 1990 there were 8.8 million self-employed Americans; a 54% increase from 1975. U.S. small businesses account for more than one-half of the sales of all goods and services in the U.S. and create 2 out of 3 new jobs. Given the current impact of small business on the U.S. economy, President Clinton is prudent to begin looking at business activity.

Clyde recently attended a regional delegate meeting in San Francisco, and will go to Washington, DC in July. Conference delegates will meet with President Clinton and his staff at the White House.

Clyde began *Spirit Communications* in 1994. The company specializes in data and telecommunications networks. The company currently employs over 20 people, and is growing daily. In addition to growing his new company, Clyde is setting up the Oregon American Indian Chamber of Commerce. If you are interested in small business issues, contact Clyde at 503-628-0257.

Home-based business specialist hired

Small Business Development has a new smiling face. Sanda (please call her Sam) Henny, formerly with Spirit Mountain Development Corporation has taken the Home-Based Business Specialist position within the department. Sam is a talented painter, and is enthusiastic about developing an arts and crafts market for Grand Ronde craftspeople.

Sam has over 15 years of small business experience, and is an ONABEN Greenhouse program graduate. She was with *Henny and Sons Nursery* for over 18 years. As the office manager, Sam was responsible for procurement, accounting, and sales. Sam brings a great deal of problem solving skills, and enthusiasm to her new position.

Within the next couple of months, Sam will be conducting a survey to determine the areas of expertise, and the challenges facing Grand Ronde arts and crafts people. If you are active in arts and crafts, be sure to respond, so that your needs can be considered in the planning process. Sam will work with Tribal members to: (1) develop markets to sell arts and craft items, (2) develop wholesale supply sources, and (3) develop an arts and crafts retail outlet.

Welcome to Small Business Development, Sam!

Elaine Moore, SBD Division Manager

Elaine Moore, formerly Small Business Development Specialist, has been named the new Division Manager. Before coming to Grand Ronde, Elaine owned and operated a commercial fishing boat for over 20 years, and has worked for several of the Washington tribes. Elaine worked at the Lower Elwa Tribe as General Manager and the Squaxin Tribe as the Social Services Director.

Elaine has been with Small Business Development for 3 years, and her area of expertise is accounting and taxes. She has assisted tribal member-owned businesses in setting up and maintaining computerized accounting systems, inventory management and cash management systems, and with taxation issues.



Entrepreneur of the Month

Joann Mercier

By Tracy Dugan

Joann Mercier is entrepreneur of the month. She owns *White Buffalo Trading Post*, a craft and beadwork home-based business.

Joann, who is well-known for her beadwork in Grand Ronde, will take orders for earrings, jewelry, breastplates, chokers, dream catchers, talking feathers, medicine wheels, and craft supplies.

White Buffalo has been in business for nearly eight years. "Christmas and pow-wow season are my busiest times of the year," she said. "People want regalia and gift items."

Currently, Joann is working as an Employment and Training Counselor for the Tribe, as well as going to school on nights and weekends. "My crafts are really an important part of my life," she said. "I wish I had more time to devote to it."

Joann has been doing traditional Native crafts for twenty years. She learned how to bead right after her oldest son was born, and they were living in Eugene. "A woman named Wilma Crowe taught me," Joann said. "I always admired everything she did. Her work seemed perfect to me."

When Joann began to sell her beadwork, she decided to save up for a tipi, and put all



of her profits into achieving that goal. When she bought one, she assembled it in her yard, and named it Wilma. It was a very popular place for her children and their friends to sleep and camp in. One day, a sleeping bag caught on fire, and Wilma burned down.

Joann has since owned many tipis, but none that had the special significance as the first one she saved so long for.

Many of Joann's crafts have been displayed for sale at local businesses. Currently, she has some items at the *Busy Hands* craft store in Grand Ronde. She usually receives many calls from interested people, who see her work on display.

In addition to *White Buffalo Trading Post*, Joann also owns *Executive Limousine Service*. She owns one limo, has a hired driver, and rents out the car for weddings, proms, or just nights on the town.

If you are interested in contacting Joann about crafts, beadwork, or the limousine service, please call her at 879-5551.

Education, continued from page 5

1994-95 Academic Year Graduates

EDUCATION TRUST FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Pete Wakeland: Oregon State University, B.S. School of Forestry
Chadwick Stryker: Oregon State University, B.S. School of Engineering

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Dana Leno: Oregon State University, B.S. Home Economics of Family Development
Delight Satter: University of Washington, B.A. Anthropology
Lisa Leno: Oregon State University, B.S. Home Economics of Family Development
Eric Jordan: Dartmouth College, B.A. Liberal Arts

ADULT VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Rose Marie Dilling: Phagan's School of Beauty, Certificate of Hair Design/Cosmetology

HIGH SCHOOL

Jason Mercier: Willamina High School
Chris Bailey: Willamina High School
Dustin Leno: Willamina High School
Celeste Wolf: Willamina High School

Justin Phillips: Tillamook High School
Rebecca Gilliam: La Creole High School
Treena Connelly: Willamina High School
Amber Finney: Pateros High School

8th GRADE

Jenny Bailey: Willamina Middle School
Amelia Haug: Willamina Middle School
Brianna Leno: Willamina Middle School
Joe Mercier: Willamina Middle School
Brandon Robertson: Willamina Middle School

Levi Leibelt: Willamina Middle School
Billy Deloe: Neah-Kah-nie Jr. High
Justin Leno: Tillamook Jr. High
Nick Bailey: Willamina Middle School
Dustin Billings: Willamina Middle School
Jamie Clark: Chapman Middle School

An Honors Recognition Reception will be held for all of the Graduates at the Tribal Community Center on June 16 at 5:30 p.m. Please plan to attend.