

Employee honored



Vernon Kennedy, an employee of the Human Services Division -- Wellness Component, was honored with a "Family Service" Award. Caroline Cruz from the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs for the State commended Vernon for his work with children and families in areas of education, culture, recreation, and healthy life style skills.

Talking circle; Alateen for kids

Wellness is sponsoring these activities to be held every Wednesday.

Alateen will be from 4 to 5 p.m. and is offered to any child that is 12 years of age or older. Transportation will be provided from Grand Ronde Elementary School.

Talking Circle is held from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Community Center. This is open to any age child — tribal or non-tribal — and will include drumming.

For more information on these activities mentioned, please call Pearl at 879-2049 or Vernon at 879-2027.

U.S.D.A. DISTRIBUTION

— SALEM —

December 2: 3 to 7:30 p.m.

December 3: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

December 4: Noon to 8 p.m.

— SILETZ —

December 17, 18, and 19

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tribe hires Employment Coordinator

By Tracy Dugan

The Tribe has established a brand new position in the Human Resources department for the purpose of providing employment services to tribal members who wish to work for the Tribe, Casino or elsewhere in the community.

The Tribal Employment Coordinator is **Connie Holmes**, and she will be responsible for working with tribal members and tribal employees in assessing their skills, interests and employment needs, career counseling, and working with other local agencies to provide employment opportunities to members.

"Some clients may have many skills, and they just need job placement services," said Connie. "But others may have certain barriers they have to overcome before they can obtain employment."

Connie works closely with programs such as Vocational Rehabilitation and the JOBS Program in order to take a more holistic approach to assisting tribal members.

She also receives referrals from Spirit Mountain Casino concerning tribal members wishing to obtain employment when ineligible to work at the Casino.

Sometimes the clients need only help with writing a resume and cover letter or help with interview skills.

Connie said there are many people out there who haven't been through a formal interview process in a long time, and just need a refresher course.

"Hopefully in the spring we will have a new computerized system where all clients names and employment data can be matched up to current job openings," said Connie. She also wants to set up career counseling, a Job Shadow, and an intern-



Connie Holmes

ship program for people who want hands-on experience in the field they are interested in.

"I also hope to work with Education to set up some training programs." Connie is interested in starting off with training programs covering interpersonal skills, interviewing techniques, and conflict resolution.

"Some clients may have many skills, and just need job placement services," said Connie.

Also a student at George Fox College in Newberg, Connie is working toward a degree in Management and Organizational Leadership.

If you are a tribal member in need of employment services, please call Connie at 1-800-422-0232, or (503) 879-2267.

Housing awards improvement contracts

The Housing Department sent out bid requests to contractors for work on two different home improvement projects in November.

1 The first job was a residence in need of major rehabilitation to plumbing, electrical heating, widows and doors, cabinets, interior and exterior paint, and sheetrock, as well as a new roof. Eight contractors picked up bid packets, and three submitted bids. They were: Eagle Feather Construction — \$31,175; Ken Schmid Construction, Inc. — \$29,750; Yost Construction — \$29,250.

Yost Construction was awarded the job, because they submitted the lowest bid.

2 The second home rehabilitation job was similar. The work includes repair to the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, new doors and windows, sheetrock, floor coverings, and a new roof. Eight contractors picked up packets, and four submitted proposals. They were: Yost Construction — \$26,545; M.J. West Construction — \$33,000; Eagle Feather Construction — \$34,900; Ken Schmid Construction, Inc. — \$32,000. Again, Yost Construction submitted the lowest bid and awarded the job.



This year the Great American Smokeout was held all day at the Casino's Banquet Room, which included participants from both the Casino and the tribe's main offices. If you want to quit smoking, please call Linda Mann, the Tribe's Dental Hygienist at 879-2012 or 1-800-422-0232.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR: Goodies, crafts, jewelry and clothes were among the items sold at the Tribe's annual Christmas Bazaar last month.