

Young Hero:

Ten-year old saves cousins from fire

By Brent Merrill

Lea Pratt is a hero. Lea, 10, was watching three younger cousins at her grandfather's house when a fire started; a fire that eventually consumed the house and burned it to the ground.

Tribal member Kim Contreras told the story of her brave niece with pride.

Contreras said Lea was attending Willamina Elementary School, in the fifth grade, until she recently moved to the Hoopa Reservation in California.

"She (Lea) was playing Nintendo with her nine year-old cousin when they spotted smoke in the house," said Contreras. "Lea said 'come on, come on, lets go' and the smoke was already so thick that they had to crawl."

Lea rounded up the other cousins and tried unsuccessfully to get out the front door.

"They crawled into the kitchen to the back door," said Contreras. "The back door wouldn't open, so she had to kick it. She kicked four times and on the fourth time she finally kicked it open and she ran out with the kids. She had a 14 month-old baby, a four year old and the nine year old."

Once Lea got the kids outside, she alerted her aunt, who was in the shower at the time.

"They yelled to her 'the house is on fire, the house is on fire' and when she (Lea's aunt) opened the bathroom door, there were flames so she had to climb out the bathroom window," said Contreras.

Contreras said the bathroom window was very small and by the time



Lea Pratt's quick thinking saved the lives of four family members.

the aunt got out of the house, flames were at her feet.

"She barely made it," said Contreras. "The house burned down to the ground. Thank God Lea was able to kick the door down."

"She is a hero," said Contreras. "She didn't panic. We are proud of her."

Contreras said Lea learned about fire evacuation procedures from a special fire safety assembly at Willamina Elementary.

Sadly, all of Lea's Christmas presents were burned in the fire.

Smoke Signals is starting a fund to replace Lea's Christmas gifts. If you are interested in contributing, contact Tracy Dugan or Justin Phillips at 1-800-422-0232, extension 2190.

SPOUSAL INSURANCE NOTICE

OFFERED ONLY ONCE THIS YEAR!

Members who wish their non-tribal member spouses to be considered for insurance need to call Valorie Sheker or Amy Justen at 1-800-442-0346 so that information may be mailed to you. Remember, this insurance will be offered to Elder spouses only.

IMPORTANT: Applications will be accepted until January 25, 2000 for a retroactive start date of January 1, 2000. If your application is not received by January 25, the next available enrollment date is January 1, 2001.

ENROLL BY JANUARY 25

New receptionist promoting healthy smiles at the clinic

By Tracy Dugan

Toni Stahl has been working as the dental receptionist for only six weeks, and already has gotten to know tribal members, spent more time with friends, and sees relatives on a regular basis.

The daughter of Charlene and tribal member Tom LaChance, Toni grew up in Dayton and has lived there her whole life.

Now married and the mother of a three-year old son, Toni is happy to have a chance to be near other tribal members, and says the reception area for the dental office is good place to be.

"I get to see friends and family every day," she said. "My brother works in maintenance, and it's been great to be around him more."

Toni is not new to working in a health care setting. Before coming to work at the clinic, she worked at Providence Internal Medicine in Newberg, where a lot of clients were senior citizens. She also attended



Toni Stahl

Chemeketa Community College in Salem, where she studied medical assisting. She said she likes her new job duties.

"I greet patients, make appointments, handle all phone calls, and work on data entry — entering information in the computer," she said.

To contact Toni for a dental appointment, call 879-2020, or 1-800-775-0095.

Interested in working toward the completion of your G.E.D. certificate?

EARN YOUR G.E.D.

Tutoring can be arranged for Mondays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please call Susan at 1-800-422-0232 or 879-2282.

U.S.D.A. FOOD DISTRIBUTION

— SILETZ —

Jan. 10, 11, 12 and 13: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

— SALEM —

Jan. 24: 4 to 7 p.m.
Jan. 25: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Jan. 26: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information: contact Kitty at Siletz 1-800-922-1399, #279

JAN. 17
Happy 6th Birthday little granddaughter **JAMIE**
Love you much Grandpa & Grandma Mom & Dad and bothers

Pharmacy change

Effective Monday, January 17, the clinic pharmacy will close daily from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Triage Clinic Grand Opening



Wednesday, Jan. 19
10 am to Noon
Clinic Atrium
Refreshments Served

The Triage Clinic is an urgent care service for patients without an appointment. **Come in and check us out!**

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION WORKSHOP

Friday, January 21 from 9 am to 2 pm
Tribal Community Center
Lunch will be provided

- Topics covered will be:
- * Federal Financial Aid application
 - * How to write a successful scholarship application
 - * The college admissions process
 - * Tribal Education programs

- This workshop is for:
- * High school juniors & seniors
 - * Continuing college students
- TO SIGN UP: please call the tribal Education office at 879-2284.

To Frank Szczepanski

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A WONDERFUL HUSBAND AND FATHER!

LOVE ELEANOR, CRYSTAL, GLENN AND CASSIE