

# New Information Systems Technician Is "Here To Help"

By Peta Tinda

Tanner Fish is the new Help Desk Technician for the Tribe's Information Systems Department.

He grew up in Oregon, but moved around a lot. He attended high school in Redmond and now lives in Salem.

After high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he served a nine-year stint as a Computer Maintenance and Network Technician.

"I'm basically here to help," he said. "When someone calls I come in and assess the situation to see what I can do. I fix printers or any other problems people have with their computers."

He is a certified Microsoft Systems Administrator.

He originally enlisted in the Marines to work on avionics for F/A-18 fighter jets and then transferred over to the computer job.

"I really enjoy working on computers," he said. "Because it's so challenging. It's very rarely ever the same — there's always something new to figure out."

When he was in the Marines, Fish moved around frequently, like a lot of servicemen.

He went to boot camp in Memphis, Tennessee and then was stationed in Lamore, California then Miramar, California before being sent to Iwakuni, Japan located just south of Hiroshima, for an additional six months.

Then he was stationed briefly in Athens, Georgia. Soon afterwards, he was transferred to Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic located just above Afghanistan, where he worked on computers and served as a liaison between the Ma-



Photo by Peta Tinda

**Tanner Fish**

rines and the Air Force.

Kyrgyzstan was absorbed into Russia after World War II and was controlled by the USSR for over 75 years. After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the country emerged as a democratic state. The country is dominated by a massive mountain range and the majority of the population is descendant of nomadic Turkic peoples that roamed Central Asia for centuries.

"The coolest thing in Kyrgyzstan was the capital city — Bishkek," he said. "Which during the Afghan-Soviet war, was a base for Soviet bombers, who would go bomb the Afghans — it was kind of ironic, since that was the same thing we were doing," he said. "The Soviets built the city

when they were there and it must have been really beautiful. Nowadays it looks like some post-apocalyptic scene — the buildings are falling apart, all the streets have huge potholes, because there's no one to take care of them."

While in the city, Fish and his fellow soldiers would volunteer to work with the Habitat for Humanity teams that were there, building houses and schools.

"They (the Kyrgyzstanis) were always so thankful and very appreciative of our help. We'd stop in the middle of the day and have lunch and they would share their lunch with us. — If you can imagine pouring sidewalks with no cement mixer — we'd dump it into a wheelbarrow and mix it with shovels, then try to hurry up and lay it down. It was like working in the most primitive circumstances. We'd get back to base and be dead tired, but that was the coolest thing about being over there," he said.

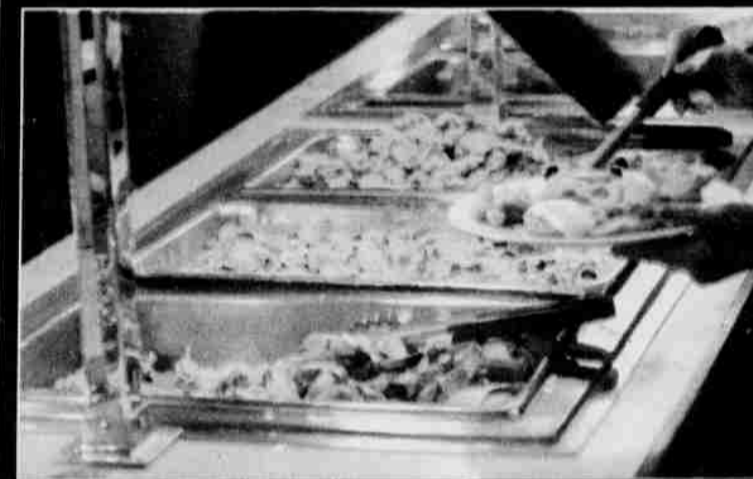
Fish got out of the Marines in May of 2003, and was hired by the Tribe six months later.

He says that the job he did while enlisted and his current position is very similar.

"The job is basically the same. I deal with different systems, but it's mostly the same — I answer trouble calls, go out and assist people, that kind of thing."

Fish said that he looks forward to helping people with whatever computer-related problems they may have.

"I'm here to help with any issues so that people can be more productive at their jobs through the use of computers," he said. ■



**Feast**— Seafood night is one of the most popular events at Spirit Mountain Casino. Anywhere from 900 to 1,200 people show up on Wednesdays to feast on the hundreds of pounds of fresh crab claws, steamed clams and salmon fillet the casino chefs prepare. The all-you-can-eat buffet starts at 4 p.m. and goes 'till 11 p.m.

Photos by Peta Tinda



## Elder Activities

- Crab Feed — February 9
- Wayne Newton Concert — February 12-13
- Coos Bay Honor Days — March 18-20
- Tribal Jackets for the Elders — fact finding on price, colors, materials and styles is still in the works. The goal for the design of the jackets is to be done in the spring of 2004. When completed the design and cost information will be made available to the Tribal Elders.

Happy 4th Birthday  
**Isabell Bobb**  
Love, Mom, Dad,  
Wilson, and Abby

Happy Birthday  
**Sasheene Marie Baker**

We love you and are glad you are home.

Love, Daddy, Gramma, Ginger, Keri, Kelsey and the rest of your family.

Happy 70th Birthday  
**Juanita Lee**



January 23, 1934



**Caden Leno**

Happy 7th Birthday  
We Love You!  
Mom, Dad, Kiana & Ethan



**Travis Stewart Mercier**  
Happy 30th Birthday



Happy 4th Birthday  
**Anthony Simmons**  
Love Mommy & Family

Happy 3rd Birthday  
**Dyami Eastman**



Love, Mommy,  
Daddy & Family