

New Assistant Tribal Rep In Eugene

■ Tribal member Courtney Rose brings health care programs to the Eugene office.

By Ron Karten

Tribal member Courtney Rose, raised in Eugene, started participating in the Tribal Royalty programs as soon as she could. "I started Royalty when I was like, 10," she said.

She was an "honorary princess" from 1989-92.

"I learned a lot from the queens older than me. I learned that it takes a lot of dedication. You really have to step up and be a leader, and not be afraid of talking to people and stuff. You get to meet a lot of really good people traveling around."

Another Courtney. "Courtney Galligher is a really good person that I looked up to. She was there every pow-wow. Very dedicated, very outgoing and friendly. She set me on a track that I could follow."

Rose was also a junior queen for the Tribe, and the first ever Vets Queen (97-98).

"That was a really big honor to

me."

In 2006, she graduated Northwest Christian College with a Bachelors' degree in Health Care Administration.

She minored in medical ethics. "It was awesome. I learned about people's rights and their autonomy. I learned that though we may think we're making the best decision for somebody, we're not. You have to look inside. You can't let your emotions get ahead of your thinking."

Both her emotions and her thinking brought her back to the Tribe after college. She always knew she would work for the Tribe because "I was involved with it so much."

When she saw an opportunity to take her education to work for the Tribe, she jumped on it. Rose started working for Tribe in July. Rose is the Assistant Tribal Service Representative in the Eugene Satellite Office.

The job just became permanent in December.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Rose

Assistant Representative & Tribal Member Courtney Rose

As an assistant rep, she said, "I brought health care to this office."

She put together a diabetes and wellness fair, and a flu shot clinic. But she does a lot more, too.

"I do everything from helping people with education, getting them signed up for programs. I've helped

them get into housing. I started a youth group. I brought some things to the office that weren't here yet."

There are 10 kids in the youth group, she said. They do "culture stuff: pow-wows and various events." They attended Artrain, for example, a moving Native art exhibit that was here in the Portland area last May (see *Smoke Signals*, 6/1/06 issue).

Rose is married to University of Oregon defensive tackle (99-01) James Rose, now Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Eugene. They have two kids, a son, Cameron, 4, and a daughter, Mia, 3.

Rose enjoys going to pow-wows and gatherings. "I like sports, well, obviously, I married an athlete."

"Hopefully, in the future, we can have mini-fairs and meetings about whatever the health topic of the month is."

"I'm just really glad to be in a position where I can serve the people." ■

From Paris to Casablanca — An Education Story

■ Tribal member Spirit Pierce is going international.

By Ron Karten

If all goes as planned, by June or July next year, 15-year-old Tribal member Spirit Pierce will be traveling across Europe and the Middle East as a People to People Student Ambassador.

The trip will include a meeting with José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, the Prime Minister of Spain. "We're not going to be seeing what other people see," said Pierce. "We're going behind the scenes. We're going to see how they make laws. We'll be staying with a host family and see what their lives are like. And we might be able to go to school with their kids."

The trip will take them to see the Mona Lisa, the Eiffel Tower and the Peace Arch in Paris, and the high-priced shopping areas of this most famous city. The 20-day itinerary includes Spain, Portugal, Morocco, back to Spain, Paris and then home.

Pierce, a 4.0 Creswell High School freshman who intends to be a kindergarten teacher, was chosen anonymously by one of her middle school teachers to participate in the program. Pierce has been on her school Honor Roll 11 times and the Principal's List twice.

She received the school's Citizenship Award last year when she was in eighth grade. She raised money for the Eugene Water and Electric Board's Energy Share program that provides electricity to low-income families in the area.

This traveling experience does not come cheaply, however, and Pierce is going to need her fund

raising skills to make it happen. In fact, Pierce has to raise more than \$6,000, of which about \$800 is already in the bank.

"What really helped me out," she said, "was that the Tribal Council gave me \$250." Other contributions may be made to Pierce through the Tribal Eugene satellite office in

One recent fund raiser at a Lane Community College pow-wow brought Spirit to tears. Imagine everybody's worst nightmare. You're prepared to speak before a pow-wow crowd of thousands, your speech is written and rehearsed, and the moment comes and...the speech is lost.



Photo by Toby McClary

Tribal member Spirit Pierce, left, and her grandmother, C.J. Pierce talk about the People to People program. Spirit is raising money for the education of a lifetime. It will take her from Paris to Casablanca.

care of Tribal member and Tribal Services Representative Jon Darcy-Chantell.

"I think it will be very educational," said Tribal Elder C.J. Pierce, Spirit's grandmother. Spirit lives with C.J. and husband, Wayne, since her mom, Tribal member Danni Jo Pierce, passed on earlier this year. "And she'll be able to use the trip for either high school or college credit. It's not just a pleasure trip."

And C.J. already has gotten involved in helping with fund raisers, and along with Spirit's aunt, Jackie (Pierce), she plans to do a lot of baking in the months ahead to keep the dollars coming in.

"Do you have it?" Spirit recalled asking. "No, it's with so and so," came the reply. "I don't have it," said so and so, "I gave it to so and so." And so it went down the line and here it was time to give the speech and nobody had it.

"Sometimes, I stutter," said Spirit. "I was in tears I was so scared," she said.

"Jon (Darcy-Chantell) and Courtney (Rose) were very strong behind her," said C.J.

And Spirit stepped up, overcame her terror, and raised \$300 at the event.

On a recent Saturday, the Pierces were planning a bake sale at the

University of Oregon Longhouse. Any leftovers will go on sale at the satellite office.

At a January pow-wow at the University of Oregon, more of Spirit's Indian family is chipping in. For example, Courtney Rose's grandmother, Tribal Elder Evelyn Seidel, will raffle off a star quilt for the cause. Rose

has just been made a permanent member of the Eugene satellite office staff. C.J. was making a stained glass window for the event. And Spirit was making beaded earrings to sell.

Among four students from Creswell High School and a fifth also from Eugene who have been chosen for the program, one is Kristi Rimer, who happens to be best friends with Spirit.

Of course, she will miss the family quarter horse, Oh Gee, as in Oh Gee, what have I done? that C.J. purchased as "a savior horse."

"He was so thin," said C.J., "that another couple of weeks and he would be dead."

Spirit brushed out his hair every day and "clumps of it would come out," she said. "He had never been brushed before." And then, there were the ticks. And the food bills. Hence the name.

And, when Spirit raises the dough, she will also have to say a temporary goodbye to the family dog, an Alaskan Malamute named Moose.

"Once in awhile, he thinks he's a lap dog," said C.J.

"I taught him that," said Spirit. A natural born teacher. ■