

Tribal member promoted in Sheriff's Office

Kevin Schultz to become Operations Commander on Aug. 1 in Marion County

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal member Kevin Schultz is proof that brotherly advice can sometimes be the best counsel.

In the mid-1980s, after Kevin graduated from South Salem High School in 1982, he talked with his brother, Melvin, five years his senior. It would be a fateful conversation.

"He convinced me that criminal justice work offered good job security and good benefits," Kevin says. "That it was a good field to get into."

Melvin, also a Tribal member, spoke from experience, at the time working with the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

So Kevin enrolled in the Salem Police Department reserve program and then went to work with the smaller Stayton Police Department reserve program, where reserves were given more responsibility and hands-on duties.

He was hooked.

In 1988, Kevin, now 43, started with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and started his rise through the ranks that will



Tribal member Kevin Schultz

be honored again on Aug. 1 when he takes over as Operations Commander, being promoted from his current rank of lieutenant. He was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant in January of this year.

"Kevin brings a great working knowledge of community programs and a vision that was very impressive during his interview," Marion County Sheriff Russ Isham wrote in an e-mail to Sheriff's Office staff.

"We are excited to get Kevin moved downtown working with all of the new programs."

Currently, Kevin oversees the Marion County Jail's intake and booking unit, work release center and supervises gang deputies in the jail.

Once he becomes one of four Sheriff's Office commanders, he will oversee judicial security within the Marion County Courthouse, the Sheriff's Office civil section and criminal prevention unit, and deal with budget and collective bargaining issues.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office has more than 300 employees and its top management tier includes the sheriff, an undersheriff and four commanders.

"It's been everything I imagined working with the Sheriff's Office here," Kevin says about his law enforcement career. "It's almost like working with a second family. The people here are definitely what make this job worthwhile."

Schultz's first family includes his wife, Julie, and three children — Jordon, 19; Spencer, 15; and Olivia, 7.

At his current pace, Kevin said

he could retire from law enforcement at the age of 50 if he so desires. And he's already started to think about what he might do with the second half of his life.

"I see it as an opportunity to start life anew on different terms," he says. "I've been on the (Tribal) Fish & Wildlife Committee for over a year. I would like to get more acquainted with the Tribe. Over the years, I've acquired some good skills and know how to communicate with people. I would like to help my Tribe."

Kevin is descended from the Petite family on his mother's (Annabelle Peachie Petite Ham) side. His great uncles were John and Pete Petite.

"I know it's popular now to say you have Native American blood," Schultz says, "but my mother was always proud of her heritage."

"I am very proud of my Tribal heritage and it is important for me to set an example for all Tribal members and all Sheriff's Office staff. I am proud of what I have achieved." ■

Simmons receives Community Dad Award

RIVER continued
from page 4

He considers "being able to adopt these kids" as his biggest success. "Giving them a place where maybe they didn't have the opportunity for that. I also didn't have that. Being able to open up our doors and allow these kids into my life. I love 'em like my own. Both are special needs kids. Their moms used drugs and stuff, and both are in special ed.

"I think it worked because I myself was a special needs kid. I've seen some of their reports and it reminded me of myself. Except we have the opportunity to get these kids counseling and stuff."

Today, the family counts camping as one of its great loves.

"We're taking the month of July off and taking the kids to Wyoming and Montana," said Rudolph. "Jay is Lakota, so we like to go back to the Black Hills where he can get to know his people; Arthur is Hualapai in Peach Springs, Arizona. We're visiting both of those places this summer."

And if all this sounds altogether too normal for what came before, there is still icing on the cake.

On June 9, California Superior Court Justice Sharon Chatman, who also is the founder and board chair of Santa Clara-based Building Peaceful Families, awarded Jimi the group's Top Ten Community Dads Award.

"As a respected and admired community leader and father living in Silicon Valley," the award

Show times

"Making the River" will be shown at the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation in Auburn, Wash., on Friday, July 18, and in Oakland, Calif., on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Jimi Simmons will answer questions after the movie is shown. Check www.makingtheriver.com for times and locations.

letter said, "you have been selected to receive the Building Peaceful Families Top Ten Community Dads Award.

This prestigious award is given in recognition of your longstanding commitment to fighting for justice which serves as a role model for all children and your commitment as a responsible and involved father to your family."

"Making the River" was directed by Sarah Del Seronde, daughter of a Dine mother and a French-American father.

The producer is Paul Stoll, of Tongan and German-American descent.

They are the co-founders of Aboriginal Lens, Ltd., an independent Flagstaff, Ariz.-based multimedia production company "working to express multicultural perspectives through video and audio," according to the Web site www.makingtheriver.com. ■

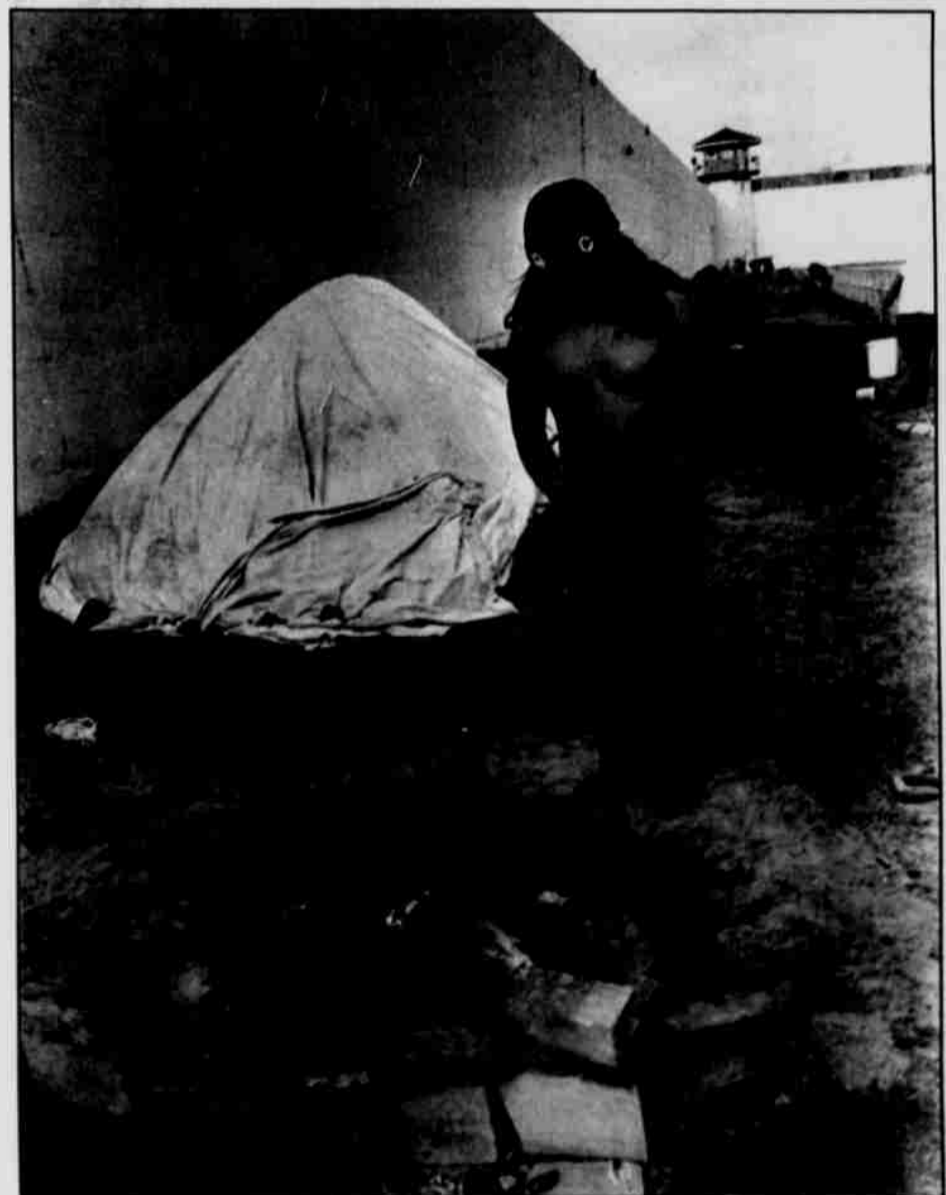


Photo courtesy of pxine.com

While serving time at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, Tribal Elder Jimi Simmons often participated in sweat lodges with fellow American Indians.