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Wellness staff moving back to Health Center

Wellness Department staff who have been located in the Tribal Community Center will be moving back to the Health & Wellness Center on Monday, Nov. 3.

Staff members who will move back to the Health & Wellness Center include Bonnie Mercier, Darlene Aaron, Pearl Mekemson, Vernon Kennedy, Stephanie Grim and Daniel Provost.

They will be located in the same wing as Optometry and will retain their some phone numbers.

For more information, call Health & Wellness Center Administrative Assistant Jill Hafiger at 503-879-2060. ■

Breast cancer awareness luncheon set for Nov. 10

The Tribal Wellness Program and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure is inviting area women ages 40 to 64 to a Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon set for noon Monday, Nov. 10, at the Grand Ronde Community Center.

Guest speaker Kathleen Marquart will discuss how mammograms can save lives.

For more information about the luncheon, contact Bonnie Mercier at 503-879-2016. ■

Support group forming

A support group for parents and caregivers of Grand Ronde children with special needs is forming.

If your child, grandchild, foster child, etc., has extra challenges — medically, emotionally or developmentally — and you would like to collaborate and share resources with other parents, send your contact information in an e-mail to lewis.dm@comcast.net or call David and Donna Lewis at 503-566-3093.

Lewis said the support group is compiling an e-mail and telephone contact list and will later coordinate meetings with group members. ■

Tribal Elder to receive Local Heroes Award

Tribal Elder Veda Gamez, 56, will be one of five Native Americans in the San Francisco Bay area who will receive Local Heroes Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Gamez is director of Substance Abuse Services at the Native American Health Center.

As an employee of the Health Center since 1999, Gamez has been instrumental in shaping the way the facility provides substance abuse services to clients. She has worked to grow her department and provide important health education to the community in addition to her efforts to end substance abuse and addiction in the Native American community.

She also has been the driving force each year behind the Gathering of the Lodges, an event that brings together hundreds of Native Americans from across California to celebrate wellness and sobriety.

Gamez is seen as a role model by staff, clients and community members. In addition to her role as counselor, she also is a loving mother, sister and daughter who is devoted to her family.

The awards ceremony will be held at the San Francisco Hall Rotunda. For more information, visit www.kqed.org/heritage on the Internet. ■



Veda Gamez

Memory stones



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Laura Lund places a piece of glass on a memorial stepping stone she's making during a class at the new Elders' Activity Center on Monday, Oct. 13. Lund is making the stone in memory of her great-grandmother Maryann Michelle. All of the stones that are made will go in the memorial garden at facility.

Looking Wolf to perform Dec. 5 in McMinnville

Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach will perform in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in the Performance Center at Second and Evans streets in McMinnville with Tim Yett (Cherokee).

Doors will open at 6 p.m. for VIP seating and at 7 p.m. for general seating.

Yett will open the show with flute songs from his new CD "Creating Sacred Space." Renowned Native American dancer Deitrich Peters (Grand Ronde) will perform with a drum group as well.

Reibach will perform solo flute songs from his 2007 release "Unity," as well as new music from his rock-flute fusion CD "The Looking Wolf Project."

Reibach recently received the Flutist of the Year award from both the Native American Music Awards and Indian Summer Music Awards for "Unity."

Tickets are \$15 for general seating and \$10 for those 12 and under and Elders 55 and older. VIP passes are \$50 and include a pass to the VIP room where there will be food, music and visiting with the artists, as well as an autographed poster and copy of the new CD.

For ticket information, call Kathy Sohler at 503-705-7330 or send an e-mail to lookingwolfmusic@yahoo.com. ■

NIGA cites passage of Heritage Day bill

The National Indian Gaming Association acknowledged passage of House Joint Resolution 62, which designates the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day 2008.

The bill, which is supported by the National Indian Gaming Association, National Congress of American Indians and Tribes nationwide, encourages observation of Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

The resolution was introduced by Rep. Joe Baca (D-Calif.) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), who helped moved the resolution through the Senate.

"This is a great moment for Indian County," said Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. "Signing the bill into law officially recognizes, remembers and formally celebrates the history, achievements and certainly the major contributions to the American democracy by Native Americans."

Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have signed proclamations designating November as Native American Heritage Month in previous years.

"Native Americans have been seeking a day of recognition since 1912," Gaming Association Executive Director Mark Van Norman said. "This day honors the original Native Americans, their strengths, wisdom and fight for freedom, and it recognizes the continued vitality and beauty of the Native American cultures." ■