

Tribal Health director receives IHS award

Mark Johnston named top director for Northwest region

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Grand Ronde Health Executive Director Mark Johnston received the 2008 Area Director's Award for Tribal Health Program Employee of the Year on Nov. 14 from Indian Health Service.

Johnston received the award for the Oregon, Washington and Idaho region during a ceremony held at the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University.

Portland Area Indian Health Service Director Doni Wilder said Johnston received the award for his "significant contributions in support of the Indian Health Service mission" in an Oct. 29 letter. "On behalf of the Portland Area Indian Health Service, I extend my appreciation for your exemplary work on behalf of the patients we serve."

"Mark is a hard-working, dedi-



**Health Executive Director
Mark Johnston**

cated member of our organization and is deserving of this recognition," Tribal member and Tribal General Manager Chris Leno said in an e-mail congratulating Johnston on

the award.

Leno submitted Johnston's nomination for the award.

The Director's Award recognizes individuals or groups of employees whose "special efforts and contributions, beyond regular duty requirements, have resulted in significant benefits to the programs or customers of Indian Health Service and fulfillment of the IHS mission."

Indian Health Service is a program within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be considered for this recognition," Johnston said, "but I must admit that I have never been a fan of individual awards. I will accept

this award with the knowledge that this is a reflection of the incredible work of each of the Health and Wellness Center employees, rather than anything I have done.

"The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is an incredible organization to be a part of and I am thankful each day for the opportunity to work with each of you."

Johnston took over management of the Tribe's Health and Wellness Center in June 2007. Previously, he worked for six years with the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and six years with the Coquille Tribe.

He graduated from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth with a bachelor's degree in business and administration. ■

Transportation to Grand Ronde

The Portland Satellite office has a transportation day to Grand Ronde once a month for medical or dental appointments or enrollment cards. We need a minimum of three people to sign up. Please call Lisa at 503-235-4230.

We will leave at the Portland Office at 8 a.m.

Please call in advance for the scheduled monthly date.

West Valley Assistance Fund

Sheridan Baptist Church has established an assistance fund at Bank of America to help those associated with Willamina Lumber who have been affected by layoffs and wage cuts. Donations to this fund can be made at any Bank of America banking center, made payable to Sheridan Baptist Church. Donations also can be made at the Sheridan Baptist Church, 643 E. Main St., Sheridan, Ore., 97378, Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They can also be mailed to Sheridan Baptist Church, West Valley Assistance Fund, P.O. Box 595, Sheridan, Ore., 97378. All donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call 503-843-3158 or e-mail sbcfund@gmail.com.

Elders' Activity Center open house



Tribal member Sean Beauchamp takes in the view from a sitting area.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Louise Medeiros, front, chairwoman of the Elders' Committee, talks at the Elders' Activity Center Open House on Saturday, Nov. 1. Behind her are Elders' Committee members, from left, Margaret Provost, Cherie Butler, Violet Folden, Linda Brandon and Marcella Selwyn. Below are Tribal Elders Donna Casey, left, Kathryn Harrison, middle and Claudia Leno.

