

52 employees honored for years of service

Six surpass 20-year mark in working for the Tribe

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Fifty-two Tribal employees were recognized for service to the Tribe on Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the Atrium of the Governance Building.

In a ceremony led by Human Resources Director Walter Kalinowski, three 21-year employees and three 20-year employees were the longest serving among those honored.

Twenty-one year employees were Timber and Roads Coordinator Jeffrey Kuust, Silviculture Protection Program Manager Jeffrey Nepstad and Tribal member and Tribal Council Relations Coordinator Dakota Whitecloud.

Twenty-year employees were Tribal member and Accounting Supervisor Melanie Ebensteiner, Procurement Assistant Kelly Herber and Tribal member and Health Benefits Specialist Barbara Steere.

"Your service to this organization is deeply, deeply appreciated," said Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. "We'll be travelling down a pretty rough road in the next two to three years, but we can count on our employees for always being there for us, and we'll always try to be there for you."

Tribal member and Higher Education Program Manager Bryan Langley marked 19 years.

Tribal member and Executive Officer Chris Leno and Tribal member and Natural Resources Division Manager Michael Wilson each marked 18 years.

Benefits Specialist Sheila Elliott-McDonald, Tribal Attorney Rob Greene and Home Ownership Coordinator Nancy Holmes marked 16 years.

Assistant Tribal Attorney Kimberly D'Aquila, Tribal member and Clinic Referral Clerk Sharon Herron and Tribal member and Employment Caseworker Pearl Rife marked 14 years.

Lead Pharmacy Technician Faith

Goodman and Tribal member and Language and Cultural Specialist Bobby Mercier marked 13 years.

Dental Hygienist Sheila Blacketer, Education Disabilities Coordinator Elaine Lane Raven, HeadStart Teacher Toni Lockwood, Payroll Specialist Georgene Sanders and Tutor Margaret Wilds all marked 12 years.

Chemical Dependency Counselor Laura Burton, Procurement Supervisor Kevin Mueller and Investment Manager Jeffrey Valentine marked 11 years.

Tribal Court Program Specialist Julie Boekhoff, Youth Education Elementary K-5 Lead Matt Bucknell, Network Administrator Jack Dobiash, Tribal member and Mail/Printing Clerk Virginia Kimsey-Roof and Wellness Secretary Egypt Leno marked 10 years.

Education Administrative Assistant Debbie Bachman, Adult Education Coordinator Joanne Carr and Medical Transcriptionist Linda Henry marked nine years.

Acting Finance Officer Rick Andersen, Round Valley Construction Foreman Thomas Brown, Part-time College Program Coordinator John Harp, Controller Michael Hubbard, Tribal Elder and Equipment Operator Mark Mercier and Audit Director Trudi Yoshikawa marked eight years.

Tribal member and Food Service Coordinator Kristy DeLoe and Environmental Resource Specialist Brandy Humphreys marked seven years.

Tribal Elder and Enrollment Specialist Jolanda Catabay, Tribal member and Maintenance Tech Jeffrey Larsen, Tribal member and Social Services Receptionist Shannon Simi, Tribal member and Clinic Business Office Clerk Stephanie Simmons and Tribal member and Finance Executive Assistant Ken Trevino marked six years.

Tribal member and Housekeeper Sol George, Housing Services Spe-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Barbara Steere, Tribal Member Health Care specialist and Tribal member, hugs John Mercier, Director of Program Operations and Tribal member, after being recognized during the Employee Recognition Celebration for the third quarter of 2010 in the Governance Center Atrium on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Steere has worked for the Tribe for 20 years.

cialist Deborah Kroeker, Youth Education Coordinator Molly Matthews, Tribal member and Medical Secretary Erica Mercier, Tribal member and Member Services Specialist Reina Nelson and Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor marked five years.

"Thank you," said Tribal Council member Toby McClary. "You guys are doing such a great job. I appreciate it."

Tribal member John Mercier, Director of Program Operations, put in a pitch for the Hood-to-Coast race that Tribal members enter

every year.

"We're building a very strong community," Mercier said. He thanked the community for its recent support for his daughter, Tribal member Hattie, as she filmed a Nickelodeon segment. "It really takes a village," he said.

"It's been a pretty long year," said Tribal member and Director of Development Peter Wakeland. "Thanks for hanging in there. You guys really do great work."

Pumpkin and apple pie, fresh fruit and hot apple cider celebrated the event and the season. ■

Notice to Native-owned contractors

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is seeking Native-owned contractors who would like to be placed on a list for potential construction jobs with the Tribe in the future. Interested contractors should send their contact information to Eric Scott, Tribal Engineer, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. For more information, contact Scott at 503-879-2404 or eric.scott@grandronde.org. ■

Saluting the Corps



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Kenneth Lafferty, left, hands Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison a piece of cake during the Marine Corps Birthday celebration at the Elders' Activity Center on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Part of the celebration included the oldest Marine in attendance presenting a piece of cake to the oldest person in attendance. Nov. 10 was the 235th anniversary of the founding of the Marine Corps.

Tribal Council

Christmas Party

Dec 5

11 a.m. - Noon
Visit with Santa (Please bring your own camera for photos)

12:30ish
Meal

1 p.m.
Children singing

Following the General Council meeting

Ad created by George Valdez