

Employees honored for years of service

Tresa Mercier marks 29th year working for Tribe

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Seventy-eight Tribal employees were recognized for a combined 875 years of service to the Grand Ronde Tribe during an employee recognition event held Thursday, June 12, in the Community Center.

Most notably, Health and Wellness Business Office Manager Tresa Mercier reached her 29th anniversary of working for the Tribe. She started working for the Tribe on Oct. 1, 1984.

The years of service recognition event honored employees who reached employment anniversaries of five years or more during the last quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.

Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno thanked employees for the work they perform for the general membership.

“The membership really appreciates what staff does for them although they might not come up and say it,” Leno said.

Acting General Manager Chris Leno also thanked staff for taking on extra assignments as the Tribe works to fill two high-level governmental vacancies – general manager and finance officer.

Tribal Council members who attended the recognition event included Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr., Ed Pearsall and Jon A. George, who gave the invocation. Tribal Council members June Sherer and Denise Harvey, who were unable to attend, sent e-mails to staff before the event, thanking them for their efforts.

“I am so thankful that we have



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Jennifer Biesack, a Tribal staff attorney, receives a hug from Tribal Council member Jon A. George during an employee recognition event held at the Tribal Community Center on Thursday, June 12. Biesack has worked for the Tribe for six years. In the background are Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr., middle, and Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno.

such dedicated and loyal employees working in our organization,” Sherer said. “Please know that all of your hard work does not go unnoticed.”

“(I) would like you all to know that I appreciate all that you do,” Harvey said.

Three employees who reached their 10-year anniversaries received more than a bonus check – they were gifted a Tribal Pendleton blanket.

Employees who attended the event also were treated to strawberry shortcake and strawberry lemonade.

Senior Human Resources Generalist Steve O’Harra was the master

of ceremonies during the event.

Employees honored were:

Five years: Lawrence Schwabe, Kari Culp, Shelby Wren, Amanda Mercier, Flicka Lucero, Angela Renteria and Desiree Allen.

Six years: Rachel Clark, Michelle Alaimo, Tyrell Soderberg, Michele Volz, Bart Bryant, Timothy George, Rosie Salvidas, Arnoldo Morales, Brian Krehbiel, Misty Thorsgard, Joan Dugger, Jennifer Biesack and Susan Wright.

Seven years: Eleanor Ashman, Tauni McCammon and Joe Loomis.

Eight years: Debra Nolen, Leslie Riggs, George Neujahr, Toni Mercier, Michelle Sweeney, Jessica Cruickshank, John Genera Jr., Loyal Hamilton and Rose Smith.

Nine years: Darin Riggs, Nancy Renfrow, Brandy Bishop, Rebecca Goeserich and Shawn Bobb.

10 years: Lisa Archuleta, Donna Todd and Kathy Cole.

11 years: Kevin Campbell, Stephanie Grim, Joshua Clift, Jake McKnight and Willie Mercier.

12 years: Kerrina Mishler, Travis Stewart, Sandra Bobb, Charlean White and Donald Coon.

13 years: Chris Bailey, Tyson Mercier, Kim Rogers, Michelle Manso, Jill Hafiger and Nathan Rolston.

14 years: David DeHart, Connie Wyngarden and Crystal Szczepanski.

15 years: Tammy Garrison and Lillian Engel.

16 years: Sunni Ulestad and Donnette Spaulding.

17 years: Jan Looking Wolf Reibach, Jody Jerger and Mike Karnosh.

18 years: Daniel Ham, Julia Pappen, Dana Ainam, Hollie Mercier and Jerry George.

19 years: Kim Mueller and Wendell Olson.

20 years: Penny DeLoe.

23 years: Marion Mercier, Karan Scharf and John Mercier.

29 years: Tresa Mercier. ■

Lamprey harvesting scheduled at Willamette Falls

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has set the season for harvesting lamprey at Willamette Falls for June 1 through July 31. Harvesting may be conducted 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Monday. Harvesting is not allowed Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Harvesting is confined to the east side of Willamette Falls and does not include the horseshoe area at the peak of the falls. Gear is restricted to hand or hand-powered tools only.

A permit is required, but Tribal members are allowed to use their Tribal enrollment card in lieu of a state-issued permit. Catches must be recorded on a Fish and Wildlife Department harvest card available from the Grand Ronde Natural Resources Department or by contacting the Clackamas ODFW office, 17330 S.E. Evelyn St., Clackamas, OR 97015.

For more information, contact the Tribal Natural Resources Office at 503-879-2424. ■

2014 Middle School Boys Night Out

July 10th & 11th

Come join Youth Education as we head to Camp Dakota for an adventure! We will be playing paintball, riding zip lines, climbing a rock wall, and completing a ropes course over the course of the two days. Also during that time, students will be having some frank discussions about health and wellness and the choices that they make.

Contact:
Matt Zimbrick at (503) 879-2144 or Tiffany Mercier at (503) 879- 2101 to reserve a spot or if you have any questions.

This event is open to:

- Enrolled CTGR Members
- CTGR Descendents
- Native American Youth

All participants must have been in 6th, 7th, or 8th grades during the 2012-2013 school year.

Packing List:

- Sleeping bag
- Change of Clothes
- Sturdy Shoes
- Swim Trunks
- Paintball equipment (Optional)
- Towel
- Flashlight

Limited Spaces!

20 Students Max!

Middle School Girls Night Out

Sleeping with the Sharks

Portland Aquarium

Leaving at noon July 8th and returning noon July 9th

There are limited spots so get your permission slip in soon!

Spend time with us too!

Things you will need to bring:

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Toiletries
- Extra clothes for the next day
- Pajamas
- Spending money (Optional)
- A positive attitude!

Speak for yourself!

Come spend the evening with your girls!

Don't worry, we won't bite!

Contact Tiffany Mercier at 503.879.2101 with any questions!