

61 first-quarter employees account for 728 years of service

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Although large indoor gatherings are still prohibited at the Grand Ronde Tribe because of the COVID-19 pandemic, that hasn't stopped the Human Resources Department from honoring employees on a quarterly basis for their employment longevity with the Tribe.

First-quarter honorees hired in either January, February or March were led by Procurement Assistant Kelly Leno, who reached 31 years of service to the Tribe.

Records Administrator Kim Mueller and Gaming Commission Licensing Manager Julia Papen were honored for 26 and 25 years of employment, respectively.

Other employees notching 20 or more years of employment with the Tribe include Health & Wellness Billing Supervisor Sunni Ulestad, 23 years; Purchased and Referred Care Supervisor Melody Baker, 22 years; Human Resources Employment Manager David DeHart and Compensation/HRIS Specialist Becky Mode, 21 years each; and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Sears, 20 years.

Employees with five or more years of service are honored quarterly. In non-pandemic times, staff receives a breakfast in the Tribal gym and General Manager David



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal Records Administrator Kim Mueller, photographed in 2019, reached the 26-mark of working for the Tribe earlier this year.

Fullerton reads off the list of names and employees receive a check, handshakes and occasional hugs from Tribal Council members.

Other Tribal employees honored included:

19 years: Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight, Tribal Attorney's Office Manager Kerrina Mishler and Information Systems Web Administrator Willie Mercier.

18 years: Higher Education Program Coordinator Joshua Clift.

17 years: Social Services' Portland Area Office Tribal Services Representative Lisa Archuleta and Early Head Start Family Educator

Shawn Bobb.

15 years: Full-Charge Bookkeeper Debra Nolen and Employment Specialist Toni Mercier.

14 years: Employment Specialist Jessie Powley.

13 years: Health Information Supervisor/Privacy Officer Desiree Allen, Natural Resources Construction Supervisor Bart Bryant, Dental Assistant Rachel Clark, Enrollment Officer Nick LaBonte, Day Shift Housekeeper Rosie Saldivas, Gam-

ing Commission Compliance Analyst Tyrell Soderberg and Natural Resources Senior Administrative Assistant Michele Volz.

12 years: Purchased/Referred Care Health Care Specialist Kayla Leno, Groundskeeper Joseph Grammer and Hydrosystem Compliance Specialist Lawrence Schwabe.

11 years: Adult Foster Care Senior Administrative Assistant Candi Buswell, Shipping and Receiving Clerk Seth Mercier and Rental Housing Coordinator Leon Ramos.

10 years: Employee Relations Specialist Seth Barton, Chinuk Immersion Preschool Assistant Halona Butler, Employment Program Manager Michael Herrin, 477/ Employment & Training Specialist Khani Schultz and Dental Hygienist Erin Muchmore.

9 years: Gaming Inspector Dalton Robertson, Historic Preser-

vation Manager Briece Edwards and Behavioral Health employee Alexandria Warren-Masters.

8 years: 477/Employment & Training Specialist Tiny Gibbons, Child Abuse Investigator Shauna Hastings, Adult Foster Care Caregiver Brianna Leno, Risk Analyst Patricia Mercier, Vocational Rehabilitation Administrative Assistant Angella Schultz and Swing Shift Housekeeper Sean Sell.

7 years: Tribal Police Officer Tyler Brown, Groundskeeper Joseph Kelley, Chinuk K-5 Immersion Assistant Jade Colton, Adult Foster Care Caregiver Pearline Metzker, Web Specialist Jordan Smith and Dental Secretary Whitney VanArsdel.

6 years: Tribal Police Officer Rod McAllister, Community Health Driver Stephanie King, Post Elementary Chinuk Wawa Teacher & Outreach Coordinator Zoey Holsclaw and Housing Administrative Assistant Lacy Leno.

5 years: Staff Accountant Sherena Bates, Emergency Management Assistant Brandi Bishop, Nurse Jeannette Cavan, Community Health Driver Victor Cureton, Senior Help Desk Technician Mark Donahoo, Spirit Mountain Community Fund Grants Coordinator James Holmes and Cultural Resources Interpretive Graphic Specialist Teal Reibach.

Employees receive certificates and bonus checks in appreciation of their increasing tenure with the Tribe. In addition, those reaching the 10-year mark receive a Tribal Pendleton blanket or an extra \$100 in their bonus check. ■

Effects of intergenerational trauma can last through several generations

MEDICINE continued from page 6

treatments similar to those for opioid use disorder."

Neurobiology, historical and intergenerational trauma and substance use disorders

Dr. Carolyn Ross, of Numinous Enterprises Inc. in California, discussed how ongoing research has documented the role that trauma plays in development of addictions, and how intergenerational trauma is also being explored in families of Holocaust survivors, African-Americans post-slavery and in Native Americans after violent colonialization.

Ross said that understanding the effects of trauma provides a more thorough understanding of addictions and other related disorders, and cites trauma as being an important underlying factor in addictions.

"Brain development is bottom up," she said. "It begins with the survival center and ends with the executive center, which handles logic, reason and empathy. The brain has a lot of plasticity, but mostly at younger ages. What trauma ultimately can do is hijack a person's potential in life. The problem begins even before birth, when a mother's behavior has important effects on brain growth and development. Healthy attachment at birth makes it more likely a baby will have healthy relationships later in life."

Additional factors, such as inadequate nutrition and toxic levels of stress in the first 1,000 days of life, can reverberate throughout a person's life, Ross added.

"Trauma is the loss of an essential part of yourself, your safety, security, place and vitality," she said. "It doesn't change the DNA, but changes the expression of certain genes, and can take up to 20 years off a lifespan. The primary impact is to the brain. We can become hyper aroused or numbed out. We cannot reason ourselves out of being frightened or upset."

She said the effects of intergenerational trauma can last through several generations.

"Kids are especially prone to the trauma in resettling in a new culture," Ross said. "It can lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions."

Historical trauma includes five factors: Being deliberately inflicted on a target population, not limited to a single event, events reverberating throughout the community, the population being stripped of its culture and identity, and the trauma inflicted with malicious intent.

Both Native Americans and African-Americans were victims of historical trauma, which puts them at a higher risk of substance use disorder.

"It can also be very difficult to get treatment," Ross said. "There are a lot of suspicions of the medical community and biases (toward patients)." ■

Grand Ronde Community

Clothes Closet

Open to All

Fridays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

SERVICES OFFERED:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Clothing Women's Clothing Men's Clothing Blankets Free Dog & Cat Food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diapers and Toilet Paper Emergency Hygiene Kits Camping Supplies (Tents, Tarps, Wood) Small Appliances and Household Items Toys
--	---

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

<p>Backpack & School Supply Giveaway For children ages K-12 at the start of school</p>	<p>Christmas Shop Adults can pick out 1 new gift for each child in their household. Children can shop for 1 gift for each adult in their household.</p>
---	--

The Grand Ronde Clothes closet is located on the Tribal Campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts donations in clean and good condition. Please put donations in plastic bags for sanitation purposes and drop them off during open hours. Please use the Community Board to post large items. For more information or emergency clothes, please contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at (559) 847-7565.