

Conner wins Buffett Award for leadership

PORTLAND - Bobbie Conner is the 2007 winner of the Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership presented by Ecotrust.



Bobbie Conner

Conner will receive the award in Portland on Nov. 29 in a ceremony that also will honor four other Northwest finalists - Carol Craig (Yakama) from Zillah, Wash.; Alfred Lane III (Siletz) from Siletz, Ore.; Michael Pavel, Ph.D. (Skokomish) from Skokomish, Wash., and Lillian Moyer (Tahltan) from Dease Lake, B.C.

Supported by the families of Howard and Peter Buffett, the Buffett Award recognizes indigenous leadership that improves social, economic, political and environmental conditions. Conner will re-

Conner named to Board of Smithsonian's National Museum of American Indian
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ceive the \$25,000 award; the other finalists will receive \$5,000 each.

Conner (Umatilla/Cayuse/Nez Perce) is being honored as a community and national leader, museum director, curator, speaker and author. Since 1998, Conner has served as director of the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, which preserves, protects and promotes the culture of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla. She assisted with curation of the Many Nations Many Voices exhibit that accompanied the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery II tour.

"Bobbie Conner demonstrates business

acumen within a deep indigenous cultural framework like no one else we know," said Spencer B. Beebe, President of Ecotrust, on behalf of the Final Jury Panel.

Conner is a lecturer and writer on cultural preservation issues. She currently serves on the board of the Willowa Homeland Project and the Oregon Cultural Trust as a special advisor for tribal issues. From 1984 to 1997, she worked for the U.S. Small Business Administration in Denver and Sacramento as a Presidential Management Intern, Branch Manager and District Director.

Conner said the Buffett Award is recognition of the work being done at Tamastlikt.

"It's also acknowledgement of roles I've had with a variety of other non-profits who share like goals to help indigenous people, to take care of our homelands and all the species that should be here," Conner said.

"Most important to me, it is honoring

the will of the old ones who truly made it possible for us to all be here - doing good work together to take care of the inheritance they bequeathed us and that the Creator gave us," said Conner. "I firmly believe the work many of us do today was willed to us by our ancestors. Their prayers and deeds that ensured our future were accompanied by great sacrifice."

This year's Buffett Award Dinner and Ceremony will take place at the Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center in Portland.

Ecotrust is a conservation organization committed to strengthening communities and the environment. In addition to the Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership, Ecotrust's Native Programs' projects include land repatriation, native youth leadership, education and research, and support of the Elakha Alliance. Ecotrust also works in the fisheries, forestry, and food sectors to build a regional economy based on social and ecological opportunities.

BALLOON BASH

New shapes, new games, same fun at annual Wildhorse event

PENDLETON - Don't be alarmed if a big hot-air balloon sits down in your backyard looking for a ball of string or some other curious scavenger item during the Balloon Bash Oct. 19-21 at Wildhorse Resort.

"We have a ton of really cool balloons this year and competition in fun flights - fishing in the golf course ponds, scavenger hunts dropping into backyards looking for stuff - all geared so people are more involved," said Scott Simpson, President of Lighter Than Air, Inc., and organizer of this year's 11th annual event.

Among this year's balloons will be a 1950's era Buck Rogers rocket ship, which can be seen, along with other photos and information at balloonshootout.com.

Spencer said he wants more people to get up Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning to witness the lift offs at Wildhorse. Those who want to volunteer to serve as flight crews should contact David Franklin at Wildhorse, 541-966-1540.

The Balloon Bash affords pilots and crews some of the best flying anywhere in the United States, said Spencer.

"Stable morning winds carry balloons over rolling terrain at modest speeds, making the 'Bash' event a favorite of all those involved," he said.

This year, five competitive challenges are planned during each of five scheduled launches. Pilots will compete for cash prizes of nearly \$10,000.

Pilots will gather on Thursday afternoon to prepare for the three-day activities.

Launches are planned at 7 a.m. all three days and at 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



Colorful balloons will grace the skies over Wildhorse in the 11th annual Balloon Bash Oct. 19, 20 and 21.

Tribes, counties begin United Way 2008 campaign

PENDLETON - United Way of Umatilla & Morrow Counties has set its sights on raising \$300,000 to bolster the 23 partner agencies that provide services to the region, ranging from youth groups and senior services to emergency food and treatment for alcohol and chemical addiction.

The campaign on the Umatilla Indian Reservation will be coordinated by Laura Kordatzky, Tania Wildbill and Claudette Enos. CTUIR employees can expect to see information and pledge forms for payroll deduction later in October. Lorena Thompson is expected to coordinate the contribution campaign at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

Last year, the CTUIR campaign raised \$6,847 with contributors giving \$1,909 to the United Way General Fund, while earmarking nearly \$5,000 to Tribal programs, such as \$1,420 to KCUW Radio, \$1,106 to scholarships, \$677 to the Domestic Violence program, \$490 to the After School program, \$292 to the Diabetes Program, \$125 to Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, and \$783 to various other Tribal programs, including Nixyaawii Community School.

The two-county campaign will run through the end of the year. The goal is almost \$31,000 more than was pledged last year, which speaks to the demand for United Way supported services, said Cricket Nicholson, executive director.

"Our member agencies allow employees to donate to United Way through payroll deduction. Area residents also can mail donations directly to United Way of Umatilla and Morrow County at P.O. Box 1225 in Pendleton or contact the office at 541-276-2661 or at unitedwayumco@eoni.com. Donations can also be made online at www.umatillamorrowunitedway.org.

The United Way Partner agencies provide basic needs, offer programs for youths and seniors, and provide shelter and counseling for victims of abuse. United Way agencies also provide treatment and counseling for at-risk or mentally ill youth, and individuals and families affected by alcohol and drug abuse.

"One donation to United Way can benefit a host of agencies that make our communities better places to live," said United Way President Hal McCune. "When neighbors pool their generosity they can do a lot of good."

All United Way agencies are non-profit. They receive annual site visits from United Way, which reviews their operations and insures donations are used wisely.