

NOTICES

Siletz Tribal Members Needed for Ten Tribes Study

The Siletz Tribal Council has authorized the tribe's participation in the Ten Tribes Study, conducted by the Arizona Prevention Center of the University of Arizona. The purpose of the study is twofold: to examine differences of alcohol abuse between tribes and among people of each tribe, and to work through tribal government and existing programs to cooperatively compile data to address alcohol and substance abuse within the tribe.

A letter has been sent to individuals whose names were randomly drawn to participate. Other tribal members are invited to take part in the Alcoholism Prevalence and Gene/Environment Interactions in American Indian Tribes Study (the Ten Tribes Study). This study is funded through the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. Three hundred interviews will be completed.

All study participants will be paid for taking part in a structured interview of up to three hours and having 44 ml. of blood drawn. To be eligible, you must be at least 21 years old and able to provide verification that you are an enrolled tribal member. You may be a lifetime abstainer (never used alcohol and/or drugs), a current drinker (practicing alcohol and/or drug use; must be sober at time of interview), or an ex-drinker (no alcohol or drug use for at least one year).

The research results will be useful to the community. For instance, the results could strengthen existing tribal health and mental health programs and help plan services that will assist the community in the years ahead.

All information is closely guarded to comply with laws regarding confidentiality of the participants.

If you would like more information or to make an appointment, please call the Ten Tribes Study site coordinator in your area:

Siletz: Lisa Brown, 541-444-8255

Portland: Angela Ramirez, 503-238-1512

Eugene: Urbana Ross, 541-302-9881

Salem: Beverly Owen, 503-390-9494

Specifics on the Ten Tribes Study

The prevalence of alcoholism among American Indians is varied, although epidemiological studies have involved primarily small tribes in

Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Ongoing NIAAA studies have discovered high rates of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems.

Tribes vary tremendously, however, in drinking behaviors within their communities. With this study, the agency extends its work to tribes with purportedly low and moderate rates of alcoholism.

The Ten Tribes Study aims to evaluate the interacting roles of historical, economic, sociocultural, psychological and genetic factors in mediating different individual vulnerability to alcoholism and the consequences of alcoholism. Considerable effort is being directed toward defining and accurately assessing the prevalence of alcoholism, interpersonal violence, associated psychopathologies, and other consequences of alcoholism for the individual, family, and community.

Specific goals include determining the prevalence rates of alcoholism in 10 demographically sampled American Indian tribes; systematically diagnosing conditions that often co-occur with alcoholism; addressing crucial antecedents and consequences of alcoholism, such as posttraumatic stress, violence, acculturation, and child abuse; and studying how genetic and environmental factors interact and affect the prevalence of alcoholism.

Selection of tribes has been guided by mortality statistics to select tribes with apparently low and moderate rates of alcohol-related causes of death, and by ethnographic data guiding selection of groups that are historically identifiable, distinct groups. All site coordinators, advisory committees, and interviewers are identified from among tribal members. The tribal advisory committee may add questions to the assessment package and receive a copy of the database.

Focus groups will be conducted with each tribe for the assessment of cultural identity, to receive input on questions that might be problematic, and to record ethnographic data on community definitions of the problems, understanding of the causes, and preferred avenues of intervention.

The following will be included in the personal interviews: AUDATIS (Alcohol Use and Drug Interview Schedule), SF-36 (Health Scale), TSI (Traumatic Stress Inventory), PSS (Posttraumatic Stress Scale), ARC (Cultural Stakes Scale), the Out-of-Home Placement Questionnaire, and intimate violence questions taken from the current NIH/CDC-funded study of violence against women.

Native American Evangelists Visit Siletz

by Gladys M. Bolton

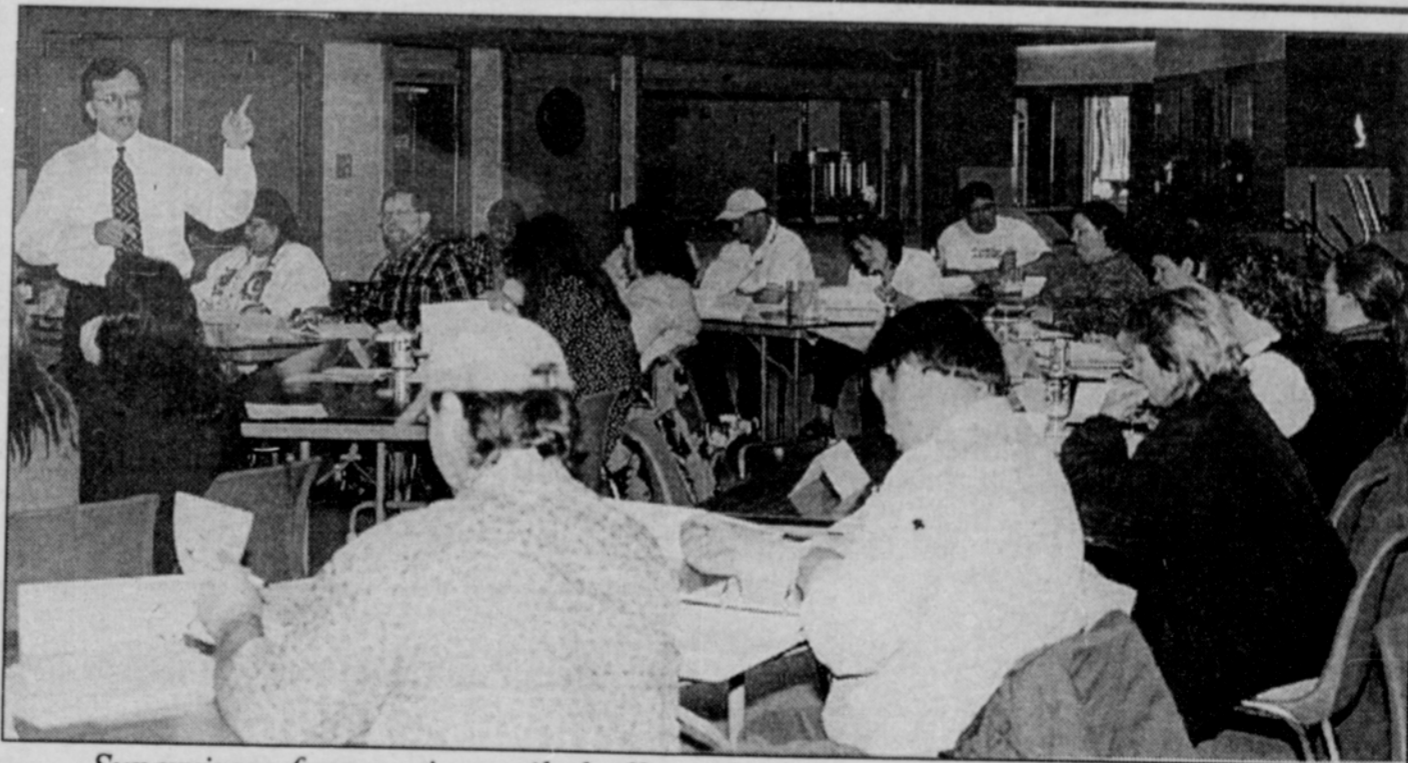
On June 5, 1999, Vernon Kennedy of Burns, Ore., Bill Wainanwit and Al Smith of Warm Springs, Ore., visited our community.

They appeared at the Siletz Tribal Community Center and offered spiritual services, testimonies, ministries, prayer, and beautiful singing and guitar playing.

It was a most dynamic evening. Those of us who attended were just filled with the Holy Spirit.

These evangelists would like to return to Siletz at a later date. We will put out a bulletin of times and hopefully we will have a full house.

Thanks to these fine gentlemen.



Supervisors from various tribal offices attend the first in a series of trainings emphasizing such things as coaching, training, conflict resolution, and budgeting. Other supervisors will take the same series of courses starting in October.