

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

Siletz Tribal Prevention Hosts Open Gym

The Prevention Program currently is coordinating with other programs to provide the community with open gym sessions at Siletz School two times per week. Days and times are Friday from 8:30 - 10 p.m. and Sunday from 4 - 6 p.m.

This Prevention Program activity is designed to accomplish the following

goals: 1) Give youth something to do when the weather is bad; 2) Bring youth/families together; 3) Educate youth/families about ATOD and health risk factors; 4) Offer youth/families access to information, services, and resources; 5) Help youth/families provide service to the community.

(See Prevention on page 12)

Housing Authority in Transition

By Connie Hoffman, Executive Director

This is the last housing report that I will write for the Housing Authority. By the time that you read this, I will have left the job that I have held for the tribe since Jan. 2, 1991.

I am indeed sad to leave this position, which has been a big part of my life for the past nine years. It has been a privilege for me to be of service to tribal members needing assistance from the Housing Authority.

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I want to introduce a new staff member who joined us in November and who will be a great asset to the Housing Authority. David Bailey is filling the new position of project manager. He will oversee the many construction projects that we fund. He has operated his own construction business for the past 10 years and prior to that, he directed a housing program for the Grand Ronde Tribe.

The major project that he oversees is the construction of 20 homes in Siletz. The site work is under way to develop this subdivision on the west edge of the city.

The modular homes that will occupy 20 of the lots are being built by Modern Building Systems at its factory in Aumsville, near Salem. Due to weather conditions, they probably will not be brought to the site until sometime next summer. Homebuyers for these 20 homes will be selected from our Mutual Help program waiting list during the next 30 to 60 days.

The remaining nine lots will be available to tribal members as home sites. Our down payment program will be available to those who qualify and financing programs may be available through the Housing Authority or tribe for the remainder of the cost of the home. Private financing sources also are available through conventional lenders.

Two programs funded through our housing block grant continue to attract applications on a consistent basis. These are the emergency housing program and the rehabilitation program for elders and disabled tribal members. The response to these programs shows us where the greatest needs are and helps us plan wisely to meet these needs in the future.

The Siletz Tribe is one of two tribes in the country that recently received HUD funding for a Welfare-to-Work Voucher Program. This money will expand our Section 8 program by targeting vouchers to families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). The tribe's Employment Services Program (ESP) will provide services to families receiving these vouchers to help them achieve the program's goal of self-sufficiency.

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I want to thank each and every one of you with whom I have had contact over the past nine years. We at the Housing Authority could not have accomplished what we have without the support of Tribal Council, the assistance we have received from tribal staff, and above all, the input we have received from tribal members. I will make use of all of the experience and knowledge I have gained here. I hope that 2000 is a wonderful year for all of us.

Education Includes a Variety of Programs

Head Start

The Head Start Program is an early childhood developmental program preparing 3- and 4-year-old children for public school.

Siletz Tribal Head Start focuses on education, health, social services, cultural enrichment, and parental involvement. Children participate in a structured classroom environment a minimum of four days per week, three and one-half hours per day. Centers are located in Siletz, Springfield, and Salem. Each center serves 20 children.

The Siletz Community Preschool Program provides a tuition-based early childhood program for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Siletz Tribal Head Start goals include strengthening parental involvement and training, developing the Salem Center as an early childhood education training lab for Chemawa High School students, expanding Head Start services to Portland, increasing Siletz and Salem by 10 slots for home-based programs, and providing financial support for any tribal member 3- or 4-year-old to attend a certified preschool program.

Supplemental Education

The Siletz Tribe Supplemental Education Program provides Johnson O'Malley (JOM) and Adult Education services, which benefit Indian children, youth and adults by supporting their intellectual growth, vocational goals, and cultural enrichment. The programs also advance the participant's physical, social and emotional growth.

The JOM program provides basic services such as tutoring, cultural enhancement and college preparation classes to supplement existing educational programs available in communities. Services are provided to Indian children 3 years old through high school. A Parent Committee assists with assessing needs, identifying activities and services, and establishing a budget for activities.

(See Education on page 10)