

Cultural Traditions Showcased at Oregon History Center

The work of three Siletz Tribal members is featured in the *Living Traditions* exhibit now on display at the Oregon History Center in Portland, Ore.

This exhibit focuses on the process of preserving cultural traditions and the numerous skills this entails. *Living Traditions* showcases the 1999-2000 Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (TAAP), an annual program of the Oregon Historical Society Folklife Program, displaying the work of 10 master traditional artists and their apprentices.

Agnes Baker-Pilgrim is teaching Native American regalia making to Tanya Nevarez, and Esther Stutzman is learning Kalapuya basketry from Karen Howlingwolf.

Living Traditions contains original works of art, photographs, and musical instruments, along with insights into the artistry, background, and the unique skills involved in passing on each cultural tradition. In every case, artists teach skills and techniques that are learned within the cultural life of a community, taught from one person to another over time and space. Because knowledge and skills of these art forms are passed down through oral tradition, each artist shares a deep commitment to sharing what they know to ensure these traditions will be carried on by future generations.

Living Traditions will be on display at the Oregon History Center through Aug. 31, 2000. It will then move to the Oregon State Capitol building in Salem, and will be on display from Sept. 5 through Oct. 13.

The TAAP program has been made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Oregon Arts Commission, and U.S. Bank. Stipends for the master artists were provided through a generous grant from the PGE-Enron Foundation.

A program guide with images, personal information, and quotes from each artist is available. For more information, contact the OHS Folklife Department at 503-306-5292.

Check Out Little Creek Apartments

Our apartment community offers housing discounts to tribal members and employees of the Siletz Tribe and Chinook Winds Casino.

We have two-bedroom/one-bath and three-bedroom/two-bath apartments with washer/dryer hook-ups. We also offer a clean, quiet environment with an exercise room, video library, and playground, as well as a Kid's Club.

Rents start at \$475 (discounted to \$425). Take advantage of our move-in special - **\$ off first month's rent!** Call Judy at 541-265-2663 or stop by 365 NE 36th St., Newport. Don't miss out!

Note: Clip this article for \$30 off the screening fee.

Public Interest Growing in Well Water Safety

An outpouring of public interest at recent informational forums about well water suggests that many Oregonians are concerned – often with good reason – that their drinking water is not safe, and want to find out what they can do about it.

Several "Well Water Clinics" operated by the Home-A-Syst program at Oregon State University were held in the central Willamette Valley. About 1,000 concerned residents attended those and other sessions. This was "a level of interest that was far more than we had anticipated," said Gail Glick Andrews, an Extension water quality educator with the OSU Department of Bioresource Engineering.

"What this indicates to me is that people are really craving information and want to protect their home water supply," Andrews said. "The odd thing is that many of them thought they were the only ones who didn't know much about this issue. The reality is that many or most people are poorly informed."

New information available on the Internet will help people learn how to protect their well water supplies. The web address is <http://osu.orst.edu/extension/wellwater>.

According to Andrews, as many as one-fourth to one-half of the private wells in Oregon contain surface contaminants. Summer is the ideal time for people to inspect their well systems, test the water, and make any necessary changes or repairs.

Several support agencies exist for people to find information to get started. County Extension offices are the best place to start, she said. People also can obtain information from the new web site, or contact Andrews via e-mail at gail.glick.Andrews@orst.edu.

Andrews said that if properly constructed and maintained, most private wells in Oregon actually produce very safe water. The natural filtering action of soil tends to control bacteria and viruses. Problems are most common with well-drained soil that speeds the downward movement of surface contaminants, especially in heavily fertilized agricultural areas.

Testing for coliform bacteria and nitrate levels every one to three years is recommended, Andrews said, and contrary to common assumptions, taste is not a good indicator of water quality. Some crystal clear water can be contaminated and some foul-tasting water can be fine.

The Extension literature outlines a number of fairly simple things homeowners can do to help protect their well water. They include:

- ✓ Locate your well, septic tank, and drain field as the first step toward managing and protecting these areas.
- ✓ Have your septic tank pumped about every three to five years, depending on household usage patterns.
- ✓ Remove any chemicals stored in your well house, and protect the soils around your property from contamination by oil, gasoline, and household chemicals.
- ✓ Make sure there is no water standing around the top of your well.
- ✓ Ensure that a sanitary seal caps your well to keep out foreign objects and surface contaminants.