

Welcome to the Prevention Dimension

Shu'-yi'-de-ghayt-nin'sh

Shu'-yi'-de-ghayt-nin'sh means

We are getting well

Shu' (sounds like "shoe")

yi ("i" is a long "a" sound)

de (short "e" like in "den")

ghayt (sounds like "kite")

nin'sh (long "e")

The articles and information you see here are offered as a way to increase communication and share information, knowledge, and humor. We welcome questions, suggestions, and artwork from youth age 12 to 17.

Please contact Lisa Brown at 1-800-600-5599, or 541-444-8238 to turn in articles or information that may be printed in an upcoming issue of Siletz News. You also may e-mail documents of interest to lisab@ctsi.nsn.us.

by Lisa Brown

I am very proud of the youth who have stepped forward to support alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention efforts. I also give thanks for the adults who commit their time and energy to chaperone, assist with fund-raisers, or to even take the time to ask one of the youth, "So, what is it that you are doing as a member of the Siletz Youth Group?"

The youth are very empowered by the conferences they have attended and many adults have commended them on their presentations to other youth. They have made presentations to almost 200 tribal and community youth in Oregon and at least 20 from other states. The message they carry is simple: to be respectful of yourself, your body, spirit, and mind; and to honor and respect the earth and other people.

As the Siletz Tribal Prevention Program coordinator, I am very concerned about alcohol use by our youth. Alcohol is a **drug**. I am even more concerned about the people who purchase alcohol for our youth. It's difficult for adults in the community to find solutions to this problem. Many adults, parents, and community members care about our youth so much that they have changed their lifestyles to be role models for our youth.

Please help us win this battle. Talk to young people, peers, and parents about the dangers of alcohol. Urge people to find information about the problem and share with others. Call 1-877-553-TEEN, 1-800-523-HELP, or 1-800-600-5599, ext. 238, to find resources and information.

Governor Signs "Minor In Possession" Bill

The Oregon Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking announced today that Gov. John Kitzhaber will publicly sign into law a new provision that equips courts to act more effectively when youth fail to appear on a charge of minor in possession of alcohol. This statewide non-profit organization is dedicated to reducing underage drinking through social norms and public policy.

The public signing represents a major victory for Oregon substance abuse prevention advocates, who worked throughout the legislative session to secure passage of the bill.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Butler (R-Ontario), ensures that juvenile offenders who fail to appear in court on a minor in possession charge will have their driver's licenses suspended.

"This is a significant victory because it will act as a deterrent to underage drinking in Oregon ... youth know that if they choose to drink there are consequences," said Nina Robart, executive director of the Oregon Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking. "We worked with young Oregonians on this policy, and we are very pleased that it has passed and the governor supports this measure."

Advocates are quick to point out that this measure is intended to encourage youth to appear in court and receive education, counseling, and treatment where needed – and not as a punitive measure. "The goal is to get help for young people who need it, not to punish kids," said Robart.

Jobs Online

Nativamericanjobs.com – A Native American-owned small business located in Klamath Falls, Ore. Its mission is to help people get jobs and to help employers reach those looking for work. You do not have to be Native American to use these services.

Check it out at this Web site: <http://www.nativamericanjobs.com>.



Lisa Brown (c) shows Alyssa Scott and Denaee' Towner the intricacies of beading as they all work in the Prevention booth at the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow.

Youth Enjoy, Learn from Conference

by Apples Lane

The National Native Conference on Tobacco, held Aug. 6-8, 2001, was a good educational learning experience, as well as a successful chance for us to interact and socialize with other tobacco-free Native youth. We hope to attend many more conferences and share the knowledge with the community and our tribe.

Our whole drug-free youth group would like to thank the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for funding our financial needs, and we would like to thank all the chaperones and adults who supported us and made sure that we all were well fed and had a comfortable bed!

Pros

- ☺ We met new people.
- ☺ It was fun to be around other youth like ourselves.
- ☺ We learned more about the harmful effects of tobacco use and abuse.
- ☺ We learned about all the deadly chemicals in cigarettes and chewing tobacco.
- ☺ We learned that it is not in our Native culture to abuse tobacco, but to use it in a sacred way.

Cons

- ☹ We only got to go swimming once out of three days.