

# TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

## Ask ESP

by Bob Jensen

We are initiating a new column in Siletz News. Our objective is to give tribal members information on the Employment Services Program (ESP).

Over the past year, we have prepared pamphlets, changed some administrative processes, and attempted to provide information about what ESP does and why. Questions come up, however, that need answers that may not have been provided through the information we have given you. As a result, we invite you to send questions to Siletz News that

you would like answered. We will do our best to answer them.

We will follow a couple of rules. First, we will not discuss any situation where an Employment Services Program client might be identified. The information that ESP clients give us is confidential. Second, our objective is to let you know what services we provide and the manner in which we provide them. We have many programs to help tribal members, but most of them are connected to the amount of

money a family receives. If we can provide information to you so that you understand ESP, then our goal will be met.

## What is the Employment Services Program?

The Employment Services Program consists of the following consolidated programs: General Assistance (GA), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

ESP has staff in each area office. The social workers are called tribal services specialists. We also have intake workers, called tribal services assistants, who take the applications for ESP programs. Finally, we have a job training and employment counselor whose job is to find prospective employers who are willing to work with ESP in providing training or work for our clients.

ESP services are divided into two areas. The first is our cash assistance programs of General Assistance (GA) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). The other area is our work component called the Work Force Investment Act (WIA). This covers all work placement services we provide, including the Work Experience Program (WEX), On-the-Job Training (OJT), Classroom Training (CRT), Direct Placement (DP), and related services, such as Support Services, Diverted Services, and Emergency Assistance.



*Jeremy Whitehead (l), Harold McCord, and Kevin Goodell prepare to fight a fire near Columbia Falls, Mont. They helped fight the fire for two weeks in early September. The cloud behind them is the fire, which is 35 miles away in Glacier National Park.*

## TCCD Project Reaches End

by Diane Henkels

Greetings! This is the last article from the Siletz Tribal Court and Code Development Project, which ended Sept. 30, 2001. Tribal Court or the administration has all the project records should you have any questions or concerns.

First, the remaining summary from the last community meetings. Regarding the Tax Ordinance work: Discussion was brief. Some people expressed disapproval of tribes taxing tribal members. Some said that once people own their own homes from tribal housing, they should have to pay taxes for the services they receive for the home. One idea offered was an alternative income tax where a tribal member could pay tribal taxes instead of state or municipal taxes. Tax breaks have been available in some places for putting up housing, such as tribal housing.

I would like to thank all those community members who contributed their ideas to project work. That input has been essential in shaping potential laws into potential laws that fit the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. It has been an honor (and fun!) to work for the Siletz Tribe's self-governance.

I also thank all those who worked on this project, both project and other staff. This work could not have been done without you!

Siletz Tribal Court and Code Development

## Tribal Census Update

As many of you may recall, at the end of last year the Planning Department initiated a tribal census to gather baseline information to help develop the upcoming Comprehensive Plan and for program planning purposes. The survey form was mailed to tribal member households, but only 464 households returned the information.

The tribe currently is without a tribal planner, so efforts to finish the survey have been put on hold until a new planner is hired. Interviews are pending. Once a planner is hired, the Planning Department will initiate activity to complete the survey form with the remaining households.

The survey form asks many questions about household income, housing needs, health needs, employment status and needs, child care needs, and more. While the questions are personal, your information is kept strictly confidential. It is safeguarded and the only people with access to it are appropriate Planning staff.

The information we have gathered to date is good information, but is incomplete because of the small number of returns. In order to have adequate information, we must complete this survey. Tribal members can request personal assistance in filling out the survey form.

Please watch for additional information in upcoming newsletters.

## Tribal Court News

from the Office of Tribal Court

### September

- Judge Gantenbein and the court administrator attended domestic violence training in Portland on Sept. 11.
- Third quarter judges' meeting held at Chinook Winds on Sept. 22.

### October

- Tribal Court notified by DOJ that our grant application has been selected for funding. This was for Continuing Tribal Court Enhancement and would provide funding to help design forms for self-help guides for people representing themselves (pro se) in Tribal Court, create a spokesperson pool, and purchase a Tribal Court computer software program.