

TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS



Four Siletz Tribal members were honored at this year's Eagle Feather Ceremony, held on June 10 at the Siletz Tribal Community Center. Pictured clockwise from top left are Joe Lane, Maggie Norton, Kurtis Barker, and Sarah Butler. Two Siletz Tribal members, Jason Howell and Andrea Retherford, are not pictured. The Indian Education Program staff conducted the ceremony, with Patty Savage Socha, Juanita Whitebear, Ann Goddard, Ahna Wagnon, and Fred Rider taking part. Mike Darcy gave the keynote address.



Siletz Tribal Head Start sang at their graduation on June 6 (above). Donovan Carey (below, l) and Clarinda Black (below, r) receive graduation packets from Teacher Vella.

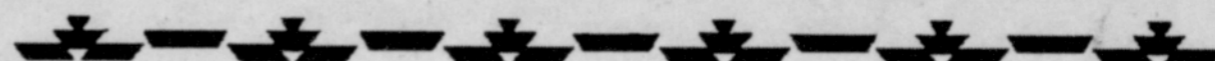


Hill Honored at Eagle Feather Ceremony

Jeremy Hill was honored at an Eagle Feather Ceremony held on May 31, 2002, at McNary High School. The Salem-Keizer school district's Indian Education program hosted the event. They presented the graduating students with plaques, eagle feathers, and ribbon shirts for the boys and shawls for the girls. Speakers included the school district superintendent and local school principal.

Eagle Beak (from Grand Ronde) provided the drumming for the event. After the ceremony, refreshments were provided.

Those present to help Jeremy celebrate included his mom, stepdad, grandmother, sister, aunt, uncle, and cousin.



Kids Turn Their Lives Around

by Jeff Anderson of the Keizertimes (reprinted with permission)

A year ago, Jeremy Hill was close to becoming a dropout at McNary High School.

Jennifer Lavery thought school at Claggett Creek Middle School was a waste of time.

And Phillip Moullet was the unofficial king of detention at Whiteaker Middle School.

All three Keizer kids turned their lives around and were honored for their efforts, along with 17 Salem students, at the Salem-Keizer School District's eighth annual Turnaround Achievement Awards ceremony. The event was held May 15 at Willamette Lutheran Homes in Keizer.

Sponsored by Keizer's Town and Country Lanes, the ceremony drew a host of local leaders, including Salem Mayor Mike Swaim, schools Superintendent Kay Baker, Keizer Fire Chief Greg Frank, Keizer Police Chief Marc Adams, state Rep. Vic Backlund, and several Keizer city councilors.

Jim Seymour of Catholic Community Services was the guest speaker, and he challenged the turnaround students to set goals, keep learning, and keep their eyes focused on the straight path.

"You can make mistakes. You can screw up," he said, "as long as you admit it and get back on the right track."

All three Keizer students admitted to having made some poor decisions.

"I wasn't going to graduate," said Hill, a senior, "I needed 14 credits at the beginning of the year."

Hill said he was told he'd be a five-year senior, and that he should think about enlisting in the military.

"I just didn't like school and then I got into the CE2 program, and they got me back on track to graduate on time," he said.

His mom, Cindy Jackson, said her son went through some tough times. His parents divorced and he took it hard, she said.

"He had dug himself quite a hole. He'd been doing that for three years," said Larry Hayward, the CE2 teacher at McNary who teaches students life and work skills.

Hayward "is a real miracle worker," Jackson said, adding that her son gained in self-confidence and his entire attitude improved.

"They wanted to send him to boot camp," she said. "I said he can do this. I knew he could do it."

Hayward said it's always rewarding to see kids' lives change for the better.

"It's a labor of love," he said. "That's why we go to work every day, to see kids succeed. To turn your life around you have to start going to school and putting forth some effort."

Hill said he plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall and become an electrician.