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# SILETZ



# NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

Vol. 32, No. 2 February 2004

## USDA Uses Grant to Get New Truck

For quite some time, Kitti Hostler, USDA director, had been driving a 1991 Chevy Kodiak truck to and from the Salem and Siletz warehouses where commodity foods are distributed to hundreds of clients. The truck was essential to keep many commodities cool or at required USDA temperatures.

The program acquired the truck in 1999 through GSA Fleet Leasing. Kitti joined USDA in 1999, got her CDL (commercial driver's license), and started driving the old truck.

The 1991 Chevy Kodiak refrigerated truck was laid to rest in 2003. Out with the old in with the new – a 2004 Kenworth T300 with a Cat C7 engine and a refrigerated unit that's 18 feet long.

One thing Kitti keeps the same is her "Lucy" figurine of Charlie Brown comic strip fame that came with the 1991 Kodiak. It now sits on the 2004 Kenworth.

The purchase would not have been a success without the help of some very

tactical negotiators – Margo Hudson, Elton Hostler, and Rosie Hall of the Property and Procurement Department; and Marci Rae Taylor in Fleet and Facilities. They negotiated with three companies to get the best deal. Mount Trailer Co. of Portland won the bid and delivered the beautiful concord blue Kenworth.

Kitti requested money through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Capital Funds. She not only received funds for the refrigerated truck, but also was able to replace a five-horsepower outdoor unit, which was very much overdue; a new walk-in freezer; and a new walk-in cooler. This allows the program to keep several months worth of commodities available to clients.

Because Kitti was able to pay for the truck in full, she now just incurs fuel costs. This means that the USDA Commodity Distribution Program saves



almost \$790 in lease and mileage costs each month and can use the money for other program needs.



*Kitti Hostler sits in the brand new Kenworth (above), which replaced the Chevy Kodiak (right).*

## A Call for Volunteers

Your help is needed to assist with setting up and preparing for potlucks following funerals.

If you're willing to help in one of the following areas, please contact Angela Ramirez at 541-444-8225 or 1-800-922-1399, ext. 225.

1. Setting up tables and chairs prior to potluck

2. Preparing and setting out food in buffet style
3. Cleaning up the kitchen
4. Providing prepared dishes and delivering to the tribal center

Your assistance would greatly be appreciated. A call list will be created and volunteers contacted to provide food or volunteer on the day of the funeral.

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Siletz News  
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