

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In past issues of *Siletz News*, I have highlighted several important economic development projects currently being implemented by the Siletz Tribe. I now would like to highlight a number of equally important human resources programs of the Siletz Tribe. There are many, but I would like to mention the following few.

Siletz Valley School

Siletz Valley School, which began operating three years ago for kindergarten through eighth grade, will begin enrolling high school students this fall.

This is a remarkable achievement in view of the fact that just two years ago, the Siletz grade school was doomed to be closed by the county school district. The Siletz school (now a charter school) was not only saved by the concerted efforts of the Tribal Council, staff, and the Siletz community, but also, beginning this fall, will include kindergarten through high school.

In 2006, under existing programs, 127 clients overcame barriers that were preventing them from attaining self-sufficiency. Five earned their GEDs, 25 became employed, and 32 reached other educational goals. The establishment of the Siletz Valley School's high school credit program will enhance



Delores Pigsley

even more educational opportunities for our members.

Mentor/Protégé Program

A few years ago, Chinook Winds started what is called the Mentor/Protégé Program under which selected tribal members will receive help to develop their management skills. Recently, three tribal members – Natane Woosley, Chad McCormick, and Candi

Labonte – are to be congratulated for being selected to enroll in this wonderful program.

The Human Resources departments of tribal administration and Chinook Winds also are coordinating their efforts to further strengthen the tribe's employment and training opportunities for our members.

The Chinook Winds Human Resources Department sponsors monthly meetings to identify job openings and provide opportunities for training and recruitment by bringing together a wide variety of state and federal resources, i.e., the Department of Labor, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) needs-based program, funded at \$906,377, helps facilitate this coordinated effort. (In calculating need, TANF is governed by federal regulations and per capita is counted as a resource.)

An example of this effort is the job fair that was held on April 12, hosted by Chinook Winds, which included more than 200 participants from which 50 people actually were offered jobs.

I believe that one measure of the progress that has been made in the Siletz Tribe's efforts to develop our

human resource potential is the fact that more than 10 years ago when Chinook Winds first began operations, there were virtually no tribal member managers. Today, 26 tribal members hold responsible casino management positions.

We have made a great deal of progress and many good things continue to happen to strengthen the human resources of our tribe. Many educational, employment, and training opportunities are available and our tribal members are strongly urged to take advantage of them.

Local Elections

In closing my chairman's report, I am compelled to comment briefly on Lincoln City's municipal election.

I find it regrettable that Mayor Lori Hollingsworth stated that the tribe's fee-to-trust land transactions have significantly reduced the city's tax base. My immediate response to this statement is that our economic development ventures on these lands have fueled an economic revival in Lincoln City that has had far-reaching benefits to the citizenry.

I shall speak further on this matter through the local media.

Siletz Valley School and Siletz Valley Early College Academy

Now accepting applications for next school year (2006-2007)



All grade levels have limited space and are on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to register soon!

You can pick up a registration packet from Teri in the school office from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Most Often Requested Numbers

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians | 1-800-922-1399 |
| Salem Area Office | 503-390-9494 |
| Salem Finance Office | 1-888-870-9051 |
| Portland Area Office | 503-238-1512 |
| Eugene Area Office | 541-484-4234 |
| Springfield Siletz Tribal Head Start | 541-747-0161 |
| Contract Health Services (CHS) | 1-800-628-5720 |
| Siletz Community Health Clinic | 1-800-648-0449 |
| Siletz Alcohol and Drug | 1-800-600-5599 |
| Chinook Winds Casino Resort | 1-888-244-6665 |
| Chemawa Health Clinic | 1-800-452-7823 |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs | 1-800-323-8517 |
| Web Site | www.ctsi.nsn.us |

Attention Siletz Tribal Veterans



Any veteran who is interested in performing Honor Guard ceremonies for various events at Chinook Winds Casino Resort and pow-wows, etc., should contact Clay Arden at the Portland Area Office, 503-238-1512 or 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1419.

A stipend will be given to those who participate.

Open Your Home – and Your Heart – to a Child in Need*

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment.

A number of foster care programs and organizations nationwide are dedicated to ensuring that foster children get the care and support they need. These organizations can't do it alone – they need the assistance of people like you.

The need for foster parents currently ranks among the most pressing problems in the child welfare system. Nearly every community in the nation has a shortage of foster families. This is true for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, both locally and throughout the 11-county service area.

Many people believe that only married couples can become foster parents. In fact, foster parents can be single, married, or divorced. They can be homeowners or live in an apartment. They can be as young as 21 – or they can be retired.

Families who care for foster children receive payments that are intended to cover ordinary living expenses for the child, including food, shelter, and daily supervision.

Each state has its own rules and procedures for becoming a foster parent. For information on fostering a Siletz Tribal child, please contact the tribe's Indian Child Welfare department at:

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Attn: Sandra Simmons, Foster Parent
Certifier/Case Manager III
Indian Child Welfare
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380-0549
1-800-922-1399, ext. 1275
541-444-8275

*Used with permission of the National Foster Parent Association, 1-800-557-5238, www.nfpainc.org.