

## CERT Members Ready for All Weather Conditions

The members of Central Coast CERT recently received new ANSI (Federal Safety Standard) approved jackets. These jackets provide vital protection for CERT members, not only with respect to inclement weather, but also for maximum visibility and easy identification in poor conditions.

The purchase of these jackets was made possible by a generous grant from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. In May 2007, the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund awarded CERT with a grant of \$2,500, which enabled the group to purchase 53 jackets.

The new ANSI jackets will provide much-needed visibility to guide community members to those people best equipped to help them, thereby offering an element of stability in a situation which will undoubtedly be chaotic.

The recipients of these jackets are all very grateful to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for their contribution in helping secure the protection and safety of its members.

Central Coast CERT has been formed under the guidelines of Home-



Central Coast CERT members model their new jackets, purchased with a grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund. (courtesy photo)

land Security to train and equip people in our community to be able to help in the event of a disaster. At such time, CERT members will be activated and will begin checking their own neighborhoods

to assess damage, injury and individual needs to help direct emergency services to the areas of greatest urgency.

If anyone is interested in undergoing the intensive training to become a

CERT member, please contact the Newport Police Department at 541-574-3348 and ask to be informed when the next training takes place.

## Walt's Words of Wit and Wisdom

by Walt Klamath

Another month, another year. Times does fly, don't even have to have fun and it still goes fast.

Last year I think was a pretty good year. I don't think I was on any fire calls in the Logsdon area. Maybe becoming more educated. I wasn't woken up or had to leave dinner for some time, and this is good.

It's good to have the equipment to work with, but it's better to use the equipment to play with. Some may call the play "training." Whatever it's called, it still is playing unless it's the real thing, then it becomes deadly serious. Sometimes we just run the roads to let residents see that there is equipment in the area.

Over the past years the fire department has responded to many auto accidents. Most of the ones I have been on have been alcohol-related. Some haven't, but speed seems to be a factor.

Drinking and driving has been a curse on people, especially Indian people. Seems that alcohol affects us much sooner and more intensely than it does the dominant society. Medical science has spent much time following alcohol through the Indian system but cannot see any difference.

Personally, now this is just my own thinking, which sometimes seems to go into outer space somewhere. Alcohol has been in the dominant society for at least 6500 years B.C., there is a quote in the Bible about it even, Proverbs 23, verses 26-29. (I think) Alcohol came to this "Turtle Island" with the pilgrims. It came to our area in the 1800s with the miners and settlers.

Our bodies have not adapted to the fool stuff. Maybe in 10,000 years or so we can drink socially. Well, we do now

actually. It used to be that someone said, "I think I'll have a drink," and I would say, "So shall I." No matter, though, how it's said, alcohol affects all of us the same way, makes no difference what we are.

Alcohol is the most democratic way of life. Makes no difference, male female, religious standing, social standing, age - it treats us all equally, cleans out entirely our family, car, home and eventually our life.

Many years ago when I was in Japan, I had to have a driver's license. Didn't have to have one in Korea. Guess life was too unpredictable there, didn't need one.

Anyway, we didn't have all these sophisticated things like computers and all that junk. What we did have was a fully equipped 10- to 20-ton truck cab with all the goodies and stuff of which I had no idea what they were for.

Then we had a movie screen of a road and we drove that false cab along this road. One of the tests was a string with a weight, probably had a scientific name. Someone would let that weight go and we had to have that truck under full brake by the time it reached the other side. Heck, that was no problem, had the brakes on before it got halfway.

Now I did not drink at this time. I was given one lousy ounce of 80 proof and I could not beat that weight. Those who had been out on the town the night before could not beat that weight. The point is, alcohol slows our functions, I think the worst part is we don't realize that we are impaired.

The best thing is not to drink at all, but if one is going to indulge, by all means have a designated driver, preferably one with a driver's license.

## Election Deadlines for General Election

6 p.m. Feb. 1, 2008

Calibrate voting machine at Siletz Tribal Center, open to the candidates and membership

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Feb. 2, 2008

In-person voting - Tribal Elections at Siletz Tribal Center

4 p.m. Feb. 2, 2008

Deadline for returning absentee ballots

**Please remember if you are voting in person, you will need to bring a form of picture ID.**

CTSI Election Board  
P.O. Box 490  
Siletz, OR 97380  
800-922-1399

## Attention All Eligible Voters

### Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Election

The BIA is also planning to conduct an election around the same time of the General Election. This election will determine a change in the Siletz Tribal Constitution. This election will be conducted by the BIA in its entirety and does not involve the policies or procedures of the Siletz Tribal Election Ordinance or Election Board.

The BIA does not require signature cards. If you wish to vote in this election, tribal members will have to register with the BIA. The BIA will send out registration packets before they plan on conducting their election.

Please do not call the BIA office and request signature cards or registration packets at this time.

For more information, you can contact the CTSI Election Office at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1256.

## Important

- To be eligible to vote in the **2008 General Election**, you must be 18 years of age on or before Feb. 2, 2008. And you must have a signature card on file with the Enrollment Department to be a registered voter.
- To be eligible to vote in the **BIA Election**, you must be 18 years of age on or before the deadline of ballot receipt. And you must be registered separately with the BIA to be eligible to vote. The BIA will send out information directly to you, separate from the operations of the tribe.