

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

To the editor:

I read our *Nesika Illahee* and I don't know whether to be angry or heartbroken. When people speak of "their own self-pride," they should remember they're speaking of their own "perception" of what pride means. Be careful not to step on someone else's pride because that person's perception is different.

How can a mother look at her child and not see what's beautiful, not be proud of who she is and the family she's a part of regardless of what comes or goes?

A lot of these actions and causes of our younger people (and others) failing criminal background checks revolve around addiction. Until you've lived it, how can you judge what price has been paid?

Alcoholism and drug addiction are a disease; it's medically proven. Is it so hard to see that underneath that disease is a person who's lost and suffering? Or is it just easier to write them off as "weak" or "undeserving?"

I'm a drug addict. I'm paying the price of my actions with 68 months of my life and when I come home - I'll not be able to pass a background check. But I'll have done my time and paid the price.

So if my own Tribe will not help me, to not only survive but to succeed, then who will? Do you think our casino is the only business that does criminal

background checks? Where can I turn for a chance to help myself? When all doors to a new way of life seem barred to you, it's only natural that we turn back to the way we've been before.

As a Tribe, we have to create opportunities for our people who've made mistakes. Addiction rarely walks alone - mental illness, emotional problems, inability to interact on a social level, rage, abuse, violence and the scars of it. Some of us cannot stand the world we see when we open our eyes. Do you realize that sick people who feel kicked around, who haven't learned to function by society's rules, who come from and are prone to violence - something has to give?

Most of us really are good people deep down. I know I don't want to hurt anyone. But there are times when I fear I cannot stop myself. So I make it go away. I numb up with a bottle, pipe or spoon. Then I only blame myself and self-destruct rather than lashing out.

We aren't going to disappear and an entire generation is coming behind me. Make a place for us, give us a chance to help ourselves. That's the purpose of having a sovereign nation - they don't tell us, we decide what we do with what's ours.

A chance to succeed is not too much to ask for. People who need help deserve it no matter how much they need.

Hum-chi,
Randall Hartwell

Time to Gather Basket Materials

Spring is here and hazel sticks are ready to pick and peel. Hazel stick gathering is a must for anyone interested in making traditional Siletz baskets. Spruce root can be dug year round and is used for the weavers or weft of Siletz baskets.

Bear grass and maidenhair fern are used for overlay to make our traditional designs or marks in our baskets and both are picked in late summer.

Any Tribal members interested in gathering can call Bud Lane at 800-922-1399, ext. 1320, or 541-444-8320; or e-mail budl@ctsi.nsn.us.

Basket materials must be gathered in a timely fashion. Here is a general breakdown of gathering times for different items:

June: Hazel, willow, and fir sticks (until mid-June), spruce roots

July: Fir sticks, spruce roots, bear grass, maidenhair fern

August: Fir sticks, spruce roots, bear grass, maidenhair fern, hazel sticks (limited), willow sticks

September: Bear grass, maidenhair fern, woodwardia fern, spruce roots

Deadline Nears for Over-Income Grant

The Over-Income Rehabilitation Construction Program funds over-income families with a \$5,000 grant for construction rehabilitation on the primary residence they own or families who have possessor rights to their home.

Rehabilitation refers to repairs or renovations to the home, but does not include appliances, saunas, hot tubs swimming pools, etc.

Over-income refers to Tribal members whose income exceeds the income limits set by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). These are listed below:

1	2	3	Base 4	5	6	7	8
\$38,150	\$43,600	\$49,050	\$54,500	\$58,850	\$63,200	\$67,600	\$71,950

If you are a Siletz Tribal member and have not received an over-income grant, call the Housing office to request an application. Applications, including proof of income, enrollment and mortgage statements, must be submitted to the Housing office by July 31, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. Applications received after that date and time will not be accepted by the Siletz Tribal Housing Department.

Qualified applicants will be placed in the lottery drawing, which will be held during August on a date approved by the Tribal Council.

If you have any questions, please call Jeanette Aradoz at 800-922-1399, ext. 1331, or 541-444-8331.

New Steelhead Availability Notification Process

Every year, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) donates steelhead captured in its Siletz River trap to the Siletz Tribe. These are whole-bodied fish fresh from the trap.

The Natural Resources Department usually is notified just before ODF&W personnel head out to the trap that fish may become available later that day. The number of fish, their size and condition, and the time they will be available is not known until ODF&W returns from the trap and arrives at the Tribe's administration building in Siletz, usually sometime in the middle of the afternoon.

In past years, the number of fish available on any particular day has ranged from only 10 up to more than 50. The Natural Resources Department does not have a way to process or store these fish, so they must be distributed the afternoon they arrive.

We have struggled with a way to notify just the right number of people that fish will be available and to distribute them to those who want them without having extra left over or not enough to give to those who show up.

We currently are creating a list of those Tribal members who would like to be notified when fish become available. We will then do our best to make contact with each person, either by phone, e-mail or any other method people might suggest.

We cannot guarantee that each person will receive notification each and every time fish are available or that once someone shows up any fish will be left. It all depends on how much notice the Natural Resources Department receives and how many fish ODF&W brings each time. Your patience and understanding are requested.

If you are interested in being notified that fish are available and are willing to pick up a whole-bodied fish in Siletz on the afternoon that they show up, please return the notification form below to the Natural Resources office at the address listed on the form.

If you have any questions, please call Natural Resources Manager Mike Kennedy at 541-444-8232 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1232; or Natural Resources Technician Frank Simmons at 541-444-8288 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1288.

Name: _____ Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Other Method of Notification: _____

Please circle your preferred method of notification and return to Frank Simmons, Natural Resources Department, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549.

Tribal Children Need You

Do you value Siletz Native culture and want to help preserve it? If so, please consider fostering for the Tribe. The Siletz Tribe needs loving, stable, nurturing homes in all areas.

If you are interested, please contact Shawna Nagunst, foster care certifier, at 541-444-8275 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1275; or visit www.ctsi.nsn.us/icw.html.



Nuu-wee-ya'

(our words)

Introduction to the Athabaskan Language

Open to Tribal members of all ages

Siletz

Siletz Tribal Community Center

June 10 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

July 1 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Salem

Salem Area Office

June 3 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

July 9 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Portland

Portland Area Office

June 9 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

July 7 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Eugene

Eugene Area Office

June 2 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

June 30 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Athabaskan Language class started for beginners in January 2008. These classes began with basic instruction and will progress over the next year. It also will be a refresher course for those more-advanced students. Come and join other members of your community and Tribe in learning to speak one of our ancient languages.

For more information, contact Bud Lane at the Siletz Culture Department at 541-444-8320 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1320; or e-mail budl@ctsi.nsn.us.