

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS



Ronda Mortenson



Zebuli Payne

Photos by Anna Renville

Completed WEX Placement Pays Off

The 477 Self-Sufficiency Program would like to congratulate Ronda Mortenson and Zebuli Payne for their successful completion of their WEX positions. Both have been hired by Goodwill Industries.

Zebuli currently is working for Goodwill in its retail boutique located in downtown Portland on SW 10th and Taylor. Ronda currently is working at the new Goodwill that recently opened in the Woodstock neighborhood in Portland.

Be sure to stop in and say hi to both Zebuli and Ronda.

Walt's Words of Wit and Wisdom

by Walt Klamath

Golly, how time does fly. It's only eight months till general elk season, time to get prepared.

Of course, as time has progressed getting ready is not like it used to be. Getting all the grub, coffee and other good things; getting the stories in line – that will be different but the same story, dressed up, maybe a little more exciting.

There is one thing, though, I have not seen very much of, if anything. What about "nature calls?" Ever thought about that? Don't know why this came to mind.

I am thinking about Eastern Oregon, elk hunting in the high mountains where it does get a little cool sometimes, well below zero. This is when we put on every piece of clothing we have – long handles, heavy outerwear then on top of that maybe a rain coat or a good Filson jacket.

Now one drives up an icy snow-covered road, slicker than you-know-what on a doorknob, that proves quite exciting in itself. Now on a one-lane road, possibly someone is behind you or maybe coming down, but not very likely that early in the morning. It's real early to get to the favorite stump or some other landmark.

Suddenly that urgent nature call comes. It may be a 911 call looking for a tree or something; have to get the vehicle off the road in a hurry. The snow is about 10-12 inches deep. Just by chance there is a flat spot, a few trees covered with snow but time is getting urgent.

Now comes the time of reckoning. All the clothing that you have on in the freezing weather, snow knee high to a tall Indian but there is no choice, remember?

One time a few years ago (now I am not talking in first person), a member of the hunting party I was associated with did have that happen to him. Well, he did get pretty well set up. The snow was dropping from the tree and about that time a herd of elk was coming his way.

Now that poor guy with his pants down could see the elk legs, but not the head or body. He was crawling in the

snow, his pants around his ankles, trying to see the elk's head. This would have been a marvelous picture.

At the time he was not cold, but afterward when the excitement wore off he almost froze to death, according to him anyway. By the way, he was riding in an open military-type of jeep. Anyone who has any experience with them knows what the heating system is like.

The next day he did get his reward though – a four-point in an open field, still deep snow. It was hung up between two trees that someone had put a log across for the purpose off skinning.

Actually, he was part of the hunting party that was in my camper. Poor guy, I don't think he ever forgot that experience. Guess I saw to that as the fellow worked with me at Dwyer Lumber Co. in Portland. Maybe his Spirit is still in those mountains in Ukia.

Retasket, a former Siletz City Council member, explained that during the winter, the Siletz River is so full of silt and debris that the turbidity rate is more than the city's filtration system can handle. The rate of turbidity is a term of measurement for the amount of debris in the river water.

"There have been times each year that the city has to stop treating water and rely only on what is in storage until the turbidity rate drops to a level that they can safely treat without damaging equipment," said Retasket about the need for increased capacity and modern upgrades to the city's water system.

Retasket explained that the city sought a 1 million gallon capacity storage tank, but the USDA came back with a recommendation of a 500,000 gallon capacity tank. Once that recommendation had been made by the USDA, the Tribe proceeded with seeking the grant for the 500,000 gallon tank.



Karen Gerttula of the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund talks with Tribal Council member Tina Retasket at the North Lincoln Hospital Foundation's Donor Appreciation Dinner.

Photo by Kelley Ellis

Award, con't from page 1

(STCCF), which has awarded \$3.9 million of its funds to groups and organizations in Lincoln County.

The fund has distributed \$550,000 of that to health programs, which include health services, mental health programs, dental care, equipment, food share programs, prescription assistance, training and education, and construction and remodeling.

In presenting the Terrill Award, Foundation President Estle Harlan said, "The award recognizes folks who in a larger capacity have had an impact on the community. We look beyond just what is given to us, we look at how that has spread to the community and how the foundation's work has affected the whole community."

"The generosity of the Tribe, the \$99,000-plus that has been given to the hospital foundation – you have passed the test of the award and we realized we needed to say thank you."

STCCF has distributed a total of \$4.9 million since its inception in 2001. Overall, it has contributed to 1,022 organizations, with 728 (72 percent) located in Lincoln County.

Total Tribal charitable giving now stands at more than \$7 million through STCCF and other Tribal resources.

The Robert and Dorothy Terrill Award is presented annually to an individual, couple, group or organization that has provided outstanding support to the hospital, the foundation or the North Lincoln Health District.

It is named for two community leaders whose efforts culminated in the successful completion of the first unit of North Lincoln Hospital in 1968. They also helped organize the Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary to spearhead the local effort for a Lincoln City medical facility.

Water, con't from page 1

The Tribe plans to provide water lines and sewers to two area properties known as the Dundas property and the Grooms property on the southeast side of the City of Siletz. Plans for the Dundas property call for an industrial park and the Grooms property will be developed into additional government services buildings or additional Tribal housing.

The key to making the project work for everyone in the community is the Tribe upgrading the city's water storage capacity with at least one new water tank and possibly two new tanks.

According to Retasket, the Tribe also has received a \$580,000 Indian Health Services grant that was freed up through President Barack Obama's federal stimulus package and that funding could be used to help the city secure and build an additional new raw water storage tank.

Retasket said the estimated total cost of that project could be as much as \$1 million, so she is working with the city

to see if they can secure some of their capital improvement money to make up the additional cost needed to complete the second tank.

Retasket said the Tribe is working with the City of Siletz to make sure all citizens benefit from the installation of the new modern water lines and storage facilities.

The purpose of the water storage tanks is to provide a reliable water supply and the need for the project comes with projected housing increases and the projected development of Tribal land.

The project will be constructed in three phases. Phase one calls for the construction of a new 500,000 gallon water storage tank. New water and sewer lines for the Dundas property will be the second phase and the third phase of the project will be the facilities for the Grooms property.

The overall cost of the project is \$1,351,650 with the Tribe covering the additional \$351,650 to complete it.