

Need for Speed Propels 7-Year-Old to Motorcycle Racing for Last Two Years

Joshley Howell to race at World Mini Grand Prix Motocross in Las Vegas next year



Photos by Brent Merrill

Brenda, Joshley and Jerry Howell (left photo) surround Joshley's trophies at home. Joshley (above) stands close to his motorcycle. Will Metcalf (photo below) makes a purchase at the bake sale as Brenda and Joshley dish up the home-made goodies.

By Brent Merrill

The need for speed knows no age limit and Siletz Tribal youth Joshley Howell is living proof.

Just 7 years old in September, Joshley has been invited to participate in the World Mini Grand Prix Motocross in Las Vegas in April of next year and he has been racing motorcycles since he was a toddler.

More than 2,000 riders from more than 40 states and eight countries will compete in the 29th Annual Las Vegas event. There will be \$200,000 in cash and prizes at the five-day Mini Grand Prix at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Past participants in this event include motocross superstars Jeremy McGrath, Travis Pastrana and Ricky Carmichael.

Joshley, who attends first grade at Siletz Valley School, hosted a homemade bake sale fund-raiser at the Tribal administration building in Siletz on Oct. 16 to raise funds for the trip.

He got his first Yamaha PW50 motorcycle when he was 2 years old.

According to parents Brenda and Jerry Howell of Siletz, Joshley's time on the bike has become a family affair with everyone helping out. Joshley's brother Jason lives in Eugene, his brother Corey and sister Ryan live in Toledo and his brother Apolinar and sister Felisha live with Brenda, Jerry and Joshley in Siletz.

Joshley's grandparents are Deanna Howell and her late husband Walt, and Terrie and Bennie Brown, all of Siletz.

"His brother raced when he was younger and Joshley watched him," said dad Jerry. "He was always watching and looking interested and when we first put him on a bike he was ready and it seemed like a natural fit for him. He wasn't afraid."

Jerry said his son showed skill and that the family entered Joshley in his first race at age 5. After that race, his dad got him a new bike and he has been racing ever since.

In 2009, Joshley took second place in the 0-6 years old category at the Pac West Series Race and took third in the Open Class.

According to mom Brenda, Joshley has raced in Riverdale, Richland and

Tri-Cities in Washington state and races in Albany, Ore., where he qualified for a race in Ponca City, Okla.

According to the family, Joshley will compete in late October at Arena Cross for the Oregon State Championship Series and then he and the family will travel to Klamath Falls, the Rogue Valley, Central Point and then return to Salem.

Good luck, Joshley; your family, your Tribe and your community are behind you all the way. Like your brother Corey would say, "You need to pin it to win it."



List of Current American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds Awarded to the Siletz Tribe

Agency	Activity	Allocation/ Grant Amount
Bureau of Indian Affairs/ Federal Transportation Agency	Roads Improvement – sidewalks and main street improvements	\$345,000
Department of Energy	Development of Tribal Energy Conservation Strategy	305,500
Environmental Protection Agency/ Indian Health Services	Siletz Water Project – construction of raw-water storage tank	614,000
Health and Human Services Indian Health Services Child Care Development Fund ACF/TANF	Clinic Lab Equipment Child Care Program Allocation Head Start Program Self-Sufficiency TANF Allocation Aging Nutrition Services	31,000 124,374 58,694 65,514 11,500
Housing and Urban Development NAHASDA Allocation Indian Housing Block Grant	Construction of 10 low-income rentals on Gwee-Shut Additional 8 units of low-income units on Lakeside and 8 units on Gwee-Shut	1,468,998 2,935,000
Department of Labor	Summer Youth Program	1,380
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Food Distribution Program equipment	6,990
State of Oregon/Department of Energy	Funding for the Tribal Weatherization and Energy Conservation start-up program for equipment and training	113,000
Total ARRA Funds Awarded		\$6,080,950