

This is one of a series of articles that will spotlight business enterprises owned and managed by Siletz Tribal members. If you would like to spotlight your business as a part of this series, please contact Stephen Larrabee or Michael Phillips at 541-994-2142 or 877-564-7298; or e-mail them at slarrabee@stbcorp.net and mphilips@stbcorp.net.

Tribal Member Business Spotlight: Cearley Construction, operated by Jeremy Cearley

Like most business owners, Jeremy Cearley has worked long, hard hours to make his business successful. Unlike many owners, however, Cearley didn't start out dreaming of being in the business he is in.

"I started out with two locksmith shops in the Portland area and was doing that for several years," he said. "After being in the business for awhile, individuals started to ask me to do property preservation on foreclosed properties. After doing this for some time, which included becoming a licensed contractor, I was approached by the Tribe to do some work on the Portland Area Office and the rest as they say is history."

Cearley is in the construction business pretty much full-time. His wife, Laurie, is a real estate agent for Elite Realty in Oregon City and with her help and two staff members, they are still growing their property preservation business in the Portland area.

As Cearley pointed out, much of his initial success was because of help from the Tribe.

"As I mentioned, I was approached by the Tribe about the Portland office and I would like to thank STBC and the Planning Department for helping with this. From there I was able to secure additional contracts to do work on the maintenance building in Siletz, the 19-unit apartment

complex in Siletz and work related to the Tribe's building in Salem," he said. "It is wonderful that being a Tribal member has led to such fantastic opportunities and I am proud that my Tribe has helped not only me, but so many other Tribal members as well."

Cearley hopes other Tribal members pursue their dreams as well and had some solid advice for new business owners,

"If you can, find a good mentor and become a sponge. I have had some really good, kind people help me get to where I am today," he said. "Also, surround yourself with good, talented people who excel at what they do and listen to what they have to say and let them do their jobs."

It's clear that Cearley has a bright future ahead and he has no plans to slow down.

"I know the economy is a bit difficult right now, but I plan on plugging away and finding new sources to increase my business opportunities," he said. "I am excited about the forum that STBC will be having on Sept. 24 in Salem to learn more about the 8(a) certification process and hopefully once I obtain this status, new avenues will open up for me and my business."

Cearley can be reached at 503-984-1147 or CearleyConstruction@hotmail.com.



Courtesy photos from Chinook Winds-CTSI Team

Brady Smith runs one of his three legs (top left). The Chinook Winds-CTSI team of (l to r) Eric DeMello, Sar Richards, Alissa Lane, Buddy Lane, Heather Hatton, Brad Darcy, Robert Arce-Torres, Dee Waddell, Laura Kenney, Erin Carrington, Gail Kimberling, Brady Smith and Dr. Warren Sparks (support driver) crosses the finish line in Seaside (above). Eric DeMello, Heather Hatton, Brad Darcy and Erin Carrington enjoy a moment at the end of the relay (below).

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"Dr. Sparks was a valuable resource even though no major injuries occurred," said Smith. "He seemed to take care of everything and knew exactly how to get to the next spot before he left an exchange. I am sure hoping that we have a chance to run again."

Arce-Torres enjoyed seeing other relay teams in the spirit by wearing different costumes and decorating their vans. Seeing Mt. Hood at 7 a.m. at the starting line was quite the sight as well.

"We all appreciated the opportunity to do the relay. It was for a good cause (American Cancer Society), but most of all the camaraderie we shared was what I will take back from this experience," he said.

The team proved to be a success and forming a team next year sounds promising.

"I think the answer is obvious – you better believe I'll do it again," said Kenney.

"This type of out-of-the-box thinking that is gaining exposure for the resort and the Tribe in an unconventional way," said Hatton. "This was a way for us to get our name out there in a positive way, showing integrity, teamwork and the fact that we are more than just a casino."

The 2010 participants and sponsors raised more than \$456,000 for the American Cancer Society. OfficeMax added a generous donation, increasing the total 2010 fund-raising effort to \$500,000.

