

To the editor:

My name is Tina Baldomaro-Bearshield. I'm an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. I moved to Portland, Ore., from Rapid City, S.D., in 1986.

I personally owe a great deal of gratitude to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) with special recognition to the Portland Area Office (PAO), which provided and continues to provide assistance to this Portland resident for the last 25 years.

In my early years in Portland, the Urban Indian Council closed and the Siletz office was basically the only American Indian agency where any Native person living in the city sought and received assistance.

I've benefitted from almost every service provided by the Siletz Tribe to Native people, beginning with JTPA (thank you, Kelly Brugh), 477 Self-Sufficiency Program/Work Experience/OJT (thank you Jamie Mason), TANF (thank you Verdene McGuire, Anna Renville and Jenifer Metcalf), LIEAP (thank you Connie James and Sherry Addis), counseling advice/ICWA (thank you Lauren Patterson and Alan Nelson), Siletz Head Start and JOM, including sound advice regarding my personal education (thank you Katy Holland-Sipes).

I also enjoyed the benefits from taking gardening and cooking classes (thank you Lori Johnson, Verdene and Sherry).

In my experience, everyone at the PAO is helpful, always respectful (thank you too Priscilla!) and I enjoy all the friendships made through participating in the variety of events put on by the CTSI-PAO. For me and my granddaughter, Noni Washington, who is an enrolled Siletz Tribal member, the Tribe has been a great resource and support.

Because of the Tribe's care and generosity to help others, I returned to school after a 13-year absence and graduated in 2009 from Portland State University. Getting back into the workforce after eight years was intimidating. The Self-Sufficiency Program understood that and suggested their Work Experience program as a way to help me ease back into the workforce.

The WEX program led me to my present position as a student support specialist for Portland Public Schools' Title VII Indian Education Project. I'm

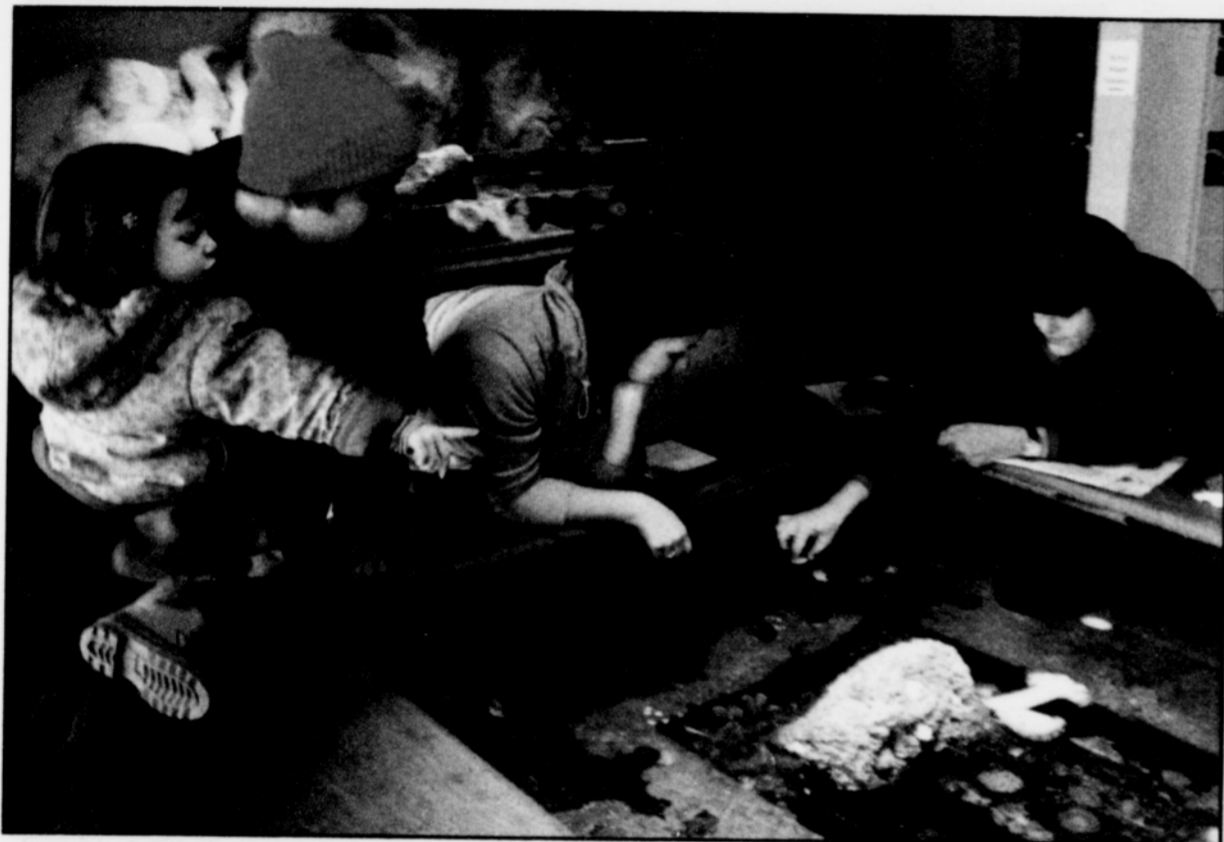
currently working with Native students attending high school in Portland Public Schools and in the process of applying to the graduate teaching program to become a full-fledged teacher.

I also want to recognize the CTSI ICWA (thank you Aline Miller) and Tribal Court (thank you Honorable Judge Gantenbein) for continued support and assistance.

As a Wasco Tribal member from Warm Springs recently stated to me, "The Siletz people are the best Tribe around Oregon! Because they help everyone! They don't discriminate." I agree!

A great big shout out to the PAO and CTSI for all the help and support you give! Thank you! Aho, Mi ta ku ya se! Thank you, my relatives! May God richly bless you!

Sincerely,  
Tina Baldomaro-Bearshield



Courtesy photo by Cindy Hanson, Oregon Coast Aquarium

Aquarium volunteer Michele Partridge tells visitors May, Chris and Mary Thompson about tide pool critters at the Oregon Coast Aquarium's touch pool. The aquarium has opened enrollment for its 2011 Volunteer Spring Training.

## Aquarium opens volunteer training

NEWPORT, Ore. — The Oregon Coast Aquarium has opened enrollment for its 2011 Volunteer Spring Training. In addition to interpretive volunteer training, volunteer positions are being offered in facility maintenance, the aquarium gift shop, special events, exhibits and administration.

The training begins April 2 and continues each Saturday through May 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers working in positions other than interpreters attend the April 9 date only.

Interpreter training teaches volunteers about the history of the aquarium, animal care, coastal habitats and animal biology through lectures and hands-on activities.

"Each training session brings in wonderful new volunteers with a zest for learning and a strong sense of commitment," said Carmen Morgan, manager of Volunteer Services. "It is so rewarding to see new volunteers mixing with current volunteers and developing friendships through their passion for the ocean and its inhabitants."

Morgan said the training offers people an opportunity to share the aquarium's mission of educating the public about the coast and its animals and efforts to protect and conserve marine habitats.

**Earn College Credits:** College credits are available through Oregon Coast Community College for volunteers in the aquarium's interpreter program for an additional fee of \$40, completion of the classes and meeting all requirements.

The volunteer training gives in-depth information about marine animal species exhibited at the aquarium and an overview of the natural history of the Oregon Coast.

Once training is completed, volunteers are assigned to an intern position in available areas or they become interpreters and share their knowledge of the coastal environment with visitors for a minimum of six months.

**Cool Benefits:** Benefits include discounts in the gift shop, free membership (after serving 50 volunteer hours), aquarium passes, invitations to special events and evening enrichment programs. Volunteers have the satisfaction of expanding their personal marine knowledge while giving something back to the community by supporting the aquarium.

**Find Out More:** The aquarium asks for a one-year commitment of one half-day shift each week or a half day every other week for people with special needs or who commute long distances.

A \$35 fee is required for materials for interpreter positions. A \$20 fee is required for volunteers working in other positions, which covers a uniform piece and materials. Participants must be 18 years or older.

For adult volunteer training information, contact Morgan at 541-867-3474, ext. 5315, or [carmen.morgan@aquarium.org](mailto:carmen.morgan@aquarium.org).

For more information on the Oregon Coast Aquarium, visit its website at [www.aquarium.org](http://www.aquarium.org) or call 541-867-FISH.

To the editor:

I would like to thank you for coming to the Comfort Zone for your massages.

I have enjoyed meeting all of you and I hope to meet more Tribal members in 2011.

A special thanks to Rhonda Attridge and Verdene for setting up a very efficient and cozy way to access the program.

Sincerely,  
Jeri Madsen, LMT  
Comfort Zone  
503-254-4533 or 503-771-1213

## Farm Bureau seeks photos for 2012 Oregon's Bounty agriculture calendar

Oregon's Bounty is an award-winning calendar produced by the Oregon Farm Bureau that features gorgeous photos of agriculture, its orchards, ranches, fields and people.

Images for the 2012 calendar are being sought. Farm Bureau invites the public to submit their own photos of Oregon agriculture: the commodities, families, production, landscape, retail, anything that depicts the beauty, technology, culture or tradition of farming and ranching. Both close-ups and panoramic views are needed.

Photographers with images selected for month pages in Oregon's Bounty will receive a photo credit, an item of Farm Bureau gear and Farm Bureau membership if they have not already joined the organization.

The deadline for entries is Aug. 15.

For photo specifications and other contest rules, please visit [oregonfb.org](http://oregonfb.org).

For more information or to request a copy of the 2011 Oregon's Bounty calendar, contact Anne Marie Moss, OFB communications director, at [annemarie@oregonfb.org](mailto:annemarie@oregonfb.org) or 503-399-1701, ext. 313.

The state's largest general farm organization, Oregon Farm Bureau is a voluntary, grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing the interests of the state's family farmers and ranchers in the public and policymaking arenas.

First established in Oregon in 1919, Oregon Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 Oregon counties and has more than 8,000 member families that are professionally engaged in agriculture.

### Siletz News Letters Policy

*Siletz News*, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Siletz News* and other tribal issues.

All letters must include the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks, or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

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