



## Siletz Tribe sponsors successful youth film program premiere that 'rocks'

### The obvious: Students listen to their fellow students about prescription drug and gang awareness

By Natasha Kavanaugh

Seven years ago a collaboration between Lincoln County, the Lincoln County School District and the Northwest Film Center formed the Lincoln County Youth Film Program, which combines education with the art of filmmaking.

Each year, students at local schools write, produce and direct broadcast-quality television, short films and other public service announcements.

This year, participating schools included Career Tech, Siletz Valley, and Newport, Taft and Toledo High.

On April 13, the Seventh Annual Lincoln County Youth Film Program premiere featured the Prescription Drug Awareness Project (DAP) and the Gang Awareness Project (GAP). Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Hall served as emcee.

Hall opened the premiere by thanking the program's major sponsor this year, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and extending a thank you to Tina Retasket of the Siletz Tribal Council.

He then showed a montage of previous productions that included a variety of messages through the years.

Savannah Worman, a student at Siletz Valley School, played the role of a mother of a teenage girl with a promising future who hopes to attend college. She called her daughter to let her know she had been accepted to college, but her daughter ignored her call. Later, she discovered her daughter had been shot over wearing rival gang colors.

"I had a lot of fun playing my part. It was sad to go through," said Worman, sad in the sense of how realistic these films portray today's teen struggles.

Schools are able to participate thanks to the Partnership Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (PAADA), which provides



Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh

Students at Siletz Valley School who participated in the Lincoln County Youth Film Program include (l to r) San Poil Whitehead, James Stewart, Chayson Metcalf, Bo Johnson, Tyler Putman, Jake Westbrook, Nevin Gilkes, Kylie Childs, Richard DeAnda, Savannah Worman, Lorrie Syms (teacher), Sierra Warren, Aislyn Cox and Joseph Williams.

the substitute teachers that allow the teachers to work more closely with their students on this project.

Over the years, participating schools have included Career Tech High School, Eddyville Charter School, Newport High School, Siletz Valley School, Taft Middle and High Schools, Toledo Middle and High Schools, and Waldport High School.

Previous projects include the Methamphetamine Awareness Project, the Tsunami Awareness Project, the Underage

Drinking Awareness Project and the Drug Awareness Project.

Some final products have even been shown on Oregon television stations and in other states, as well as in Canada and Italy. One has been featured on ABC's *World News Tonight*.

In closing, the teachers were presented with trophies for their projects. As Siletz School teacher Lorrie Syms accepted a trophy, she gestured to her students and said, "You rock."

Hall wrapped up the premiere with, "Indeed, you do rock."

Participants in this year's program include (Siletz Tribal members in **bold**):

Career Tech: Titiana Banks, Tabbatha Burke, Jenny Dollar, Levi Henry, Chantelle Kolb, **Shayleen Logan**, David Pahukoa, LeAnn Riebe, Scott Robertson, Daniel Sears and Amber Wolfe. Teacher - Chris Thompson

See film premiere on page 5.

## Tribe receives \$300,000 grant from EPA to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

### Money will help Siletz Tribal Energy Program install solar panels, heating at Tillicum Fitness Center

By Diane Rodriguez

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has received a \$323,305 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to install solar panels and solar water heaters at the Tillicum Fitness Center, provide home energy audits and continue its efforts to educate the community about energy efficiency and conservation.

The grant is part of the EPA's Climate Showcase Communities program, which awarded \$8.8 million to 22 communities across the country to implement strategies to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The grants will help communities reduce these emissions while also improving waste management, energy efficiency, energy production, transportation and land use management.

The grant will be carried out by the Siletz Tribal Energy Program (STEP). First it will conduct a greenhouse gas inventory, then it will establish a reduction target, develop a plan to achieve these reductions, implement the plan and report the results.

One way STEP will strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 1,189 metric tons from now through January 2013 (the length of the grant) is by installing solar photovoltaic panels and solar water heaters at the fitness center. It will conduct a study on the feasibility of using the heat captured by the solar panels to heat the building. These improvements are projected to reduce energy costs at the fitness center by 42 percent annually.

Additionally, STEP will increase its outreach to the Tribal and local commu-

nity on ways individuals can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. All of these improvements should help STEP achieve its goal of reducing area greenhouse gas emissions by 12 percent by the end of 2012.

STEP is a Tribal energy management program that works with federal, state and local partners, Tribal members and others to learn about and implement the conservation of natural resources. Its goal is to empower Tribal members to maintain healthier, more livable homes; control utility costs; and conserve natural resources. It provides education and assistance for home weatherization, conserving energy and preventing lead poisoning.

These current grants from the EPA follow 25 that were awarded in 2010.

Overall, it's estimated that by 2014 the projects will:

- Reduce more than 167,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually
- Save more than \$13 million per year in energy costs
- Improve people's health and welfare by improving indoor and outdoor air quality, increasing walk-ability and reducing household energy bills

For more information, contact STEP at 541-444-8271 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1271; or step@ctsi.nsn.us. Find STEP on Facebook by searching for Siletz Tribal Energy Program.