

Tribe installs solar-powered street lights in recently paved area in Siletz

Planning Department leads efforts to conserve energy, future costs

By Diane Rodriguez

A portion of Molalla Street on the west side of Siletz now boasts 10 solar-powered street lights, thanks to the efforts of the Siletz Tribal Planning Department.

The lights are part of planned Tribal development that has taken place near the Tillicum Fitness Center, Tribal gymnasium, Tenas Illahee Childcare Center, community garden and the Transitional Living Center (TLC). This portion of Molalla Street recently was paved and the job included a paved parking lot at the TLC (which has the 11th solar-powered light) and another just north of the child care center.

The portion of Molalla Street with the solar-powered lights runs between Buford and James Frank avenues. The project was funded through a Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads grant.

"One of the interesting things we were able to do within the budget that we had available for that project, because of competitive bidding, we've been able to install solar street lighting. That's been a real step forward in the community," said Pam Barlow-Lind, Tribal planner, during a radio interview on KCUP on May 16. "We have 11 solar-powered street lights along Molalla. They're LED lights too, which are very energy efficient."

Greenshine New Energy Company in Los Angeles manufactured the lights and Northstar Electric in Tualatin, Ore.,

installed them. The lights carry a warranty of 25 years.

In addition to the immediate effect of saving energy, these lights have a long-term money-saving benefit.

"By being solar powered, there's no ongoing operating costs. We don't have to pay a power bill for them every month," said Barlow-Lind. "It's kind of a test case for us to see how well they're working, are they effective and do we want to continue that program in other parts of our transportation improvements."

Each LED light is powered by two 150-watt solar panels.

"The power doesn't directly power the lights from the sunlight. What it does is, the panels charge a battery and then they (the lights) run from that all night long," said Barlow-Lind. "In fact, it charges them adequately enough that they can run up to four or five days without sunlight if we didn't get any sun or if we got minimal sun."

LEDs currently are the most energy-efficient lights, using an average of 10 percent to 20 percent of the energy needed by incandescent bulbs. By comparison, compact fluorescent lights use an average of 25 percent of the energy of incandescent bulbs.

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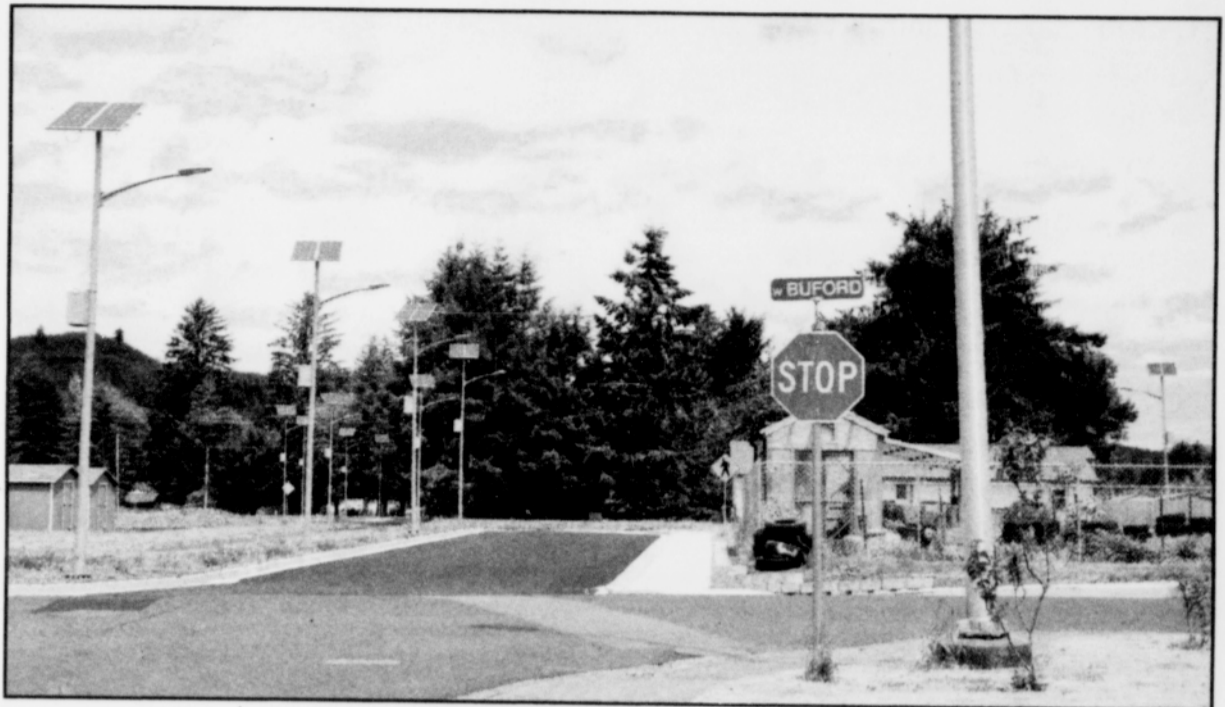


Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh

Ten solar-powered lights line part of Molalla Street in Siletz and one light (right) sits in the parking lot of the Transitional Living Center.

Election Board Application

Tribal members interested in serving on the Election Board must fill out the following form and return it to the address below. Applications for consideration will be accepted through June 29, 2012.

All applications should be mailed to Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Attn: Executive Secretary to Tribal Council, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549; or faxed to 541-444-8325.

Name: _____ Roll No: _____

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Enrollment Committee Application

Any Tribal member interested in serving on the Enrollment Committee must fill out this form and return it prior to 4:30 p.m. on July 18, 2012.

Please **mail or fax** your application to Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Attn: Executive Secretary to Tribal Council, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549; fax: 541-444-8325.

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Tribal Council will review applications and approve appointments at the Regular Tribal Council meeting in July 2012.

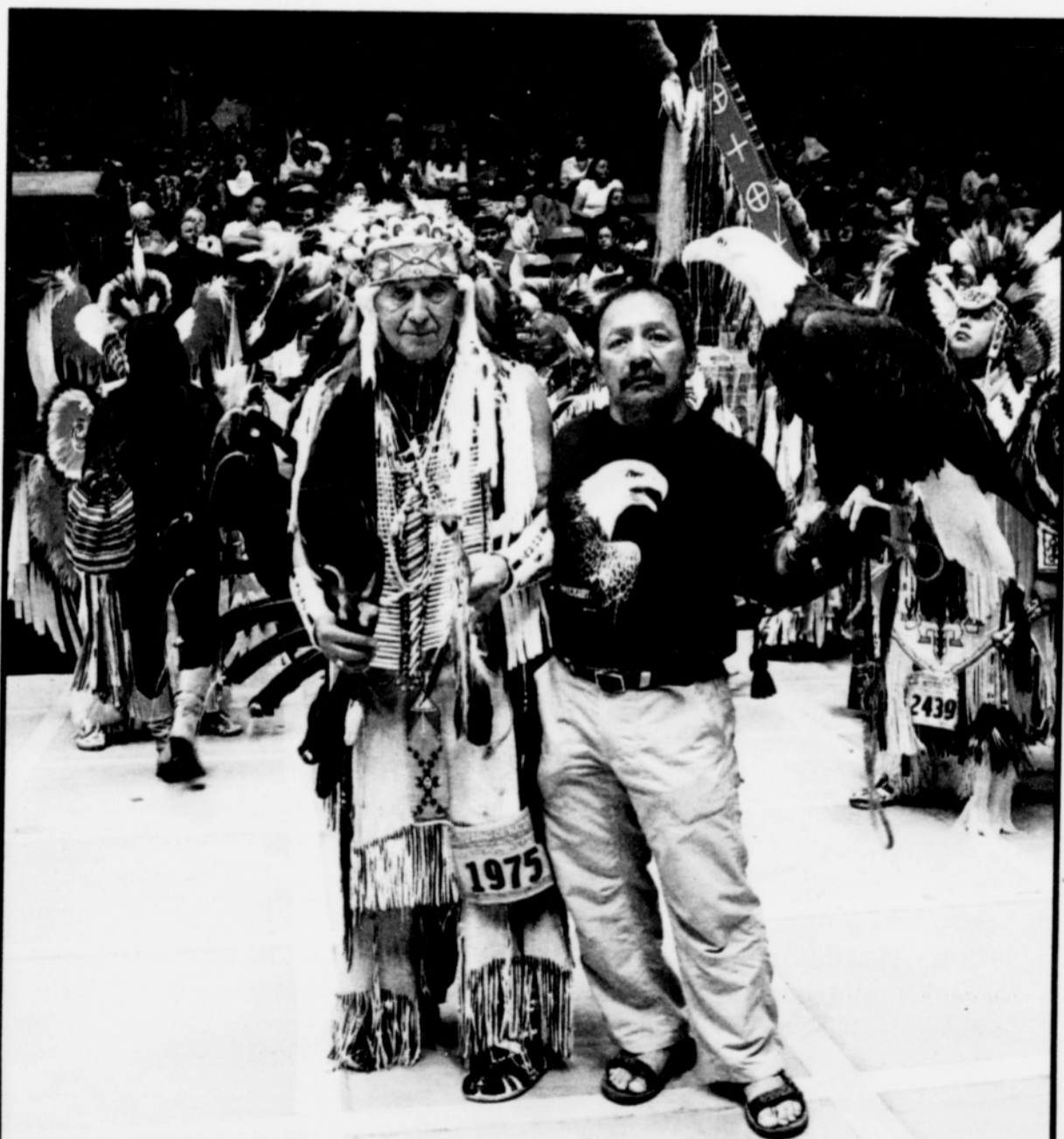
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Courtesy photo

Chewescla DePoe stands for a photo and participates in the competition dancing at the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M., in April.