

Yachats Youth/Family Activities Program: Growing literacy and family fun

By Andy Taylor

Have you heard of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program? Well now is your chance to get to know a little about the wonderful involvement this organization has in the community.

The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program, or YYFAP for short, is a nonprofit group providing superior, safe and educational children's and whole-family activities.

Yachats Youth & Family's Mission Statement: The purpose of the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program is to provide a safe and supportive environment for children, to be an advocate for youth and families, and to provide and encourage activities that integrate youth into the community.

YYFAP received \$5,300 in 2018 from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund for playground equipment for preschoolers and in 2017, received \$1,000 for study lessons and materials to support Creative Curriculum activities in the preschool program. Overall, YYFAP has received \$19,585 since 1998.

YYFAP offers Preschool and Indoor Park for children age 3-5. Additionally, during the school year comes another program that involves preschoolers, the Families Together program.

During this time, kids sit down for story time and receive a copy of the book to take home with them. This is also an opportunity to enjoy a free dinner and play in all offered games not only with your own family, but others as well. This gives participants the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones, thus creating stronger community support.

In October, YYFAP threw its annual Halloween-themed Families Together event. Between 55-60 families attended and the organization, its volunteers and the volunteers of the Yachats Presbyterian Church served 174 dinners.

Eighty-nine copies of *There Was an Old Mummy Who Swallowed a Spider* were distributed to young readers, as well as a spooky story for older readers.

In the Albino family, going to YYFAP started when Amber Albino (mom) was just a child herself. She participated in the family events with her own family



Photos by Andy Taylor

Above: Patricia reads at story time.

Right: The Albino family enjoys a meal.

growing up and when she moved back to the area and heard it was still going, she was excited to bring her own children to participate. They have attended multiple Families Together events and the girls love it.

Leslie, the oldest of the siblings, said, "It's so much fun here!" Her sister, Zahlia, was shy about expressing herself but nodded with excitement while agreeing that they really enjoyed coming to the event. They both look forward to attending more quality time at Families Together.

Marie Dejournett has been coming to Families Together for a little over three years now. It started with her youngest, Joseph, who attended the YYFAP preschool. She says, "Story time is their favorite thing but we stay for the whole thing. They absolutely love it."

Marie named off some of what she likes most about the program. Her favorite part, she says, is, "All the kids get to take the story home with them. We have col-



lected so many story time books from this and it's only promoting positive literacy with the kids."

The Dejournett children, ages 6 and 12, were both having too much fun to sit and talk. That should speak for itself but just in case, head on down to the Yachats

Youth & Family Activities Program every month for a great night of family fun.

Visit YYFAP on Facebook or its website (yachatsyouth.org) for future Families Together dates and help this program's attendance grow and promote education and families.

Siletz Community Dental Clinic

Contact the Siletz Community Dental Clinic if you experience dental pain or a dental emergency. Staff will do everything they can to see you as soon as possible.

Morning check-in time is Monday-Thursday from 8:15-8:45 a.m. and Friday from 9-9:30 a.m.

Afternoon check-in time is Monday-Friday from 1:30-2 p.m.

For more information about the Siletz Tribe, please visit ctsi.nsn.us.

CTSI Jobs

Tribal employment information is available at ctsi.nsn.us.

Note: "Open Until Filled" vacancies may close at any time. The Tribe's Indian Preference policy will apply. Tribal government will not discriminate in selection because of race, creed, age, sex, color, national origin, physical handicap, marital status, politics, membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

CTSI constantly is looking for temporary employees to cover vacancy, vacations, maternity leave and extended sick leave. If you are looking for temporary work that can last from 2-12

weeks, please submit an application for the temp pool.

Send applications to:

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Attn: Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380-0549

Fax number: 541-444-8375 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1375

Human Resources: 800-922-1399, ext. 1274, or 541-444-8274

Website: ctsi.nsn.us

Email: hrdepartment@ctsi.nsn.us

Volunteers needed to cut firewood for elders

The Natural Resources Department periodically receives inquiries from Tribal elders asking if there is anyone who would be willing to cut Tribal firewood for them. We are starting a list of volunteers willing to cut firewood for Tribal elders and a list of elders who want someone to cut firewood for them.

If you fit either category, please call the Natural Resources Department – Denise Garrett at 541-444-8227, Mike Kennedy at 541-444-8232 or either at 800-922-1399. We will then pair up volunteer firewood cutters and elders in need.

Please note, this is a volunteer activity. No one will be paid to perform this service and elders should not be charged anything to receive firewood.

A Tribal firewood permit is required and is issued by Natural Resources.