

Tribal Court in Brief

Proceedings against residents of the tribal housing continue to be a hot item in Siletz Tribal Court.

The latest series of actions began last summer when Associate Judge Diane Robertson decided to evict Willo Rife and family from their home at 80 Chetco Court.

Judge Robertson, in a decision dated July 31, 1991, determined that the Rife's were behind on "required payments" and ordered the family to pay "the amount of \$214.00, which includes the amount due up to and including the month of July, 1991." The Rife's were also ordered to pay \$50.00 for new locks installed in 1989.

Judge Robertson also found that the Rife's had "failed to furnish ... certification of family income and composition in a timely manner" and also had attempted to "sublease the home without the approval of the Housing Authority." The Rife's represented themselves in the eviction proceedings.

Moves to evict resident Mark Pearson ended with Tribal Court approving an agreement that calls for homeowner Pearson to provide necessary repairs and maintenance to his dwelling and allow S.I.H.A. officials to inspect the work. Upon completion of the repairs, S.I.H.A. agreed to return possession of the home to Pearson. Pearson was represented by Oregon Legal Service Attorney Linda Gast [PO Box 1969,

Newport, OR 97365, 265-5305].

At the Housing Authority's request, Tribal Court issued an injunction against Leonard Flanary, Jr. "to refrain from trespassing on the streets or homesites of SIHA's Mutual Help housing projects." The injunction, dated May 13, 1992 and signed by Chief Judge John Roe, further stated that Flanary's "presence is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the project." According to Court documents, Flanary "failed to appear" at the hearing.

Tribal members Kevin Strickler and Brenda Mason were ordered to pay \$144.05 to S.I.H.A. for "repairs and cleaning" costs in a order dated May 30, 1992 and signed by Associate Judge Diane Robertson. Strickler and Mason served as their own counsel.

The only non-housing case filed in Tribal Court during the last year ended with an out of court agreement that called for the Tribe to pay a \$1000 "fine" to former Health Clinic employee Laura Blackburn in return for Blackburn's promise to drop all present and future complaints associated with her employment with the Tribe.

The case began during August of 1991 when a Health Clinic supervisor released confidential information over the telephone to a loan officer of a local bank who had called with questions about Blackburn.

The agreement, reached in the last part of January, also called for the Tribe to "send a formal written apology ... for the improper release of employment information" to the loan officer. □

Dear Tommy Two Moons:

First the Spotted Owl and now I see they're going to be listing the Marbled Murrelet as an endangered species. Where does your Tribe stand on all this?

Tommy Two Moons Responds:

We have been thinking for a long time about asking the Feds to list us as an endangered species. The trouble is, no one can agree what sort of effect this would have.

Some believe that being treated like Spotted Owls would mean a big rise in the tribal standard of living. Others think that putting Indians on the list would be bad news for the owls. Still others say that getting on a federal list is always bad news, whether you have feathers or not. A fourth group is so concerned about the possibility of scientists arriving to study the Tribe's diet and mating habits that they've offered to videotape members of the Coyote Nation during these activities. According to their fliers, they'll even supply "food and other essentials" at this year's Pow Wow. Interested parties can write directly to the group at this address:

Self-Study of Native Actions and Groupings [SSNAG], PO Box 49, Coyote Nation.

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