

## Employment liaison reflects on work team's accomplishments

By Marcia Soliz  
Employment Liaison

Happy spring, everyone. It's time to update you on 2004 and the first quarter of 2005. We had a very good year last year, considering it was cut short due to a long delay on the approved authorization of funds from BEDD to Community Employment. Through 2004 we gave opportunity to 22 tribal members in ten budgeted slots.

Once the Community Works Program crew was on board, this all-tribal member team accomplished many things in the community to help make it a more livable, safer and enhanced place for children and families. We cleaned the streets and roadsides resulting in over 358 extra large size bags of trash being picked up. We helped the Utilities Department.

We assisted the Housing Department. We painted the exterior of the Community Wellness Center. We helped set up the Pi-Ume-Sha grounds. We helped clean up the community after the Fourth of July. We helped with Honor Seniors Day preparation and activities. We helped at ECE. We helped at the Senior Citizen Cove State Park picnic. We helped in the kitchens at funerals. We cleaned cemeteries.

We secured a wood product donation from Warm Springs Forest Products Industries and cut and tied kindling bundles that we delivered to community elders and people with disabilities who have wood stoves. In 2004 we distributed 804 bundles.

This tribal member crew has definitely transcended what our people are capable of doing and represent as a workforce. Further, on an individual basis, the crew grew personally, achieving goals they set when we talked. Maintaining sobriety; establishing good work ethics and work attendance; one obtained a valid Oregon drivers license; two gained their own place; another got child custody back; several applied for housing; several completed camp crew training, first aid/CPR, and food handler cards. This goes to show that when people are given a chance, and effective programs are run, lots of good things happen. Congratulations to all who started and who are finishing their journey on the Community Works Crew.

You are each very much appreciated. In addition to the Community Works Program Crew, another effort was highly successful. A crew to be known as the Community Employment Fish Markers was established under contract with the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. Thirteen job slots were created and implemented. This effort was a first in many years of the fish hatchery's 25-year operation, as a crew from Idaho was regularly used after one season of locals who tried many years ago.

We pretty much out-performed the Idaho crew in quantity of fish clipped and marked; fish survival rate, and quality of marking and clipping. It was very exciting reviewing the federal report on our outcomes. Although the 2005 season will be automated at the fish hatchery, we will be involved again due to need and last year's outstanding performance. Transportation to and from the hatchery is a crucial need so that our people can have jobs out there.

A strong effort has been achieved in putting together skills bank formats that will have multiple uses to help put tribal members to work. This is also beneficial for employers because they will have a work source from which to draw upon as skills and experience are cataloged and documented. Not only this, but potential job applicants can have an up to date resume completed as a result of being in the bank.

A job seeker service that includes confidential job counseling, job coaching, resume and interview preparation, all with fair and positive treatment was initiated in 2004. Persons who are already employed have been using this service also. The Community Employment Liaison/Manager has an office with a door to protect confidentiality of information. Since getting the office, located across the hall from the planning department at the administration building, there is quite an increase in people coming in for help or just to talk about things they have on their mind. This is good. A communication resource is good for our community.

We are very thankful to the Tribal Council members who supported the stand along budget for the Community Works

Program. Those who supported the budget know how much it is needed to help people go to work and benefit.

Now, for the first quarter of 2005. We continued to deliver kindling bundles, and will be making one more delivery. As part of fire hazard reduction and caution, we will be selling kindling bundles left over. We will set up on the campus area through March 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have two bundle sizes, regular and extra large. Regular size will sell for \$5, and extra large will sell for \$7. Cash only. You will be provided a sales receipt. We will not be delivering bundles that are sold. The funds will go back in the Community Works Program for operational needs. So, your purchase will be helping a program that helps people help themselves.

In January 2005, we were the primary labor help for the departments in the administration building when all their work stations, files, junk, boxes, etc., had to be moved in and out of the building when the new carpet was being installed. This was a lot of hard, hard work.

We have been helping the Housing Department out with vacated houses and rental units also. We will be starting the interior paint job at the Agency Longhouse this month. Signs are being posted to let the community know that the Agency Longhouse will not be available for use while we are painting inside. We basically have one month to get our painting done on the inside. Come June we will be painting the outside of the Agency Longhouse, but this shouldn't interfere with use.

Please drop by any time at the Community Employment Office or call at 553-3298. Lots and lots of exciting and useful things going on all the time. Community Employment is the people's connection to jobs, information and employment services. Office hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Sorry if I'm out when you call or come by, but there's one lil' work ant to do zillions of things in this office and it's me.

(Marcia Soliz, Community Employment Liaison/Manager, an advocate of tribal member employment, is a 32-year veteran employee of the Confederated Tribes.)

### Longhouse to be painted

The Community Works Crew this month is helping the Utilities Department paint the interior of the Agency Longhouse.

Please plan any activities around this, as it will not be available, except for funeral and ceremonial purposes while the inside painting is being completed. There is one activity approved for March 18.

Also, in June, notice that the outside of the Agency Longhouse will be painted; however, this project should not interfere with things going on inside the longhouse.

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*Indian Arts and Crafts*  
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(541) 553-1597

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### Center: goal is to partner

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Burton said he is working with Austin Greene of the Recreation Department on use of the community center gymnasium. "We're going to be partners with the Recreation Department, the Boys and Girls Club and the community," said Burton. "We're not here to say we have all the answers or the solution. We want to be partners with the community."

Extraordinary Young People began in 1999. It is a Christian organization, though religion is not forced on the youth who participate in its programs, said Burton. At first the focus of Extraordinary Young People was to help Portland inner-city youth. In time, though, Burton realized that youth of other communities - Indian reservations, for instance - could benefit from the services of Extraordinary Young People.

The Crow Reservation center was the first reservation project of Extraordinary Young People. Burton said that on an average day 115 youth come to the Crow Center. The Crow

Nation tribal leaders are hoping to move the center to a bigger facility, in order to serve more kids, said Burton.

A main goal of the center in Warm Springs, like that of the Crow Reservation, is giving young people goals in their lives. "It's a place to fun and also to learn," said Burton.

The first manager of the Warm Springs center, to be called the Spectrum, will be Grant Poujade, who is currently working at the Crow center. In time the goal is to have local people of the reservation operating the center, after some employee training, said Burton.

The hours of the center will be Tuesday through Thursday 4-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 4 p.m. to midnight; Sundays the hours will vary; and the center will be closed on Monday.

Burton said he has received a lot of support from tribal leaders in developing the center. A priority of the Council is developing more programs that help youth.

Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay is Friday, March 25. Thank you.

Catalog Sale

6th Annual Spring

Catalog Sale

## HORSE & ROPING CATTLE SALE

Saturday, March 26th

Madras, Oregon

Cattle sell at 4:00pm

Horses sell at 5:00pm

Preview to be held at:

Jefferson County Fairgrounds - 10am

Team Roping, Ranch Horse & Trail Horse Contest

Saddle to All-Around

Catalog Deadline - March 10th

Catalog Fee - \$45, commission - 8%

Information:

Eddy Cole 541-420-4772

541-475-3851

Sale Location...

CENTRAL OREGON LIVESTOCK AUCTION