

# TRIBE'S YOUTH SHELTER NOW OPEN

## A better life could be ahead.

By Justin Phillips

The Tribe's Social Services department and the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) program have recently opened up a new youth shelter in Grand Ronde.

The new shelter opened its doors on April 9.

So far, since the opening of the shelter, the program has cared for five children.

The facility was established to assist Tribal youth who need emergency shelter care.

The three bedrooms, one and a half bath shelter will hold up to eight children and features 24 hour a day, seven days a week coverage.

Carmen Brown is the supervisor at the shelter.

Brown said they also provide services to foster parents who have children that want respite care.

"If a foster family needs a break or if they are going somewhere, we will take children for the weekend or however long," said Brown. "We also take any children that are at risk that might not be in Tribal custody until the parents get back on their feet. This is a service we provide to the community, as far as emergency placement."

When a child comes into care an intake assessment is done on them.

"This is a chance to observe them and see what their needs might be," said Brown. "We will make doctor appointments and make sure they get their medical and dental needs taken care of."

The shelter also provides transportation services.

If the children are going to be there more than a week, the shelter staff



Photo by Justin Phillips

The shelter staff takes time out of their busy schedule for a picture. Altogether there are six full-time employees with rotating shifts. Pictured left to right: Joannie West, Kate Woodrum, Ramon Carrille, Kristy Summers, Chris Bailey, Shelia Danzuka, Ryan Killingsworth and Carmen Brown.

enrolls them in school.

The staff is developing the program and looking at doing different activities with the children.

"We are going to take them to pow-wows," said Brown. "We want to be able to integrate them into the community. So, we like to take them out to community functions. Just recently, we took a couple of kids to see the Dalai Lama with the Education program. The week before, they went to see a guest speaker at Chemawa Indian School."

The staff tries to provide as much of a family structure as possible.

The children have responsibilities that they have to do. They are expected to keep their room clean and pick up for themselves. The staff cooks breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The children also get to do extracurricular activities.

"Sometimes they go down to the Grand Ronde Elementary School to shoot baskets," said Brown. "If one

of our staff has to do some shopping, they take the children to the mall with them. We don't have a set schedule here. We try to meet the needs of each individual schedule."

The Education program also works with the children who spend time at the shelter.

"Richard Sohapp comes down and spends time here," said Brown.

Brown works closely with the ICW Caseworkers.

"I want to make sure the children here are getting their wants and needs," said Brown.

Children are referred through the ICW program.

Brown said she is happy with the staff that works under her.

"We have some really dedicated workers here," said Brown. "They work really hard. I really appreciate their commitment to the kids here."

All together, there are six full-time workers with rotating shifts. There are also three on-call workers.

Anthony Gagliardo, the Tribe's Social Services Director and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) said it took about one year to get the shelter open.

"During this year, Tribal Council and the Social Services department worked on issues of staffing, funding and protocol for the children accepted," said Gagliardo. "The goal is that in two years the shelter will be at least fifty-percent self-sufficient, using foster care, state funding and third party billing, which I am licensed to authorize."

The next phase of family intervention is to propose an additional shelter for adolescents in the next two years.

"Thank you to Tribal Council for their wisdom in planning for Tribal families," said Gagliardo.

Everyone is invited to join in on the open house on Friday, June 22 at 11 a.m. with the blessing with a barbecue lunch afterwards.

## Rodeo Grounds Under Construction

Continued from front page — where they can establish a nice event," said Scott.

Tribal Elder Marvin Kimsey, who is on the rodeo committee, also likes the idea of the advantages of a permanent rodeo grounds.

"If we have young people interested in rodeos, they now have a prime opportunity to have instructors come here and teach them bull riding, bare back, saddle back, barrel racing or whatever they wanted to do — it (the rodeo grounds) will be here for them."

"Having a facility that's local is a real plus," said Hussey. "Anybody that rides knows how difficult it is to get arena time."

The possibility of future uses is endless.

"Anything from auto shows to full events to specialty shows can be held here," said Hussey. "There is a possibility of having the All-Indian rodeo out here."

Scott and Hussey have laid this project out so as progress and future of the facility grows — and the potential of it grows — they could en-

**Permanent Home** — The Tribe's rodeo now has a new permanent home near the pow-wow grounds. The Spirit Mountain Stampede will now be located down by the South Yamhill River across from the Tribal Governance building and next to the Tribe's culture site.

The competition-sized rodeo grounds will be home to more bleachers, a press box, vendors' areas and two camping grounds.

close the facility.

"It's laid out so that it does have that capability," said Hussey. "Then the year-round rodeo is a fact of life."

Hussey said he was thankful for some of the volunteer work that was done.

"I want to thank Gene LaBonte for the tractor work he did," said Hussey. "He did a tremendous job. The Natural Resources division donated that tractor. I want to thank Bobby Mercier and Lenny Logan of the Maintenance department and Shonn Leno of Natural Resources who also helped out with the tractor work."

Rodeo Board members are Marvin



Photo by Justin Phillips

Kimsey, Chairman; Dale Langley, Vice Chairman; Billie LaBonte, Secretary; Michaelle Kimsey, Treasurer; Duane Hussey; Shonn Leno; Gene LaBonte, Norris Merrill, Buddy White and Tribal Council liaison Butch LaBonte.

"It's good now that we finally have a permanent place for the rodeo grounds," said Butch LaBonte.

Anybody interested in sponsoring

an event at the rodeo is urged to call Michaelle at 503-879-5825. Just another plus, Tribal members won't be charged anything if you would like to be a vendor.

The finish date is slated for June 23. The Spirit Mountain Stampede will take place June 23-24 in its new home.

"It's going to be the best rodeo we've ever had," said Michaelle Kimsey.