



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Warner Creek Correctional Facility hosts Annual Powwow

Native American people from a variety of tribal heritages joined together at Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF) on August 29 to honor the Creator through song, drumming, dance, and readings at the Annual Powwow. Powwow is an opportunity for Native Americans to develop a spiritual connection among themselves and with the larger Native American community. Eighty-five people were in attendance, including adults in custody, guests, volunteers, and staff.

Those incarcerated honored many of their guests with various gifts, some of which were created by the Native Beading Class overseen by Chaplain Ken Ball. Attendees dined on salmon, beef, buffalo, elk, and pork. Many of the dishes were donated by families and guests. Traditional side dishes served were flat bread and fresh fruit.

Volunteer Lloyd Powell was the arena director for the event. Special guest participation was provided by two drumming groups, Thoz Womenz and Unole, as well as WCCF inmate drummers. Many Native American dances were performed, including two Pacific Islander dances. The support of the WCCF staff and the community made this year's Annual Powwow a great success.

WCCF is a minimum-security prison in Lakeview that houses approximately 486 male inmates who are within four years of release. WCCF provides a range of correctional programs and services including education, transitional programs, religious services, and work opportunities. WCCF has a contact center on site through Oregon Corrections Enterprises. WCCF opened in September 2005 and is Oregon's newest operating prison. It received the State Energy Efficiency Design (SEED) award in May 2008 for its progress in design efficiency. The most energy-efficient element at WCCF is the use of geothermal energy, providing 100 percent of the hot water to the facility.



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The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.