



Delores Pigsley

Courtesy photo

Several Siletz Tribal members stand in front of the Washington Monument in 2004 during opening ceremonies for the National Museum of the American Indian, including Kenny Ralston, Selene Rilatos, Bud Lane, Leroy Wilder, Leslie Ralston, Dona James, Robert Kentta, Delores Pigsley, Ed Ben and Buddy Lane.

**National Museum of the American Indian**

When this museum became a reality in 2004 in Washington, D.C., our Tribe participated in the grand march – in full regalia – on the Mall to celebrate the opening. The museum itself attracts millions of visitors each year who want to know more about the history of American Indians.

About nine months ago, Kevin Gover, museum director, invited the council to join him for dinner, which we did. We

discussed some current events as Kevin was once the assistant secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as the museum in general.

The Tribal Council has visited the museum often for many different occasions and events, mostly receptions. The museum entry/foyer is the perfect place for receptions, exhibits and performances.

In our discussion with Kevin, we asked him if they invite exhibitors/performers and how the scheduled events are filled.

At that time, he told us Tribes are more than welcome to exhibit and perform and we would be invited to do just that.

Upon his return to Washington, D.C., the plans for our Tribe to visit started to take shape. The highest visitation dates for this area are of course during the summer months. We picked July to do our exhibit and Feather Dance demonstration.

Everyone who is going will have something specific to do. All council members will participate in the book presentation of *The People Are Dancing*

Again. Normally, author Charles Wilkinson reads a passage from the book or talks about his research and the Tribe.

Siletz basketry will be on display along with basketry materials and basket weaving. Necklace-making, beading and weaving also will be displayed.

Several people have volunteered to go along at their own expense to participate in this great event (mostly children and grandchildren). This is a great opportunity for our Tribe and we look forward to participating.

**Siletz Festival at NMAI features regalia, songs, dance, basketry and books**

Members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians will celebrate and share their traditions during the Siletz Festival that runs from July 8-10 at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

During the three-day event, Siletz Tribal members will display and interpret

Siletz ceremonial regalia, basketry, singing and traditional dance. Additionally, a main component of the Siletz Festival will be a presentation on the Tribe's recently released book on its history, *The People Are Dancing Again*, written by Charles Wilkinson.

From 10 a.m. to noon each day, traditional Siletz regalia will be on display,

including women's shell and pine nut dresses and aprons, basket caps and shell money necklaces, along with men's wraps, shell money necklaces and otter quivers. A demonstration of traditional Siletz dances (Nee-Dash or Feather Dance) will take place from 1-2 p.m. each day.

From 2-3 p.m., Wilkinson will lead a panel discussion on the book, *The People Are Dancing Again*, which will include members of the Siletz Tribal Council. The

focus of the discussion will be the history of the Siletz Tribe.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase. Wilkinson will sign books after the panel discussions on July 8-9.

From 3-5:30 p.m., the Siletz Tribe will display and demonstrate Siletz basketry. Many different Siletz baskets and materials will be on display, from the tightly woven women's caps and eating bowls to utilitarian pack baskets and baby baskets.

**Nuu-wee-ya' (our words)**

**Introduction to the Athabaskan language**

Open to Tribal members of all ages

**Eugene**

Eugene Area Office  
July - no class  
Aug. 1 - 6-8 p.m.

**Portland**

Portland Area Office  
July - no class  
Aug. 8 - 6-8 p.m.

**Siletz**

Siletz Tribal Community Center  
July - no class  
Aug. 2 - 6-8 p.m.

**Salem**

Salem Area Office  
July - no class  
Aug. 9 - 6-8 p.m.

Classes begin with basic instruction and progress over the year. They also are a refresher course for more-advanced students. Come and join other members of your community and Tribe in learning to speak one of our ancient languages.

We also have equipment in the Cultural Department available for use in grinding and drilling shell or pine nuts or other applications. If you need to use the equipment, call the number below to set up an appointment.

For more information, contact Bud Lane at the Siletz Cultural Department at 541-444-8320 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1320; or e-mail budl@ctsi.nsn.us.

Send letters to:

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Deadline for the August issue is July 11. Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please see the Passages Policy on page 32 when submitting items for Passages.



Member of the Native American Journalists Association

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Change of address: Tribal members – contact the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258; 800-922-1399, ext. 1258; or angelam@ctsi.nsn.us. All others – call the newspaper office.