

SILETZ NEWS



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
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Siletz News
Confederated Tribes of
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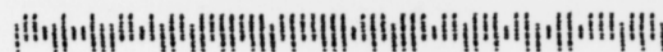


Photo by Diane Rodriguez

The trees near Silatchee Park show just how much vertical space there is for a cell phone tower.



Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh

Several youth dancers enter the arena during Grand Entry at the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow, including grass dancers Ashten Fisher (left), Ashton Sampson (second from left), Amial Rhoan (in blue and white), Tre Jackson (in black and multiple colors), Shawn Robertson (in teal), plus Hattie Imbler-Bremner (far right). See additional photos from the pow-wow on pages 9-20.

Volunteers needed for 234-mile Run to the Rogue event

You are invited to join Siletz Tribal members and friends on Sept. 8-10 for Run to the Rogue 17.

This event is a 234-mile relay run/walk in memory of the Siletz Tribal ancestors who were forcibly removed from their homeland in the Rogue River country in the mid-1800s and marched north to Siletz to the confinements of the Coast Reservation. This annual relay is the closest we can come to our ancestors' experience on the journey from their homeland.

Run to the Rogue begins in Siletz on Sept. 8 at the Tribal Community Center and ends Sept. 10 at Oak Flat on the Rogue River.

- Volunteers are needed to run, walk or help out with camp setup, cleanup, cooking and other areas.
- Youth can participate but need a designated adult committed to traveling and camping with the youth.

- Camping, meals and runners' support and refreshments are provided along the route.
- An orientation session will be held Sept. 8 at 8 a.m. at the Tribal Community Center in Siletz.

If you would like to participate or need more information, please call 800-922-1399 or 541 444-2532, ext. 1230 or 1290, for a registration packet.

Tribe, AT&T sign lease for cell tower; construction begins

Full service available in about three months

By Diane Rodriguez

Representatives from the Siletz Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and AT&T signed the lease for a cell phone tower in Siletz on Aug. 8 and the construction of this project has begun.

Tribal General Manager Brenda Bremner; Greg Norton, BIA superintendent of the Siletz Agency; and Geri Roper, Area Manager of Construction and Engineering with AT&T, signed the lease document that allowed the construction to start.

"The signing of this lease with AT&T for the erection of a cell tower in the Siletz community has been a goal of the Tribe's for over 10 years. We are pleased to have finally worked out an agreement to bring cellular service to our community," said

Bremner. "It has taken a great deal of time and effort by those involved to make this happen and I'd like to thank our staff and those of AT&T, especially Heather Kesten, for their hard work."

The 250-foot-tall telecommunication tower will be on the eastern side of Silatchee Park in Siletz. It's estimated that the tower will be operational in approximately three months. Residents should be aware that near the end of construction, during the testing phase, some spotty phone service will be available before full service is up and running.

Benefits to the community from the proposed new coverage include:

- Mobility, with access to the entire national communication grid
- Reduced telephone costs, especially long-distance calling

- Ability to communicate more readily in emergency situations and during natural disasters
- 911 coverage for all cell phone users
- Text and e-mail communication for business users
- Access to the Internet for entertainment and education

According to AT&T, the new cell tower will provide "excellent coverage" for approximately 12 square miles of the immediate area, extending three miles north and two miles south of the city along Highway 229 and more than two miles east along Logsdan Road. "Good coverage" is expected to include 32 square miles, while "fair coverage" will extend even farther.

See Cell Tower on page 3.