

NCAI comes to Portland

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is coming to Portland, Ore., from Oct. 30 through Nov. 4. The Oregon Tribes will host a reception to kick off the conference. It's been several years since the last convention was held in Portland.

NCAI has member Tribes from throughout the U.S. and they meet three times a year. The NCAI website gives great information about the organization. Agenda items for the convention include issues affecting all Tribes with a great slate of Tribal leaders addressing those issues, along with government officials.

In addition, NCAI hosts a marketplace on Nov. 1-3. It includes vendors

from throughout Indian Country, crafts, organizations and governmental entities.

Governor's summit comes to Chinook Winds

Our Tribe will host this year's Governor's Summit at Chinook Winds. The summit provides Tribes with the opportunity to discuss issues and share information with the governor. All nine Oregon Tribes participate as well as heads of all of Oregon's state agencies.

The day prior to the summit, Tribal representatives will meet with state agencies in what are referred to as "cluster meetings." The cluster groups include Cultural Resources, Economic Develop-

ment and Community Services, Education and Workforce Training, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources, and Public Safety and Regulation. These meetings will take place in Siletz.

We expect a good turnout for the meetings in Siletz as well as at Chinook Winds.

Council activities

I was unable to participate in the August council activities because of my daughter's illness and surgery. It was reported, however, that this year's pow-wow was one of the biggest and best. A big thank you goes to the very active Pow-Wow Committee.



Delores Pigsley

New website targets middle school teachers, students to study Native responses to environmental challenges

Smithsonian Museum partners with Tribal communities to launch education website

WASHINGTON – Developed in collaboration with the Akwesasne Mohawk of Northern New York, the Campo Kumeyaay Nation of Southern California, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe of Northern Minnesota and the Lummi Nation of Washington state, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian recently launched a new educational website, *American Indian Responses to Environmental Challenges*, that targets middle and high school teachers, students and the general public.

Users can see how Tribes use their traditional culture, values and indigenous knowledge in combination with contemporary science and technologies to inform their environmental work. The website is at AmericanIndian.si.edu/environment.

One of the primary objectives is for students everywhere to see a connection to their own lives and the communities in these stories. Visitors to the website can watch up to 20 videos, explore images and

objects from the museum's vast collection, learn Native terms and take quizzes to test their knowledge.

An interactive feature, the Story Project Planner, allows students to document an environmental issue in their own community and upload their work for display on the website.

While the content primarily is designed for middle and high school students, it easily can be adapted for use in other grade levels and includes lesson plans and additional resources for teachers. The lesson plans meet National Standards for social studies, history, science education and environmental education at various grade levels.

It's also a great resource for anyone interested in the histories, cultures and contemporary lives of American Indians in the U.S.

The website is one component of a pilot project that will help further develop the museum's overall outreach program for schools nationwide. Museum staff interviewed more than 150 people, including cultural leaders and Elders, Tribal government representatives, natural resources professionals and scientists, as well as college instructors, elementary

and high school teachers and students. As part of its ongoing collaboration with the featured communities, the museum will offer training and evaluation sessions to teachers who serve Tribal students.

"Many people think of American Indians only as historical figures, but we are still here, vital communities dealing with important contemporary issues of cultural, economic and environmental sustainability," said Kevin Gover (Pawnee, Comanche), director of the museum.

For thousands of years, American Indian communities across the Western Hemisphere have thrived on, respected and protected their surroundings. Continued stewardship of the environment remains important to American Indians today.

"The work these Tribes are doing shows that we can do something about our endangered planet and that their cultures are still vibrant and adaptable," said Tim Johnson (Mohawk), associate director for museum programs. "With this website, we hope to not only bring attention to their work, but begin to change the way that students see American Indian people."

Management opportunities now available at both Tribal RV parks


The Siletz Tribal Business Corporation currently is seeking bids from Tribal members on RFPs for the contract manager positions at the Hee Hee Illahee RV Resort in Salem, Ore., and Logan Road RV Park in Lincoln City, Ore., that will commence Jan. 1, 2012.

All interested parties can contact Stephen Larrabee to get more information on the RFP, which is due by Oct. 31. The complete RFP can be found on the STBC website – stbcorp.net.

Larrabee can be reached by e-mail at slarrabee@stbcorp.net and by phone at 541-994-2142 or toll free at 877-564-7298.

Send letters to:
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Deadline for the November issue is Oct. 10. Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please see the Passages Policy on page 28 when submitting items for Passages.



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Name: _____
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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.

Nuu-wee-ya' (our words)
Introduction to the Athabaskan language
Open to Tribal members of all ages

<p>Eugene Eugene Area Office Oct. 10 – 6-8 p.m. Nov. 7 – 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p>Portland Portland Area Office Oct. 17 – 6-8 p.m. Nov. 14 – 6-8 p.m.</p>
<p>Siletz Siletz Tribal Community Center Oct. 11 – 6-8 p.m. Nov. 8 – 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p>Salem Salem Area Office Oct. 18 – 6-8 p.m. Nov. 15 – 6-8 p.m.</p>

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.