

## Drive Less Connect can save you money on your commute, other trips

What if you could cut your gas bill in half? Carpooling has many advantages and reducing the impact on your wallet is definitely one of them. Adding just one person to your car could cut the bill for your route in half by sharing the cost of gas.

A free, local online tool called Drive Less Connect (DriveLessConnect.com), which launched last year, can help you match up with others who are headed your way for work, school or even one-time trips out of town. Drive Less Connect has nearly 1,000 users across Lincoln, Benton and Linn counties.

Drive Less Connect helps residents find others who are heading their way. You

can communicate anonymously through the site's secure messaging feature and you can choose to share information only with other Siletz residents if you prefer.

An online calendar also is available to track the trips you take using transportation options (biking, bus, carpool, etc.). And you'll be eligible to win great local prizes such as gift cards to Fred Meyer or Dutch Bros coffee.

Here's how you get started:



**Drive less. Connect.**

Matching people with places.

- Create your profile at DriveLessConnect.com by clicking "Register Now." (Remember, it's all free!)
- Click on "Ridematch" to create a trip. Here you'll be able to choose who can view your trips. Click on "Calendar" to track your trips.
- Click on "Ridematch" then "Manage Your Trips" to view potential ride-share matches and check messages from other users.

- Any questions? Call Cascades West Rideshare at 541-924-8480.

Many of your neighbors already are using Drive Less Connect, looking to connect with others heading their way.

"I signed up for Drive Less Connect because I don't have a car and I live in Newport and have a job in Lincoln City," said a resident who asked that her name not be printed. She must take the bus very early in the morning to get to work on time and would love to find a carpool match instead.

Does this challenge sound familiar to you? Sign up at DriveLessConnect.com today!

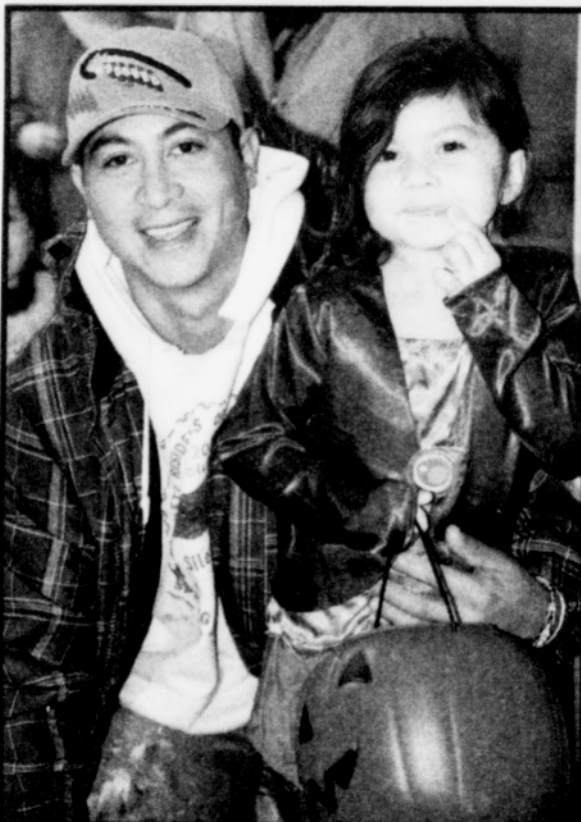


Photo by Diane Rodriguez

Jackie Cordova and Ava Sweat trick-or-treat in the Tribal administration building on Oct. 31.



Courtesy photo

Several children at the Tenas Illahee Childcare Center gather for a photo in their Halloween finest, including (l to r) Hailey Ivy, Brandon McKibben, Gracianne Callis, Nadia Henarie, MacKenzie McKern, Bobbi Imbler-Bremner and Sammy Hall. Children from the center and Tribal Head Start paid their traditional visit to Tribal buildings in Siletz on Halloween morning.

## Important information and deadlines for the college-bound Tribal senior

### December

- If you haven't already done so, take this last SAT test for seniors.
- Get FAFSA forms, available for federal and state financial aid.
- Apply for FAFSA pin number – student/parents must apply separately.
- Mail or submit all revised, complete college applications before the holiday break.
- Start scholarship essays.
- Start OSAC (Oregon Student Assistance Commission).

### January

- FAFSA forms can be submitted Jan. 1. Do not delay – do this ASAP!
- Complete scholarships that are due.
- Check for Student Aid Report (SAR) on the FAFSA website several days after filing out the FAFSA).
- Request mid-year transcripts be sent to colleges to which you have applied.
- Request transcripts needed for OSAC scholarship application.
- Send thank you notes to people who have helped you.
- Students who plan to apply for Tribal assistance for college must apply for FAFSA no later than Jan. 31 at fafsa.ed.gov.

### February

- First semester grades and mid-year reports are sent to some colleges.
- Check your school counseling office or ASPIRE center for scholarship information.
- Complete scholarships.
- Check with colleges applied to for verification they have received all necessary documents. Continue to monitor status of submitted applications.
- Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Wrap up any scholarship applications, essays and activities chart (for OSAC). Early bird deadline is in February for OSAC.

### March

- Check for three Tribal scholarships at ctsi.nsn.us.
- Complete scholarships.
- Start working on Tribal higher education or adult vocational training grant application. This can be found on the Tribe's website and is due June 30.
- Review the Student Aid Report (SAR).
- You should start receiving admission responses.

### April

- Send thank you notes to people who have helped you.
- Make final decision about which college or university you will attend.
- If you decide to decline enrollment to a college or university to which you have been accepted, send notice indicating this to the college's admissions office.

### May

- This is the deadline for final decisions for universities.
- Send letter of intent to registrar.
- Line up a summer job.
- Attend your Senior Awards Night.
- Review any award letters and be sure you understand the terms and conditions that accompany each type of aid.
- If necessary, arrange for housing and a meal plan (at school).
- Send thank you notes to any person/committee from which you received a scholarship.

### June

- Tribal higher education and adult vocational training applications are due June 30!

- Attend graduation – congratulations!
- Make arrangements for your final grades to be sent to colleges and universities.
- Good luck!

### Do you plan to apply for Tribal education funds?

#### Some requirements and deadlines to keep in mind

1. The once-a-year annual deadline for funding is **June 30** of each year (for funding for the upcoming fall semester or academic year).
2. Students must apply for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.ed.gov between **Jan. 1-31** each year. Your application for Tribal funding will not be accepted if you do not meet this deadline.