

Breon named SuperStar for great customer service, help for guests

Siletz Tribal member and Transportation Supervisor Bensell Breon was named the Chinook Winds Superstar for the second quarter at a luncheon in August.

The event recognized the nine employees nominated for the SuperStar award, 40 employees who completed one year of service, nine employees who completed five years of service, 16 employees who completed 10 years of service and eight employees who completed 15 years of service.

Breon was nominated by a fellow employee who wrote: “I witnessed Bensell assist an extremely frail elderly woman through the front doors. It is not uncommon to see him and the rest of his team go out of their way in this fashion. I am constantly seeing Bensell go out of his way for one of our guests, who always appreciate him lending an arm to walk them to and from their car. Bensell was quick to see her desperate need for assistance to make it into our establishment. I could see the appreciation and relief on the guest’s face. Kudos to Bensell – he always has the guest’s best interests at heart.”

Other Superstar nominees included Jerry Marzan, Joshua Manley, Starlene McKinley, Douglas McNair, Diane Moore, Barry Yeager, Jennifer Berti and Susan Martin.



Courtesy photo by Chinook Winds staff
Bensell Breon

ONABEN names new board members

PORTLAND, Ore. – ONABEN-Our Native American Business Network seated three individuals to one-, two- and three-year terms on the board of directors on Sept. 17.

New board members include Guthrie Ducheneaux (Cheyenne River), Nathan Segal (Eastern Band of Cherokee) and Cherie Gordon (manager of economic development, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway).

Newly elected members join current directors Jack Lenox (Coquille), Robert Whitener (Squaxin Island), Aurolyn Stwyer (Warm Springs), Bryan Mercier (Grand Ronde), Direlle Calica (Warm Springs) and Ted Piccolo (Colville).

Veronica Hix, ONABEN executive director, expressed her gratitude for the service of the new board members.

“It is an honor that these folks are interested in the mission of ONABEN and support the work that we conduct across the nation,” said Hix. “These new directors bring with them expertise in business

development and growth and will add to the enthusiasm and energy for our programs and projects from our existing board.”

In the reorganization of the board, the directors re-elected Lenox as chairman, Whitener as vice-chairman and Stwyer as secretary-treasurer.

The ONABEN board of directors meets up to six times each year on a bi-monthly basis.

ONABEN is a 501(c)(3) corporation headquartered in Portland, Ore., that was created in 1991 by four Oregon Tribes to encourage development of a private sector on their reservations. ONABEN provides curriculum, training and organizational consulting focused on developing entrepreneurship in Native communities.

ONABEN serves Native business development organizations and entrepreneurs nationally through its Indianpreneurship curriculum.

For more information about ONABEN and its products and services, please visit ONABEN.org.

To the editor:

Thank you to everyone for all the love, support, food, flowers, prayers and care that was shown for Quanna Pigsley during her long struggle to live. A special thank you to Bud and Cheryl for all the good food delivered to Quanna’s – that was special.

Lisa Taylor and Cherity Bloom-Miller, you were Quanna’s own angels. Thank you for all your help.

She was blessed to have so many friends and family who attended her services and helped in her time of need. The family thanks you.

The Pigsley family

To the editor:

Children who dance outside of our fires

We enrich their lives with family and Tribal history. We smother them in Tribal culture. We enlighten and build their self-esteem. We nurture them with family and community camaraderie and commitment.

We awaken their spirit with the past, present and future goals. We build strong ties, bonds. We help them paint their world with rainbow colors of opportunity.

We encourage them to breathe in deeply the early morning light of a new fresh awaiting dawn. We watch them spread their wings while encouraging them to fly high, reach toward the stars! We see them blossom through guidance and when day is done, we teach them respect, humbleness, to find quietness and center in contentment.

Then, with a darkness of age our children whom we have put such priority upon, our families’ futures, our children who have danced with song and energy are rudely awakened, transported from our warm circles of pride, they begin a tourney as did our ancestors of yesterday.

The long journey from ancestral ties, dreams, community and the harsh detachment is as brutal as was our Tribal removal from the homelands. At this age, their sensitive identity is snatched away, leaving them fragile, limp, lifeless, lost. Snared, trapped between two traveling worlds of indifference.

Our people have survived because our ancestral identity has been held intact through dedicated perseverance. Sacrifices were made to survive, to rekindle our past, breaking trail. This transported us into our present environment that enables us to build toward our future.

There is a ripple of reflection that encourages, that no child shall be left behind or become a throwaway, instant gratification commodity. For it is their blossoming spirit that awakens the dark. If not ever-vigilant, our Tribal future can become bottlenecked, suffocated, stifled by shortsighted negligence.

Direct dependency is an inheritance by right of birth. Our children who dance outside of our Tribal fires, away from the warmth of family, friends and community are a valuable lost treasure trove of diversity and are one of our most valuable Tribal assets.

Quantum, one step down can mean one step up for a wide-eyed Tribal dreamer with grandiose expectations, dreams.

Eva E. Clayton

My Green campaign releases music video about minors’ trust payments

ATLANTA – First Nations Development Institute’s *My Green* campaign, a social marketing campaign focused on financial empowerment for American Indian youth, has released a new music video that addresses *18 Money*, which is the age at which some Native teens receive a significant financial distribution while they often lack the skills to effectively deal with the windfall.

Theodore “Theo” Brown, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin, wrote and recorded a song titled *Turned 18* about the challenges and pitfalls of receiving a minor’s trust payment.

Working alongside the Ho-Chunk Players, a Native youth theater troupe directed by Sherman Funmaker, Brown and the group produced a music video to illustrate a day in the life of a Ho-Chunk youth who “turned 18.”

The video was shot over several days this past summer in Baraboo and Wisconsin Dells, Wis., and is available on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=NsLB8vzk-80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsLB8vzk-80).

It can be called *Minor’s Trust*, *Big Money* or *18 Money* and for a number of American Indian youth, it represents a blessing and a curse.

A small number of Tribes pay out dividends from Tribal businesses, or per capita payments, to their members. Payments for

Tribal members who are age 17 or younger usually are held in a financial trust until the youth turns 18. At age 18 (although sometimes later), youth receive a substantial payment and are faced with the responsibility of managing their “big money.”

With funding from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, First Nations launched the *My Green* campaign to help Native youth learn to manage their “18 money.” This includes raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities provided by the minor’s trust payment.

The campaign features a website at mybigmoney.org that provides a platform for four Native youth age 17-23 to present their stories about how they managed their money, share their lessons learned in several videos and serve as guides throughout the different components of the website.

First Nations, which is headquartered in Longmont, Colo., participated in a Financial Education Summit on Oct. 26 as part of pre-conference activities for the National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention.

The purpose of the summit was to share information with the President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans and discuss successful programs for providing financial empowerment for Native youth.

Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Siletz News* and other tribal issues.

All letters must include the author’s signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks, or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

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