



Courtesy photos by Chinook Winds Casino Resort staff

The new Oyster Bar at Chinook's Seafood Grill opened March 25. These two photos show two of the oyster recipes available at the bar – a Bloody Mary Shooter (above) and a Wasabi Shooter (below) – that opens at 11:30 a.m. daily. The Oyster Bar has been a vision for a long time and the construction was done with in-house staff. The Culinary Team, lead by Executive Chef Jack Strong, put together a tasty menu.



## First Nations sets new grants record

LONGMONT, Colo. – For the second year in a row, First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) set a new organizational record in 2016 in grants and dollars awarded to American Indian organizations and Tribes during a one-year period.

The funding went toward projects aimed at grassroots economic community development efforts in Native communities.

In 2016, First Nations awarded a record 175 grants totaling more than \$2.8 million. Cumulatively, since it began making grants in 1994 through 2016, First Nations has successfully managed 1,238 grants totaling more than \$27 million to American Indian projects and organizations in 39 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territory American Samoa.

### 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*.

Editor-in-Chief: Brenda Bremner  
Editor: Diane Rodriguez  
Assistant: Andrea Taylor

To Siletz Tribal members:

I'm a man who if I was wrong, I would be the first to admit my mistake. A few months ago I asked if your inherit rights are being protected or addressed in the Siletz newspaper. The current Siletz Tribal Council did address our inherit rights by lobbying Congress to pass a bill acknowledging our original 1855 Coast Reservation boundaries.

With persistence and dedication of Tribal Council, Congress passed this bill.

Tribal members, I admit that I was wrong and apologize before you all to the Siletz Tribal Council. I want to say thank you to the Siletz Tribal Council for protecting our inherit rights to the original 1855 boundaries of Siletz people.

May the Creator of all good things bless you and your family.

Thank you for your time,

Frank Aspria Sr.

To the editor:

Hello, my name is Randall Hartwell. I want to send a letter of apology out to everyone I have hurt, offended or scared. I have been out of control. On drugs, in denial, blaming everyone but myself.

I want to say that I am the problem. I've refused help offered to me from my family, from the Tribe – both drug and alcohol, and mental health. I am not a child and there is no good excuse. There is only the reality that I have behaved terribly.

Thinking back on it, I am ashamed. I have disrespected my Auntie LaVonne, my mother Everetta and even the Tribe. I hope in time I can make amends and be forgiven.

For my most recent actions, I have a year in county jail and no one to blame but myself. For those I have hurt, I sincerely apologize. Please forgive me and let me back into your lives.

I have been to state hospital and am taking medication. My sleep and thinking are much better and clearer now. Hopefully, next year we can try again.

Love,

Randall Hartwell

For more information about the Siletz Tribe, please visit [ctsi.nsn.us](http://ctsi.nsn.us).

## Native Wisdom Film Festival to show documentaries, 2 about Oregon Tribes

Wisdom of the Elder's long-awaited Native Wisdom Film Festival is now scheduled for April 15 at Whitesell Auditorium/Portland Art Museum (1219 SW Park Ave., Portland, Ore. 97205). Tickets are available at the Northwest Film Center website ([nwfilm.org](http://nwfilm.org)).

In partnership with the Northwest Film Center, we will screen all four of our documentary films featuring Alaskan Native peoples and Oregon Tribes, their response to emerging environmental issues and their rich cultural arts.

Wisdom will screen the series of short documentaries that have been in production since 2013. Four films feature Oregon coastal Tribes, Oregon interior Tribes, Alaskan Athabascans and Inupiaq of Alaska. Each of these films features resilience responses of Oregon Tribes and Alaskan Native groups that are feel-

ing the impact of emerging climate and environmental issues.

The trailer for the coastal documentary is available at [vimeo.com/207504210](http://vimeo.com/207504210).

After the film festival, a series of film screening and community consultation events will be held at several places around the state, including the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (April 25), longhouses at the University of Oregon (April 28-29) and Oregon State University (May 17-20), in Salem near the state capitol (TBD) and near several Oregon Tribal communities (TBD).

These events will feature clips from the documentaries and emerging filmmaker work on Wisdom's *Discovering Our Story* television program.

For more information, contact Miranda Mishan at [miranda@wisdomoftheelders.org](mailto:miranda@wisdomoftheelders.org) or call 503-775-4014.

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