

## Sue Shaffer

Sue Shaffer, longtime Tribal leader of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, recently passed away. She was instrumental in getting the Cow Creek federally recognized and responsible for many successful operations and programs for her Tribe.

Sue successfully negotiated for the first Oregon Tribal casino. She worked hard, lobbied hard and was an inspiration to Tribal leaders everywhere.

We will miss Sue; our condolences to her family and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians.

## Tribal Agendas

Many meetings are taking place with new officials in the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service. Mike Black, formerly a central office employee, is currently the acting

assistant secretary of Indian Affairs. No new replacement has yet been named.

Fee-to-trust actions are once again a topic of concern to the BIA. The new Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke has taken action to move all off-reservation fee-to-trust actions to the central office in Washington, D.C., a move that also took place under the George Bush administration.

Our Tribe had great difficulty getting land into trust under that administration. We still have a few parcels that we are working to get in trust.

We have great concerns about the president's proposed budget and hopefully we will be able to testify at budget hearings in Washington, D.C., on May 16-17. Tribes are selected by region.

Consultations are being held across the U.S. with Tribes on health, education, the environment and many other subjects that are of concern. Indian gaming is always a hot topic.

I recently attended the National Indian Gaming Association annual meeting in San Diego. Hot topics there included new Class II and proposed Class III changes.

The tradeshow is huge, it highlights all the latest in slot machines, gaming products and services that make casinos successful.

## Oregon Indian Week

Oregon Indian Week will be celebrated the week of May 14. The Legislative Commission on Indian Services will meet and Tribes will have displays along with a short program in the State Capitol Rotunda on May 18. The Legislature will still be in full session.



Delores Pigsley



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## Elders Council Meeting

**May 13 • 1-4 p.m. • Chinook Winds Golf Resort**

Siletz Elder potlucks are held monthly at 6 p.m. on the Monday before the regularly scheduled Elders meeting. Please bring a potluck dish you would like to share.

For more information, contact the Elders Program at 800-922-1399, ext. 1261, or 541-444-8261.

## Nuu-wee-ya' (our words)

### Introduction to the Athabaskan language

Open to Tribal members of all ages

**Siletz**  
Siletz Tribal Community Center  
May 1 – 6-8 p.m.  
June 5 – 6-8 p.m.

**Portland**  
Portland Area Office  
May 8 – 6-8 p.m.  
June 12 – 6-8 p.m.

**Eugene**  
Eugene Area Office  
May 2 – 6-8 p.m.  
June 6 – 6-8 p.m.

**Salem**  
Salem Area Office  
May 9 – 6-8 p.m.  
June 13 – 6-8 p.m.

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](mailto:budl@ctsi.nsn.us).

### Send information to:

**Siletz News**  
P.O. Box 549  
Siletz, OR 97380-0549  
  
541-444-8291 or  
800-922-1399, ext. 1291  
  
Fax: 541-444-2307  
  
Email: [pias@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:pias@ctsi.nsn.us)

**Deadline for the June issue is May 10.**

**Submission of articles and photos is encouraged.**

**Please see the Passages Policy on page 20 when submitting items for Passages.**



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