

Chemeketa honors Native American Tribes

By Gustavo Ramirez of the Chemeketa Courier; first published March 17, 2020

Chemeketa held a flag-raising ceremony for Oregon's recognized Tribes on March 6. Eight of nine recognized Tribes in Oregon (Warm Springs, Umatilla, Burns, Siletz, Cow Creek, Grand Ronde, Coos, Klamath and Coquille) had their flags raised. Due to growing concerns of COVID-19, the Umatilla Tribe is under quarantine and could not participate in the flag raising.

"The ceremony is about honoring the nine recognized Tribes of Oregon," said Linda M. Ringo-Reyna, a Multicultural Student Services coordinator. "Our college is acknowledging the land that we sit on belongs to indigenous people before it was colonized."

Madison Burnette, a student employee for Student Retention and College Life, opened the ceremony by reading a land acknowledgment, by which Chemeketa gives thanks to the Kalapuya nation. This was followed by a song and prayer by Plummie Wright.

After the flag raising, Purcell Sisto, a student of Chemeketa and member of the Northern Ute Tribe, presented his Tribe's flag and played an honor song.

"I was invited and, not only that, it was an honor to be asked to present my flag among the nine Tribes of Oregon because I'm not even a Tribal member from Oregon," said Sisto.

Sisto's Tribe is from Utah. He came to Oregon to attend the Chemawa Indian School. "It's a boarding school for Native Americans up here in Salem and after graduation, I decided to stay here and kinda just build a life up here."

Sisto said the flag-raising has helped him feel more connected to Chemeketa. "I love it because I feel comfortable. I feel comfortable being able to express my identity and who I am ... It's a big deal because it's leaving a legacy at this college."

For Chemeketa, raising the flags "shows that we embrace our Native American brothers and sisters from this region, from this land," said Ringo-Reyna.

To see the flags, visit the Multicultural Center in Bldg. 2, Rm. 177.

Courtesy photo by Sonya Moody-Jurado

Tribal member Marbella Herrera Logan brought in the Siletz flag. She is a first-year student at Chemeketa pursuing her Associate of Arts of Oregon Transfer Degree.



Be safe. Stay home. Stay well.

2020 ELDER'S WOODCUTS

Join us to split, load & deliver firewood to Tribal Elders

Near USDA Building on Logsdan Road in Siletz

Saturdays
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

2020 DATES
~~MAY 16~~
JULY 18
SEPT. 19

Tribal Elders who need firewood delivered must call the Elders Program to be added to the list.

Raina 541-444-8261 or AJ 541-444-8212

Coronavirus chokes Census activities

The response to the coronavirus has had a devastating impact on 2020 Census activities. The planned kickoff event on April 1 with prizes and games had to be cancelled.

Our service center teams were trained to provide help to those who need assistance completing their 2020 Census questionnaire. Now our Census Assistance Centers and area offices have been closed. Meetings to explain the workings of the Census Bureau have been cancelled.

The Census Bureau is not allowing its counters into our neighborhoods to provide paper questionnaires until at least June. The final date for responses has been pushed back from July 31 to August 24. Even public libraries, with their computer access, have been closed.

Despite these and other complications, the count goes on. The need to get everyone counted has not gone away. We still need our share of federal funding for schools, school lunches, roads and transit, treatment programs, food assistance pro-

grams and health programs, not to mention political representation. Our response to the Census is how to get our fair share of those funds and representation.

The best way to respond to the 2020 Census is to go online at my2020census.gov and complete the questionnaire. It takes less than 10 minutes for most people. It's secure. Your personal results won't be shared with any other agencies.

For those without access to computers, a good way of responding is to phone 844-330-2020.

A Census Bureau employee will take your information. You may experience a delay in getting to someone, though the bureau is attempting to reduce waiting times.

Finally, you can wait for an enumerator to come to your door with a paper questionnaire. Census takers are short-staffed and will be under pressure to do their work. They may only have a few weeks to do two months of work. Because we don't know when stay-at-home orders will be lifted, please consider it an option of last resort.



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