



Rotary, church donate 500 masks each to Tribal Elders Program, Navajo Nation

By Teresa Simmons, Vice Chair, Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society

On May 15, the first 150 of a total 500 COVID-19 prevention masks were donated to the Siletz Tribal Elders Program courtesy of Carla Francis, a multitude of volunteer seamstresses, the Lincoln City Rotary Club and the Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church.

Rotarian Carla Francis was in the process of making masks for the Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital Foundation when a friend from the Navajo Nation advised her of the need for masks on the Navajo Reservation. Carla committed to making 500 to send to the Navajo Nation but was aware that to accomplish the task quickly, she needed yards of fabric and the assistance of other seamstresses.

She reached out to the Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church, which donated fabric and funds for postage and two members of the church volunteered to

help with the sewing. The Rotary Club of Lincoln City agreed to help with the funding but requested that the Siletz Tribe be contacted to find out if they also had a need among their Tribal elders.

Estle Harlan, who was coordinating the effort on behalf of the Rotary Club, contacted me as vice chair of the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society to find out what needs the Siletz Tribe might have. I in turn contacted STAHS Chair Gloria Ingle, who passed on the information that there was indeed a need among the Siletz elders.

Carla then committed to create another 500 masks for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Elders Program, bringing the total number of masks to a whopping 1,000! The remaining 350 masks were delivered by Estle to Gloria on June 7.

This is a prime example of many factions of a community coming together to accomplish one goal initiated by con-

cerned people willing to volunteer their time to help others. In addition to the Lincoln City Rotary Club and the Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church providing assistance, seamstresses from the American Sewing Guild and Daughters of the

American Revolution volunteered to help make the masks.

Kind and thoughtful gestures sometimes appear at the most unexpected times. Special thanks to Estle Harlan and Carla Francis.



Courtesy photos by Teresa Simmons

Above: The first 150 masks are turned over to Shantel Hostler (right), board member of the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society, by Carla Francis (center) and Estle Harlan, executive secretary of the Rotary Club and coordinator for this project with the Siletz Tribe.

Right: AJ Warren was all smiles upon receiving the first 150 masks for the Elders Program.



The Siletz Tribe remains in phase 1 and offices are closed to the public. See information about some of the services the Tribe is providing on pages 8-9.

NCAI statement on the removal of Christopher Columbus statues

WASHINGTON – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country, does not acknowledge Christopher Columbus as a hero. To Indigenous peoples, he was the opposite:

[O]ut of timbers for the Santa Maria, ... Columbus built a fort [on Hispaniola], the first European military base in the Western Hemisphere ... He took ... Indian prisoners and put them aboard his two remaining ships. ... [H]e got into a fight with Indians who refused to trade as many bows and arrows as he and his men wanted. Two were run through with swords and bled to death. Then the Nina and the Pinta set sail. ... When the weather turned cold, the Indian prisoners began to die ...

In the year 1495, they went on a great slave raid, rounded up fifteen hundred Arawak men, women and children, put them in pens guarded by Spaniards and dogs, then picked the five hundred best specimens to load onto ships. Of those five hundred, two hundred died en route. The rest arrived alive in Spain and were put up for sale ...

Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*, 3-4 (1980 Ed.)

"This growing movement across the country to rid our shared spaces of symbols that represent hate, genocide and bigotry illustrates that it is past time for all cities to stand on the right side of history moving forward," said NCAI President Fawn Sharp.

NCAI also strongly supports the recent actions taken by U.S. citizens and the international community calling for proper law enforcement reforms and the recognition of basic human rights for the African American community and all communities of color. We are humbled that these voices are including Indian Country's perspectives.

NCAI encourages local governments and their citizens to seek mutual understandings of their diverse perspectives and to develop peaceful solutions that are mindful of all human beings and our rich distinct and shared histories. Together we can build the tomorrow our children deserve to lead.

About NCAI

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of Tribal governments and communities, promoting strong Tribal-federal government-to-government policies and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

For more information, visit ncai.org.

CTSI Resource Call Line

We are here to connect Tribal members and their families to local resources. This includes food, housing, and other essentials. In addition, we are providing households with hard to find hygiene and sanitation items.

**Disclaimer: Supplies are limited but we will do our best to meet your needs.*

Call us at 541-444-9613.
We will be taking calls Monday through Friday between 9am-3pm.