

To the editor:

Be All You Can Be

When given gentle winds beneath sails (wings), our children, our families are able to sample available trade winds. Then soar above the clouds for waiting opportunities. I feel when hampered by an anchor of dead weight or lifejackets bullet-ridden with unfair, unjust discrimination, we need to reach out with helping hands extended, thus creating safe harbors of enlightenment for (all) our Tribal families.

Throwing out a life line, not a hand out but a helping hand, continues the existence of our precious families.

Our people, our children are treasure troves of unlimited value. What happens when we take the time to polish a treasured jewel? It takes on a sparkle like that of a diamond.

There are unrecognized Tribal direct descendants. Sunken treasures. Rubies with multifaceted dimensions.

We can say a brick wall is built brick by brick. Cemented to bind, strengthen. Solidarity like that of strong nurturing family ties.

We build our families layer by layer, generation after generation. How strong is this generational wall if cement is used for some, plaster utilized for others? Missing generations that cannot be ignored.

When generations start to deteriorate, crumble and in time lose their strong identity, I feel they become just another brick wall.

I believe our Tribal foundation needs to continue to be built upon solid rock. Tribal identity for all direct descendants. We will only strengthen our bonds, ties that will withstand the whirlwind storms of time.

Each year we journey back through ancestral lands. Quietly listen with your heart. Echoes, "Leave not one family, one child behind."

My mother, Jeannette (Jordan, McCord) Giddings. Grandmothers, Magnolia Mae (Van Pelt) Jordan. Lidia (Dick) Van Pelt. Lucy Dick. Amelia Van Pelt.

All are my solid wall of love, security, stability. A solid brick wall. Always changing. Continuous maintenance. Not perfect, but adjustable through dedicated perseverance. I truly believe we cannot recognize some and ignore others.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva E. Clayton

Register for Career Basics – Learn career prep and personal finance skills for free with NAFOA

Career Basics is an online program designed for self-identifying American Indian youth and early professionals age 18-26. Registration is required for the Leadership Track of Career Basics, which is FREE and open to eligible individuals. The course is sponsored by the NAFOA Institute.

Register by July 20 to complete the program by Aug. 15. Participants proceed at their own pace during their registered program dates. The average curriculum completion time is 8-12 hours.

The program is online, but if you do not have a stable/consistent broadband Internet connection, please email education@nafoa.org to make arrangements and still be able to participate remotely.

Tribes and individuals interested in the premium version of Career Basics, please contact education@nafoa.org.

Merkley, Wyden announce \$500,000 investment in agricultural workforce through Oregon State University

WASHINGTON – Oregon's U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden have announced that Oregon State University (OSU) will receive nearly \$500,000 in federal funding to support summer research fellowships that prepare underrepresented students for graduate school and careers in food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences.

The funds are part of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's (AFRI) Education and Workforce Development Program, which is dedicated to supporting the next generation of research and education in the food and agriculture sectors.

"Agriculture is the lifeblood of rural economies throughout Oregon and is vital to our ability to keep food on the table for our families – especially during these unprecedented and challenging times," said Merkley, who serves as the top Democrat on the subcommittee that funds agricultural grant programs. "I'm thankful that this funding is making its way to Oregon State University, where it will support critical research and create opportunities for underrepresented students. As the current strains on the food supply show, we need to make sure schools like OSU can keep doing the research and training the workforce that will help us feed Oregonians."

"OSU plays an essential role in research and education that helps grow our state's rural economy and continue to supply first-rate agricultural products to family kitchens throughout Oregon and the entire country," Wyden said. "I am gratified that OSU has earned these key resources to help train the broadest possible cross-section of students to do research and more that supports the university's mission and helps Oregonians during this public health and economic crisis."

The funding, which totals \$499,584, will be available to OSU through March 2025.



To the editor:

Our Memorial Day service was canceled due to the coronavirus rules required by the State of Oregon.

Our culture is different. We have our own burial ground and follow what we have learned from our families. Many Tribal members spent hours cleaning the cemetery. Many Tribal members, including friends, helped us make wreaths out of handmade flowers or flowers we buy.

The picture of our Veterans Memorial (above) represents wreaths made by Donna Kessinger, Kaye Stainbrook and other Tribal members who delivered their gifts before I got there, with a special gift from the VFW. I am sorry if I fail to recognize anyone; no offense intended. We do this every year to honor our fallen warriors and ancestors.

A great thank you to Tony Molina for the flags and for playing Taps. Also thank you to our drummers. You are always our support when we need you.

If other families have pictures or articles, please send them to either the Siletz Elders or Siletz News. We have many Tribal members all over the country who can't make it home.

Thank you, everyone.
Shirley Walker
Siletz Tribal Elders Chairman

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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