

Graduation

Congratulations to our many students who graduated this year without ceremony. We are proud of all the students, from Head Start to college, for graduating and we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Elders' gifts

Many elders have expressed their appreciation for receiving phone calls, gift packages and the cash payments. The staff has been very attentive during this time of uncertainty.

Memorial Day

Thank you to the Education Department for the veterans' tribute on Memorial Day. All our veterans' pictures were posted on the website, very nicely done.

Chemawa

Chemawa students were sent home early in March as the school shut down because of COVID-19. Students were

not able to return for graduation, like all schools in Oregon.

Currently, the staff is working on a plan for the students to return, but like all schools it isn't clear when classes will resume.

CARES Act payment

The Tribe was fortunate to get assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help cover costs and to assist Tribal members who are having a difficult time dealing with the COVID-19 virus. The Tribe has been able to provide rent relief, food for families and many other services.

Governor's updates

Oregon Tribes have participated in conference calls with Gov. Kate Brown on a regular basis. The state of Oregon has kept Tribes involved in sharing information, consultation and decision making with regards to assisting and funding Tribes to help deal with the coronavirus outbreak.

Lincoln County had very low numbers since March (eight cases), but as of June 22 the county was up to 292 people who had tested positive. It's extremely important that you wear a mask and keep a safe distance from others.

Our staff is actively providing services by phone but the offices are still closed to the public for the protection of all the staff and Tribal members.

Congressman Schrader

Congressman Kurt Schrader has been in touch with the Tribe to inquire about the status of the Tribe and Chinook Winds Casino.

Chinook Winds reopening

The casino successfully reopened in May with many safeguards in place. Attendance is limited to 1,000 people, temperature checks are done at the entrance for all guests and staff, and everyone must wear a mask inside the casino.

It's also been declared non-smoking. The buffet is not open. Guests seem to be



Delores Pigsley

enjoying themselves, and we look forward to getting past the virus.

Other Tribal casinos

Currently, all eight of the Tribal casinos are open in Oregon; most have limited hours of operation.



Native Vote
Every Vote Counts

Tenas Illahee Childcare Center Board of Directors Vacancies

Résumés are being accepted for the Tenas Illahee Childcare Center Board of Directors. Currently, there are two vacant board positions. If interested, please submit your résumé to Siletz Tribal Council, c/o Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549. Vacancies are open until filled.

Siletz News is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal members. For all others, a \$12 annual subscription fee applies. Please make checks payable to CTSI and mail to Siletz News.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Change of address: Tribal members – contact the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258; 800-922-1399, ext. 1258; or enrollment@ctsi.nsn.us. All others – call the newspaper office.


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

Deadline for the August issue is July 10.

Submission of articles and photos is encouraged.

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



Member of the Native American Journalists Association

Children and the Census: Participate now for their future

For many years, American Indians have been undercounted and ignored by the Census Bureau. Yet there is one group that has been even more neglected and under-represented, that is children, our next generations.

Children need the Census to fund Head Start, schools, school lunch programs, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). If they don't get included, there won't be sufficient funds for them to thrive and grow.

If our children are going to overcome the barriers to equality in the larger society, they need all of the resources they deserve. It's well worth the 10 minutes it takes to complete the Census survey.

The Census response is safe, simple and confidential – just nine questions that are used to count the number of people in this country and where they live. There are no questions about income or citizenship. Your information can't be given to any other federal or private agency.

There is one question about race. Be sure to mark your response as an American Indian and indicate your Tribe as "Siletz." If possible, list the first person, the head of the household, as an American Indian. Some housing funds are based on the number of American Indians who respond.

Tribal area offices and Census Assistance Centers will open soon to help members respond to the Census. If you've had questions about what you need to do, they are staffed to provide assistance.

The Census Assistance Center phone line is open now for immediate help – 541-444-8285. Or call your area offices or main administration.

You can respond online at my2020census.gov or phone 844-330-2020. Finally, the Census Bureau will do a non-response follow-up in person at your home for those who haven't previously completed their survey.

Your response is vital to receive funding that will keep our transit shuttle programs and medical facilities operating. What we are receiving now in the way of funding is based on the 2010 Census. Any undercount in the 2020 Census won't be corrected until the next census in 10 years.

Because of the lengthy "stay at home" time, the Census Bureau is still looking for Census takers. Application can be made at 2020Census.gov/jobs. Help yourself and your community.

The most important result of the Census response is not the amount of funding the Tribe can get. Rather, it is that members can be recognized by others and by themselves as proud members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

So make your voices heard – I am Siletz and I count.

