

To the editor:

Appreciation for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and Elders Council

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Siletz Tribe and Elders Council. As an out-of-area member, I faithfully read the newsletters to stay updated and have always been proud to be a Tribal member, however, did not understand the commitment of this community to the entire Tribe until the COVID crisis. It is an understatement to say that I have been amazed by the support and outreach I have received from members. Representatives from the Elders Council have called me every two weeks to check in and make sure I am healthy, and reinforced a sense of community that is so needed in times like this. I want the Elders Council and those callers to know how much these discussions have meant to me.

I was sent a package that included many essentials along with a beautiful yellow mask that my wife loves and wears every time we leave the house.

With regard to the financial assistance, the rent assistance program was a lifesaver and alleviated the extreme stress associated with needing to pay ongoing monthly bills when our family business effectively shut down in early March.

In life, especially during a crisis, it is important to recognize the blessing of those who go above and beyond in terms of supporting and uplifting others. Thank you for the kindness and compassion that has been so generously given by the Siletz Tribe, Elders Council and every single member of the Tribe who has been in contact with me. I am humbled and honored to be a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman “Jason” Brown

To the editor:

Blood Quantum: Is this really the issue

People who read and hear your words, they feel your attitude. Well, with positive thinking my favorite three R’s – Rebuilding, Renewing and Restoring. A path the people have traveled forever!

We cannot walk in the past, but we can, if we are smart, learn from it.

In the past couple of years, blood quantum has been boiling over among our families, with some rewarded and others disciplined. A fever that the powers that be of the past times set upon Native Americans by which they hoped to create an assembly line of destruction upon forgotten undone deals, working with blood quantum.

Unfortunately, we may become our own worst enemy. Utilizing the mind set of per say, creditability (blood quantum), does not change who we are and does not change our family ancestry.

Trying to redefine Native blood quantum in your family? Fine, if this is what you are about. But to mess with the rights of direct descendants’ Tribal recognition, to put up guidelines or blood degree to me totally disrespects our ancestors who dearly paid the price. Their perseverance, their dying commitment of survival for all. Their direct descendant families forever!

We are a generous Tribe. Our helping hands reach out to all levels of society with our grants. My thought: What about allocating, or a distribution of, funds to be put aside toward a very worthwhile project to address the acceptance or recognition of our Tribal direct descendants who deserve their place within our Tribe by birth.

Question: Why do we want, it seems, to silence these direct descendants who represent the geographical lands of our harshly removed ancestors?

Life is a tick-tock, tick-tock clock. I can continue to submit articles until I am blue in the face while another generation falls by the wayside. At the rate of acceptance the past few years, changes, where our quantum now is, a direct descendant is a rare bird. Open your hearts.

Tribal Council, any recognized Tribal member – food for thought? If it becomes about money, try cop out! Remember, charity begins at home. Council, please do what is right.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva E. Clayton

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*.
Editor-in-Chief: Tina Retasket
Editor: Diane Rodriguez
Assistant: Andy Taylor

Courtesy photo

The Nashville Store is where Coastal Range Food Bank clients shop for the food of their choice. This food bank was one of the first shopping-style pantries, where clients shop in the store just like any market. Coastal Range also has a large food storage room, a kitchen with freezers and a walk-in cooler. Overhead costs of this totally volunteer-run organization are covered by the Trading Post, a combination thrift, trade and free items for clients and the general public. Currently the Trading Post is closed during this virus shutdown. Each Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., however, it is open with a modified safety shopping style.



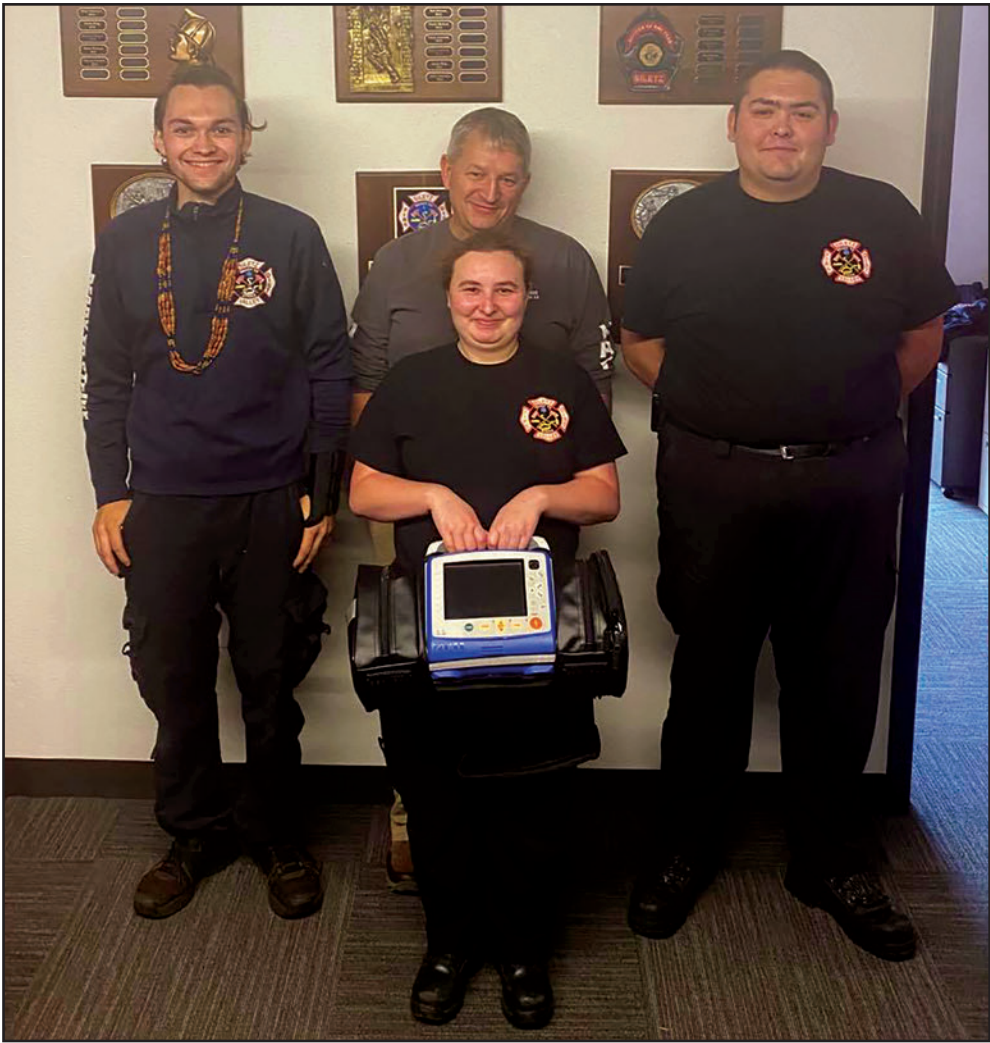
Dear readers:

In the June issue of Siletz News, there was a list of all the organizations the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund made donations to. The Tribe gives grants to nonprofits that apply in every year.

As the article said, the Tribe has honored its tradition of sharing within the community. The Coastal Range Food Bank Inc., located in Blodgett/Nashville, Ore., received \$2,000. The most amazing part of this donation is even with reduced revenue and negative financial impact caused by the coronavirus, the Tribe still reached out to nonprofit organizations without them even having to apply.

This kindness and generosity extended by the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund is beyond what anyone would expect and has touched our hearts. Thank you so much for believing in us.

Sincerely,
Carol Adams
Volunteer Board Chair, Coastal Range Food Bank Inc.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Siletz Valley Fire District and the new cardiac monitor

To the editor:

Siletz Valley Fire District would like to thank The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for the generous grant that allowed us to purchase a Zoll Cardiac monitor.

This piece of equipment will allow our volunteers to quickly take blood pressure, pulse, O₂ levels, along with analyzing heart rhythms and will assist volunteers when performing CPR.

Siletz Valley Fire district had a much older model cardiac monitor that was no longer operational and did not have all of these features.

This monitor will greatly enhance our medical services we are able to provide to the community. We will be placing this unit into service immediately.

Siletz Valley Fire District