



Big news! STAHS receives \$768,500 in grants for new cultural center/museum

The STAHS board of directors – Gloria Ingle, Teresa Simmons, Angela Ramirez and Shantel Hostler – is extremely happy to share some good news with the Tribal membership.

Earlier this year, STAHS Capital Campaign Manager Stephen Reichard wrote and submitted a grant application to the State of Oregon for funding. Our state legislators, Rep. David Gomberg and Sen. Dick Anderson, lobbied vigorously on our behalf for this grant.

As a result of their efforts, the Siletz Tribal Arts & Heritage Society's application for funding in the amount of \$750,000 from Oregon Lottery funds was recently approved by the Oregon State Legislature. These funds will be used to help with the construction of Ghii Dee-Ne Dvn, A Place for the People.

STAHS also recently received a grant for \$18,500 from PGE (Portland General Electric) to help support the development



Courtesy photo

Artist's rendering of "A Place for the People," showing the museum and the community center on the right

of exhibits for Ghii Dee-Ne Dvn. With these recent contributions, STAHS has now secured more than \$1 million toward

its \$2.5 million capital campaign goal.

STAHS will learn this summer and early fall about additional grant requests

for more than \$1 million. Our dream is slowly becoming a reality.

Stay tuned!

Haaland announces Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to review policies

Outlines path forward on troubled legacy school policies

WASHINGTON – In remarks to the National Congress of American Indians 2021 Mid-Year Conference in June, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies.

The announcement was accompanied by a secretarial memo in which Haaland

directs the department to prepare a report detailing available historical records, with an emphasis on cemeteries or potential burial sites, relating to the federal boarding school program in preparation for future site work. This work will occur under the supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

"The Interior Department will address the inter-generational impact of Indian boarding schools to shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past, no mat-

ter how hard it will be," said Haaland. "I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won't undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we're all proud to embrace."

Haaland recently reflected on the inter-generational trauma created by these policies in an op-ed in The Washington Post, originally posted June 11, 2021.

"We must shed light on what happened at federal boarding schools," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, who also delivered remarks outlining implementation of this effort. "As we move forward in this work, we will engage in Tribal consultation on how best to use this information, protect burial sites, and respect families and communities."

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Please see pages 10-11 to discover new services now provided by the Siletz Clinic plus the Tribe's \$200 vaccine promotion.

Recalling the making of Siletz baskets in article from nearly 40 years ago

By Ted Werth; originally printed in Siletz News in October 1984

"These are the spruce roots as they come from the ground and these are what they look like after they're boiled." Such was my introduction to the materials traditionally used to weave baskets. The speaker was Vic Ben, an elder Tribal member who is one of the few remaining who is experienced at traditional basket weaving.

The demonstration was taking place at the Bush Barn Museum in Salem, Ore. The demonstration, attended by more than 200, was a part of the reception held to kick off the month-long display of "Cultural Crafts of the Siletz Indians." The display will last through Oct. 7.

Also taking part in the demonstration was Gladys Muschamp. She was starting a basket from scratch while Vic

was preparing raw materials in preparation for use. The thing that became quickly apparent to me was the fact that you don't just sit down and start making a basket. The hardest work in the process is finding and preparing the materials for use.

Four different materials are commonly used – spruce roots, hazel switch, bear grass and maiden hair fern. Of these four, two are used for decoration only, the bear grass leaves a design in white as the basket ages while the fern leaves an almost black design.

The spruce root itself is very similar in color to the bear grass on a freshly finished basket. As the basket ages, however, the spruce root tends to turn the characteristic brown of older baskets while the bear grass maintains its white appearance.

The hazel switch is the strongest of the materials and is used as the "skeleton" of the basket giving the basket strength.

The strong vertical ribbing of the basket is more or less covered by the spruce root that is woven in between to give the basket shape.

Spruce root is used for weaving because of its strength and flexibility for its small size. The spruce roots when they are taken from the ground are about 3/8 of an inch thick at their thickest point. The first step is to boil the roots and then peel the bark off them. At this point the roots are split into thin strips in preparation for use.

The other two materials, the bear grass and fern, are laid over the outside of the spruce root and then woven into the basket to make designs. This is done because neither material is strong enough on its own. The making of baskets used to be a common art among the older Siletz women.

When I asked Gladys how she came to learn how to make the baskets she

replied, "There used to be lots of the older women that made baskets." As a child, Gladys said that she used the scraps from her mother's weaving to learn: "I mostly learned from watching but if I had a question, I would ask my mother or older sister and they would show me."

Unfortunately there are so few elders to learn from now that it becomes difficult for those who want to learn. According to Gladys, "Even the materials are getting so hard to find anymore." Examples of Siletz basketry are even becoming more rare.

The display at the museum, however, is well laid out with many examples of Siletz basketry and regalia. The museum is open from 1-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and is located at 600 Mission SE in Salem.