



Siletz News
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Bring your family to Siletz as pow-wow will take place for first time in 3 years

The annual Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow, held by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, returns for one day this year on Saturday, Aug. 13, in Siletz, Ore., after two years of cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The public is invited to attend this free family-friendly event, a tradition for the Siletz people and other American Indians, sponsored by Chinook Winds Casino Resort and Pepsi Bottling Company. The one-day social pow-wow will take place at the Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds on Government Hill in Siletz.

"Everyone is invited to experience our pow-wow and learn about American Indian culture and dance," said Buddy Lane, Tribal cultural education director and pow-wow coordinator. "Come join us at our annual celebration."

The celebration will start with the crowning of the 2022-23 Siletz Royalty at 11 a.m. Participants dressed in all dance styles will enter the arena at 1 p.m. during the first Grand Entry. The second Grand Entry will take place at 7 p.m.

A variety of food, Native arts and crafts, and jewelry will be offered for sale by more than 50 vendors on the pow-wow grounds.

"Come and see the variety of vendors at our annual summer pow-wow. Many



File photos

Above: Dae Garcia

Right: Tiffany Stuart (left), Tasha Rilatos and Crystal Taylor



facets of Indigenous America are represented both in craft and food," said Lane. "There's a lot to look at and experience, there's something for everyone here."

A free shuttle will be available from various parking lots in Siletz to the pow-

wow on Government Hill. Signs will be posted. Parking is extremely limited at the pow-wow grounds, so the shuttle is the best way to get there.

This is an alcohol- and drug-free event.

Listen carefully to the pow-wow announcer, who will tell you when you can and when you should not take photos. The announcer also will explain the significance of the events taking place in the dance arena throughout the pow-wow.

Supreme Court releases decision striking against Tribal sovereignty, grants states some jurisdiction

NARF/NCAI joint statement on Castro-Huerta v. Oklahoma SCOTUS ruling

WASHINGTON – On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, overturned the long-held understanding that states do not have authority to prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes against Indians in Indian Country.

The court, in *Castro-Huerta v. Oklahoma*, held that "the federal government and the state have concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indians against Indians in Indian Country," which strikes against Tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction to protect Tribal citizens. The consequences of the decision – for Tribal nations, the federal government and states – will take time to unravel.

"The Supreme Court's decision today is an attack on Tribal sovereignty and the hard-fought progress of our ancestors to exercise our inherent sovereignty over our own territories," said National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Fawn Sharp. "It was only a few months ago that Congress loudly supported Tribal sovereignty and Tribal criminal jurisdiction with the passage of the Violence Against Women's Act, reaffirming the right of Tribal nations to protect their own people and communities, but make no mistake, today the Supreme Court has dealt a massive blow to Tribal sovereignty and Congress must, again, respond."

John Echohawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

agreed. "Unauthorized and unconsented intrusions on Tribal sovereignty are antithetical to Tribal sovereignty and Tribal treaty rights."

The *Castro-Huerta* case was a continuation of the 2020 *McGirt* decision, which reaffirmed the reservation lands of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and, in effect, reaffirmed that much of Oklahoma remains Indian Country to this day for legal purposes.

In response, the state of Oklahoma has filed multiple suits trying to overturn or weaken the *McGirt* decision. With

today's decision, Oklahoma has not only weakened a component of the *McGirt* case, but also has fundamentally altered the long-established understanding of how criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians functions with respect to the federal government, state governments and Tribal nation governments.

In the dissent, Justice Neil Gorsuch stated: "Where this court once stood firm, today it wilts. After the Cherokee's exile to what became Oklahoma, the federal government promised the Tribe that it would

remain forever free from interference by state authorities. Only the Tribe or the federal government could punish crimes by or against Tribal members on Tribal lands. At various points in its history, Oklahoma has chafed at this limitation ... Where our predecessors refused to participate in one state's unlawful power grab at the expense of the Cherokee, today's court accedes to another's."

Read the opinion at https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/21-429_806a.pdf.

STAHS cleans up!

By Teresa Simmons

Few in number but mighty in determination, members of the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society spent July 10 cleaning and scrubbing the building formerly known as the "old hotel" or most recently Dee-Ne Gifts.

The group hopes to have the facility stocked and open by mid-August as the STAHS Office & Gift Shop, offering merchandise representative of Native America and featuring crafts created by Siletz Tribal artists.

Siletz baskets that will become part of The Place for the People, the soon-to-be Siletz museum, will be on display and information regarding the history and culture of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as referenced in Charles Wilkinson's book *The People Are Dancing Again* will be available.

When we open the doors, we hope you will come check us out!

Courtesy photo by Jacob Reid

Teresa Simmons puts the Windex to work.

