

Karen E. Huffman – 1953-2024

Karen E. Huffman was born Jan. 16, 1953, in Crescent City, Calif., and passed away May 14, 2024. Preceded in death by parents Nathan and Louise Huffman, brothers Richard Graham and Andrew Huffman.

She is survived by her brother, Nathan; sister, Nora Huffman; daughter, Teal Huffman; granddaughter, Acima Pringl; four nieces, two nephews, three great-nieces, one great-nephew and two great-great-nephews; many friends; one aunt, Irene Reidel; and many cousins.

Karen loved to do bead and leather work, watch TV, and visit family and friends. She was a homemaker and full-



time mom. She also loved animals, going camping and swimming, and played on a pool team for four years.

She is greatly missed by all.

For information about the Siletz Tribe, visit our website at www.ctsi.nsn.us.

Dennis Fitzpatrick Tufts – 1938-2024

Dennis Fitzpatrick Tufts of Siletz, Ore., was called home on May 1, 2024, in Newport, Ore. Dennis was born in Astoria, Ore., on March 19, 1938, to George and Olive (Fitzpatrick) Tufts.

He attended school in Klamath Falls, Ore., and Ocosta, Wash., receiving his diploma from Aberdeen High School and a degree in marine biology from the University of Washington.

Whether digging razor clams, fishing the Siletz River, participating in Siletz elder woodcuts or visiting with family and friends, Dennis was always right where he wanted to be.

He was an active member of Ocean Park Community Church and Siletz Community Church, as well as an active Gideon.

Dennis was preceded in death by his wife, Mary; and his daughter, Cathern



“Cat” Tufts. He is survived by his son, William (Mary) Tufts of Kernville, Ore.

Dennis will long be remembered as a great husband, father and dear friend to many.

A memorial service and luncheon were held June 1 at the Siletz Tribal Community Center.

Oregon’s Griffin-Valade recognizes 100-year anniversary of Indian Citizenship Act

On June 2, Oregon Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade recognized the 100-year anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act.

On June 2, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed into law the Indian Citizenship Act, which granted U.S. citizenship to all Indigenous people living in the United States, granting them the right to vote in local, state and federal elections.

“We tend to think of progress as a steady forward march, but the reality involves quite a bit of stumbling,” Griffin-Valade said. “The Indian Citizenship Act was important legislation with many benefits, but it’s not without complications. The best way for us to truly honor this landmark legislation is by recognizing all of the complexity – the good and the bad.”

Before 1924, approximately 175,000 American Indians had already been granted citizenship through a number of avenues, including marrying U.S. citizens, military service or those who opted to

“assimilate” under the 1887 Dawes Act. The Indian Citizenship Act granted U.S. citizenship to the remaining 125,000 Indigenous people.

Ostensibly, granting citizenship also granted all Native people the right to vote in U.S. elections. But voting rights for American Indians remained contested in many areas until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

A full accounting of the complicated history behind the Indian Citizenship Act is available through the White House Historical Association at <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/calvin-coolidge-and-native-americans>.

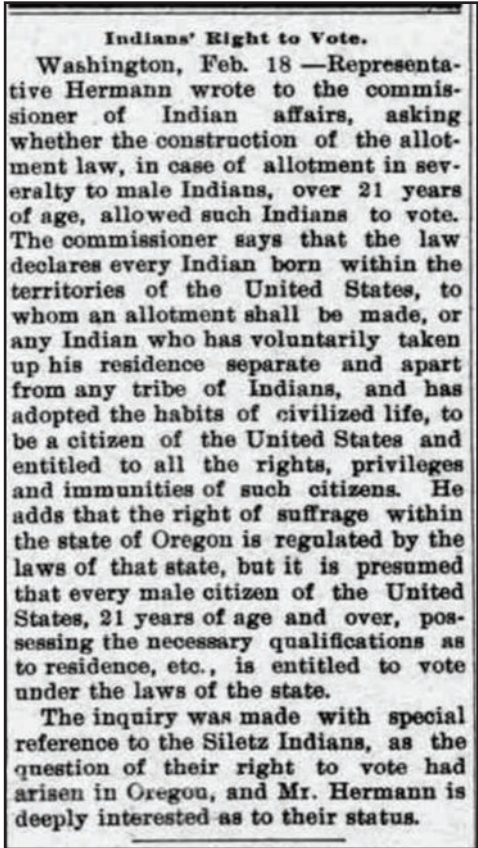
In Oregon, some elections had been open to local Indigenous people well before the federal act. According to the Oregon State Archives, newspaper accounts from as early as 1896 document a controversy over voting irregularities on the Siletz Reservation (see far right from the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*).

A 1906 newspaper references an opinion by Oregon Attorney General Andrew Crawford for the Indian agent on the Klamath Reservation stating that individuals with allotments would be considered eligible to vote.

“In recognizing this anniversary, I want to encourage Oregonians to check their voter registration to make sure they are able to get a ballot in November,” Griffin-Valade said. “It’s easy to take democracy for granted, but I believe civic engagement through voting is a core part of our national identity.”

Learn more about the history of Indigenous suffrage in Oregon through the Oregon State Archives exhibit, *On Her Own Wings: Oregon Women and the Struggle for Suffrage*, available at <https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/suffrage/Pages/context/menu.aspx>.

The Oregon Blue Book, published by the secretary of state’s office, includes further information about Oregon’s federally recognized Tribes and other Native people.



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Hatch and Price spoke during the presentation, providing background on the collaboration that led to its design.

“Our project team was given an important gift: the time and expertise of Peter Hatch and Nick Viles, and the chance to collaborate with them on this installation. They’ve become part of our project team, helping me and the designers at Shapiro Didway every step of the way,” Price said. “Thank you so much. We sincerely hope this is just the beginning of our work together.”

The installation was funded by grants from the Oregon Coast Visitors Association, the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, the Autzen Foundation and individual contributions to the Invest in Inspiration Capital Campaign. It is open for viewing, along with the rest of the public art installations at the Cultural Plaza, every day from sunrise to sunset.

For more information, to arrange a private plaza tour, or to contribute to the cultural center’s ongoing efforts for cultural understanding and acknowledgement, please contact Price at 541-994-9994 or niki@lc-cc.org.



Courtesy photo from Lincoln City Cultural Center

Tribal History and Archeology Specialist Peter Hatch speaks in front of the newly installed wind wall at the Lincoln City Cultural Plaza.

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athletes as they followed behind their respective countries’ flags in front of 15,000 people at the opening ceremony.

Mason and her family would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support she has received. The entire Lincoln County community has rallied behind her and without all of you, none of this would be possible. She is very grateful for this opportunity.