



Courtesy photo

The Siletz Tribal Head Start class in Lincoln City, Ore., visits the local police station to accept book donations. Thank you, Lincoln City Police!



Hello Veterans, my name is William "Buster" Lane. I am the new Veterans Coordinator for CTSI. After a long and successful career Tony Molina has retired.

I am trying to compile names of any Veteran whose names are not on the Veterans Memorial Wall on Government Hill and would like to have it included. CTSI will be adding additional names later this year. This includes those folks who are currently serving in the armed forces. It is our goal to have all Tribal veterans' names placed on this memorial- past, present and future. It is important to remember each and every Veteran who has served this nation at times of peace or conflict.



Thank you, William Buster Lane, CTSI Veterans Coordinator
Phone: 541-272-9054 Email: VeteransCoordinator@ctsi.nsn.us



Tentative dates for community meetings in 2025

- Eugene Area Office Community Meeting is Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025
- Salem Area Office Community Meeting is Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025
- Siletz Area Office Community Meeting is Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025
- Portland Area Office Community Meeting is Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025
- Out-of-Area Community Meeting (Zoom) is Thursday, March 13, 2025

All meetings start at 5:30 p.m.

Place your order for free at-home COVID-19 tests

As of late September 2024, residential households in the U.S. are eligible for another order of four free at-home tests from USPS.com.

Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Each order includes four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests (COVIDTests.gov has more details about at-home tests, including extended shelf life and updated expiration dates)
- Orders will ship free.
- <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

COVID home test kits also are available for free at:

- Siletz Clinic Pharmacy
- Salem Area Office
- Portland Area Office
- Eugene Area Office

For more information, contact:

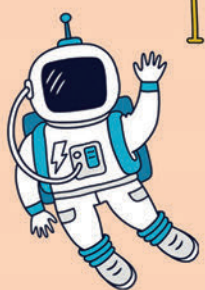
Wendi Schamp, COVID-19 Health Screening Coordinator
Siletz Community Health Clinic
800-648-0449, ext. 1607
Local: 541-444-1030, ext. 1607
Direct: 541-444-9607

CTSI VIRTUAL CULTURE NIGHTS

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday

November 6 at 6 pm: Restoration



IN-PERSON LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLASSES

November

Siletz (Rec Center)-Monday, November 4 at 6 pm
Portland Area Office -Thursday, November 14 at 6 pm
Salem Area Office-Thursday, November 21 at 6 pm
Eugene Area Office-Monday, November 25 at 6 pm

December: Nee-dash Practice

Valley (Salem Area Office)-Monday, December 2 at 6 pm
Siletz (Rec Center)-Monday, December 9 at 6 pm



Sponsored by the Education and Culture Departments

Questions? Contact Nick Viles at nickv@ctsi.nsn.us or 541-484-4234 x1757

Tribal nations, organizations file amicus brief to support Apache Stronghold, protect religious freedoms

WASHINGTON – In an amicus brief filed Oct. 15, 2024, 44 Tribal Nations and eight organizations urged the U.S. Supreme Court to hear Apache Stronghold v. United States. The brief supports Apache Stronghold in asking the court to overrule a decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that sanctions the destruction of Tribal Nations' sacred places by the federal government.

Many Native peoples and Tribal Nations maintain long-standing religious practices in sacred places that, because of land dispossession through colonization, are today owned by the federal government. In this case, Apache Stronghold sued to stop the U.S. from transferring Ch'chil Bıldagoteel (which translates in English as "Oak Flat") to a foreign-owned mining company.

Oak Flat is a sacred place where Western Apache peoples have practiced their religion from time immemorial, including ceremonies that may only take place at Oak Flat. The U.S. is poised to transfer Oak Flat to a global mining company, which plans to mine under Oak Flat until the surface collapses into a two-mile-wide, 1,100-foot-deep crater. The process would destroy all religious practices at Oak Flat and render adjacent lands and waters inhospitable for human life or visitation.

In March 2024, the Ninth Circuit held that the transfer of Oak Flat does not, under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, "substantially burden" Apache religious exercise. The amicus brief highlights how the Ninth Circuit's ruling uniquely prejudices Native religions.

"Eradicating sacred places where religious practices take place should be a violation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act for any religious group," said Native American Rights Fund Executive Director John Echohawk. "For many Native religions, eliminating a sacred place may end religious exercise completely. The Ninth Circuit's decision sanctions the federal government's destruction of sacred places on federal land at its complete discretion."

In September 2024, Apache Stronghold requested the Supreme Court review the erroneous decision. The case's outcome will determine whether Tribal Nations can challenge federal actions that destroy religious sites on federal land, so the total of 52 Tribal Nations and organizations felt compelled to join the brief.

Read the amicus brief at <https://www.narf.org/nill/documents/20241015scotus-apache-stronghold-amicus.pdf>. More about Apache Stronghold v. U.S.: <https://narf.org/cases/apache-oak-flat/>.