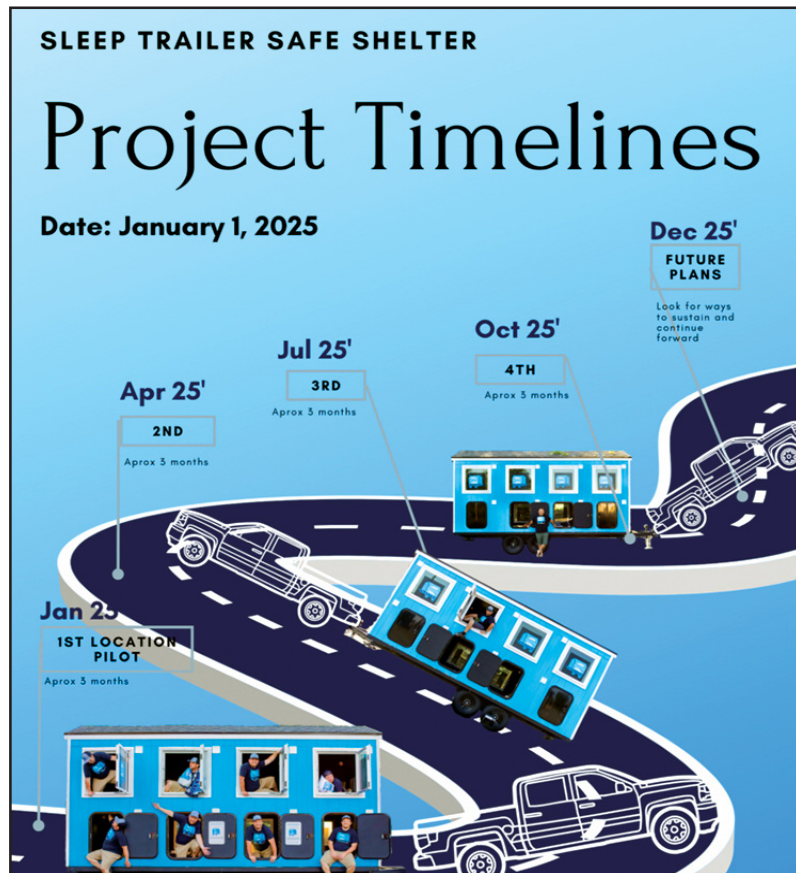


# Taking initiative: Sleep Trailers pilot program visits Siletz this summer



Beginning in April, Tribal Member Jason Christianson will bring his pilot program, Sleep Trailers LLC, to park behind the comfort station in Siletz, Ore. This stay will be three months in duration, before moving to the next phase in July.

This is the second step in a program, using InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization, in a joint effort to reduce the number of unhoused and unsheltered individuals. For more information or questions regarding this program, please contact Jason at [jason@sleeptrailer.com](mailto:jason@sleeptrailer.com).



## Become a sponsor of the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow



Once again, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has partnered with the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) to provide an opportunity for individuals and businesses to sponsor dance categories for the upcoming Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow, taking place on Aug. 8-10, 2025, at the Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds in Siletz, Ore.

All sponsorships will be highlighted in the Siletz News and announced during the Pow-Wow. This is the second year that sponsorships are available to be processed on an online platform. If you sponsor a

dance category, or a place within a category, your name and/or business name will be announced by the emcee over the P.A. system when the prize is awarded to the winning dancer. You can also choose to be an anonymous donor. If preferred, you can still sponsor a category by contacting our Cultural Education Manager, AJ Warren, at [AJW@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:AJW@ctsi.nsn.us).

The Tribe would like to thank EDALC for stepping up and providing this platform. The Tribe itself does not currently have an online donation platform for this purpose, so EDALC has generously stepped forward to

donate their staff time and Community Connector Grant Funds to this website development, hosting, online store, credit card fees, and other costs related to this year's project. This platform also allows people to submit general donations to the pow-wow, if you so choose.

You can learn more about the great work EDALC has done on the Tribe's behalf by visiting their website at <https://takeactionlincolncounty.com/>.

If you have any questions about this, you can reach out to Lisa Norton at [LisaN@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:LisaN@ctsi.nsn.us).

### Legends, continued from page 1

Duties of the Player Mentorship Program participants include attending practices for LCL, helping with youth basketball clinics, leading drills, fostering confidence in younger athletes, and emphasizing the importance of school.

A High school student in the Player Mentorship Program can expect to see their LCL coaches in the stands and after games to further the relationships established through LCL.

Jeff considers the LCL program to be a lifelong family that doesn't end after middle school. He continues to monitor the grades of his high school aged players, and motivate them to continue pursuing personal growth.

Jeff uses Aaidyn Bokuro, a Siletz tribal member, as an excellent example of the attitude and achievement LCL promotes.

Aaidyn continues to attend LCL practices while participating in high school sports. Aaidyn received the basketball Defensive Player of the Year, in his division at Newport High School, and dedicates himself to pursuing high achievements academi-

cally. Aaidyn's pursuit of greatness is what Jeff hopes to inspire in all of his Legends.

As with any new program, there have been hurdles to overcome. One major challenge was finding their place in the community. Jeff has been able to attain his support network and grow his program from a vision to a reality through parent and athlete engagement.

Another major hurdle was his program being stereotyped as a "rez ball" team coached by a "rez coach" instead of being treated like a regular basketball program.

Jeff says he faced this issue head-on and embraced the moniker by teaching tolerance and building an understanding of the positive qualities of rez ballers. Instead of highlighting the rough-and-tumble stereotype put on rez basketball teams, he chose to push the positive aspects many Indigenous athletes embrace, such as hustling and outworking the competition.

The importance of keeping with the Indigenous way is crucial to Jeff's program because the team has been

composed of approximately 35% tribal youth (45-50% if you count descendants) since 2013.

Jeff stated that this program was something he needed when he was young, playing ball in the Siletz Valley School's play shed. He needed this sense of community and care, which has driven him to be a pillar in the lives of the young people he mentors.

His athletes know that if they need him, day or night, they can call him. While this can be challenging because he's taking his work home with him, he wouldn't change it because he gets to help those who need him.

LCL has a 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team, which includes both boys and girls, that compete in the boys' travel ball division. The plan is to expand this program to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade basketball team and to fully revive the LCL football team.

Jeff has enforced the idea that LCL rejects rivalry between schools and wants to bring together a cooperative basketball culture, working closely with schools to ensure his program doesn't overlap with school-based sports so that players can represent their hometown while simultaneously representing LCL.

On March 12, 2025 Jeff was honored at the Portland Trail Blazers vs. New York Knicks game in Portland, Ore., at the Moda Center for his special achievement. Following Jeff's nomination into the national Coach of the Year selection process, he will be entered into a screening process to narrow the pool of nominees to five. From the round of five nominees, an executive panel of judges, an interview, and a public fan vote via social media will determine the National Jr. NBA Coach of the Year winners.

Jeff would like to thank his wife, Cecelia DeAnda, for being his rock during the tough times; Isaac DeAnda for his constant encouragement; his coaches for all of the pieces he was able to take from them throughout his life; his mother, Levi Simmons, who gave him the name "Xwii-day-shu," meaning "everything good," which he embraces every day; his brother, Jeremy Sweet, who encourages him to break the cycle of generational trauma and make the correct choices in life; the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for the opportunities and support he has received; and his grandmother, Arliss Chatterson, for the unending love she gave him growing up.