



Siletz News
Confederated Tribes of
Siletz Indians
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All tribal offices will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

Ed Ben, a life told through memories



By Savannah Worman
On a bright Friday afternoon, Ed Ben relaxed in his recliner as I sat down with him for an interview. This is a brief account of his life and the lessons learned during his near century on this Earth.
Ed Ben was born in Siletz at his grandmother Ella Ben’s house on Christmas Day 1927. Ben stated that the house was across from the tribe’s bullpen, where we house our GSA vehicles currently. At the time of his youth, there was no road, just a wagon trail and a canoe for crossing the river. One of Ed’s earlier memories is of his grandmother cleaning eels off

the back porch before she fell ill and became bedridden.
After his grandmother’s passing, Ed moved with his parents to Camp 12 Loop, where they shared their home, a company house, with his maternal uncle’s family and his dad’s family. Ed said that when he asked his uncle how they all fit in the house, his uncle mischievously said, “It was a long house.” As with most of Ed’s stories, this one ended with a comical twist.
Ed is the oldest of Archie Ben and Victoria Butler Ben’s seven children. At 17 and 3 months, Ed Ben spoke with his father about joining the Navy after two scuffles in one day with a

Ed, on page 5

Tribal lead community fishing events teach young anglers in Siletz

A community fishing event brought together youth and families in Siletz on April 21-22, coordinated by Community Education Facilitator Veronica Crawford, Todd Logan and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Natural Resource Department.
The event introduced young anglers to fishing, taught them how to gut and gill fish, and encouraged community engagement. Ahead of the event, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife stocked Dundas Pond with 200 trout on March 21 for spring break. ODFW also donated 10 fishing rod-and-reel combos and additional gear for participants.
Despite stormy weather on the first day, some youth braved the rain and caught trout. One young angler reached the daily limit of two fish and

learned to fillet them with guidance from Natural Resources staff.
The event wrapped up with a meal on Tuesday evening, where Siletz Valley High School culinary teacher Patrick Clarke prepared steelhead and freshly caught trout for attendees.



Courtesy photo
Families enjoying the fishing event

Annual Memorial Day Ceremony honors veterans and their families

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians held the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Government Hill in Siletz, Oregon. The event began with procession from the Community Center to the Veteran’s Memorial. Our Siletz Royalty gave the Lord’s Prayer, followed by a warm welcome from Tribal Council Chairman Delores Pigsley.
Kraig Mitchell was the honored guest, and delivered the Memorial Day address, honoring the sacrifices of our countries veterans. The ceremony featured a presentation of flowers, a three-volley salute by the Siletz Honor Guard, and the playing of “Taps.” The event concluded with an Honor Song, by the Dancing Again Singers.
All attendees were invited up to a the salmon dinner, beautifully prepared by the Cultural Heritage Committee.



Photos by Savannah Worman

Above: Kraig Mitchell, guest of honor gave his Memorial Day address to attendees of the event
Below, l-to-r: Halli Lane-Skauge; Miss Siletz, Sahaylee Mason; Jr Miss Siletz, Naiya Mason; Little Miss Siletz at the presentation of flowers

