

few local boys. After consideration, his father took him to enlist. When asked about his time in the Navy, he says that he was discharged after the first atomic bomb dropped in 1945.

Ed spent many years working at the Salem penitentiary, and encapsulated within those years were two riots and a fire brought on by the 1968 riot. Ed recalls the first riot in the 1950s.

He and his supervisor were out with the rioters during this time. At a point in the riot, Ed's supervisor asked him how things were going, and Ed's response was, "Don't worry, we've got them surrounded." At telling this story, Ed chuckled to himself.

The 1968 riot and subsequent fire were more severe. Ed was working on the third floor of one of the buildings in the library and hobby shop. More than 700 prisoners overtook the prison and started fires on the lower floors, leaving Ed and nine prisoners trapped.

Ed recalled the stairwell being like a chimney flue, and the smoke was so thick that he could barely see past his outstretched arms. The fire department was unaware of their predicament, Ed was unsure if anyone would get to them in time.

The nine prisoners were terrified and writing their addresses on slips of paper to throw out of the windows to

the rioters below, hoping that someone would find their information and be able to identify who they were. Ed reassured the prisoners, telling them not to give up.

In the end, Ed grabbed a carpenter's hand saw, while one of the prisoners used a plumber's saw, and they began sawing at the bars. A water hose was passed up to them to spray on the blades to prevent them from overheating from the friction. They utilized a sledgehammer to knock the bars free once they had been sawed nearly through. Ed, with the assistance of the prisoners, was able to shimmy through a 9-inch by 18-inch hole in the bars and make it to safety away from the fire.

Testimony from the prisoners who survived the fire with Ed can be found in the book "Crime and Correction: Lessons Learned by a Career Corrections Practitioner" by Thomas Toombs, PhD. In these testimonies, Ed is praised as the "Unsung Hero" of that day. He saved the lives of the nine prisoners with his cool-headedness and quick wit. Ed retired from the prison in 1982 as a Personnel Officer and enjoyed a much quieter life away from prisons and riots.

When asked what the most significant historical event Ed witnessed was, he answered, "Our Restoration."

Ed reminisced about the Restoration celebration in Newport, Ore.,

after the life-changing bill was passed. He remembers two specific moments. The first one came from Charles Wilkinson, an attorney.

Wilkinson said to a group of the lobbyists regarding the monumental achievement of Restoration, "When you came to see me in Colorado, I forgot to tell you that what you were doing was impossible."

The second moment came from John Volkman, a legal aid lawyer from Portland, Ore., as he turned to Ed's father, Archie, and asked, "Well, Chief, what do you think?" Ed said his dad was all bundled in blankets from the cold when he turned to Volkman and said, "Well, the people are dancing again."

He remembers many significant memories involving his father from when he was a young boy up until his father's passing. Ed spoke in depth about his father's yearly Loyalty Days floats and how his father won an award for his float during the "This Land is Our Land" theme.

Another stand-out moment for him was when a group of professional fishermen threw bags of crab from their float during one of the many parades. He recalled how crabs were more of an indigenous delicacy in his youth. He told a story about when he was young, catching crab with his father, and some tourists approached

them and asked what they were gathering the crab for.

His father told the tourists it was chicken food, and when Ed later questioned why his father would say that instead of saying they were going to eat them, his father told him, "If you tell them that you eat them, then they'll want to know how they're prepared, and then they'll add limits to them."

Many memories surfaced during our lengthy discussion about Ed's life. Historical moments such as the first Nesika Illahee pow-wow when Ed's wife Delores, whom Ed spent over 73 years of his life with, and Pauline Ricks cooked breakfast for nearly all of Siletz. Learning to pow-wow dance with Frank White Buffalo Man before they knew how to do it on their own, dancing in a wrestling ring during an Apache Bull Ramos bout, and finally the Bicentennial event in Washington, D.C., where a group of Tribal Members performed for an entire week.

When Ed was asked what he would like to be remembered for, he answered admiringly, "That I always obeyed my father."

To say he has lived a long life is an understatement. Surviving WWII, two prison riots, a fire, and the monumental day of Restoration, Ed is a history book with multitudes of wisdom.

Thank you, Ed Ben, for everything you have done in your lifetime.

Siletz News policies and procedures now available online

By Andy Taylor, PIO

Guidelines and policies are essential for any organization, and Siletz News is no exception. These guidelines ensure that all submissions are accurate, relevant, and adhere to ethical standards, which ultimately helps maintain the integrity and quality of the newspaper. Having clear policies in place also fosters consistency and transparency, making it easier for contributors to understand the expectations and requirements for their submissions.

When submitting information to Siletz News, it's important to ensure all facts and details are accurate, double-checking names, dates, and statistics. If you're submitting in writing, please write clearly and concisely. This makes it easier for our staff to type it out for the Siletz News.

If submitting an article or story, cite sources and give credit where it's due, including names and context when quoting someone. Follow ethical guidelines, such as respecting privacy and avoiding plagiarism, and adhere to the newspaper's submission guidelines regarding format, length, and style. Be sure that submissions are sent as attachments.

If submitting a photo or supporting image with your article, please ensure it is an attachment and not embedded in an email or document. Staff will request the image be sent again as an attachment. To ensure the highest quality in print, we request that photos are not screenshots, are unedited and high quality.

Tribal Members should email items for consideration in Siletz News to pias@ctsi.nsn.us. If you have ques-

tions or need assistance you can call our Public Information Department at 541-444-2532. Our staff is more than willing to help however we can.

The Siletz News policies and procedures document provides a comprehensive overview of the standards to be followed when submitting information to the newspaper. Specific policies and procedures are detailed for various types of submissions, including passages, letters to the editor, tribal member articles, obituaries, fliers, and advertisements. Each type of submission has its own set of guidelines regarding length, format, attachments, deadlines, and review processes.

Remember, the deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month or the nearest business day. You can find the full Siletz News Policies and

Procedures as well as all Siletz News deadlines in the extended tribal calendar on the website at ctsi.nsn.us, under the News & Events tab.

Scan the QR code for online access to Public Information including: The digital Siletz News, the Area Office Newsletter, Siletz Tribal events calendar, Naa-ch'it-'a Podcast, reports and the full policy and procedures.



General Welfare Exclusion Housing Rehabilitation Program

Formerly Over Income Rehabilitation Grant

The Over Income Rehabilitation Construction program funds over-income families with a \$10,000 grant for construction rehabilitation on the primary residence they own. The over-income grant is for eligible applicants and is limited to one grant per person, address, and the household.

If you have already received a General Welfare Exclusion Housing Rehabilitation Grant, you are not

eligible to apply.

If you have received services for the following programs, you are not eligible to apply for the General Welfare Exclusion Housing Rehabilitation Grant for 5 years: NAHASDA Rehabilitation Program, NAHASDA Elders Replacement Program, NAHASDA Rehabilitation Program for Elder Tribal Members, NAHASDA Rehabilitation Program for Disabled Tribal Members, and HIP Program.

Rehabilitation refers to repairs

or renovations to the home but does not include appliances, saunas, hot tubs, swimming pools, driveways, fences, etc. Over-Income refers to tribal members whose income exceeds the income limits set by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

Applications, including proof of current annual income, enrollment, and proof of homeownership with the Tribal member's name on it, must be submitted to the Housing

Office by Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Applications received after that date and time will not be accepted by the Siletz Tribal Housing Department. Qualified applicants will be placed in the lottery drawing, which will be held during the month of August on a date approved by the Tribal Council.

If you would like an application or have any questions, please call Jeanette Mason at 541-444-8316 or email at jeanettem@ctsi.nsn.us.