



Siletz News
Confederated Tribes of
Siletz Indians
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380-0549

Delores Pigsley,
Tribal Chairman
Kurtis Barker
Chief Executive Officer
and Editor-in-Chief

Presorted
First-Class
Mail
U.S. Postage
Paid - Permit
No. 178
Salem, OR

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Vol. 53, No. 7 July 2025

All tribal offices will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 4, 2025

Eel harvesting at Willamette Falls ignites tribal connection to pacific lamprey

By Dylan Gorman, Natural Resources: Hunt & Fish biologist II

For a group of tribal members and tribal staff June 14, started early. Alarm clocks rang out at 3:30 a.m., jolting tired bodies out of their beds. Those same bodies rolled out of pickup trucks at the Sportcraft Marina in Oregon City and made their way down to the Natural Resource Department boat.

As the boat chugged upriver, nervous faces looked up at Willamette Falls in the pre-dawn light. Mist and spray rolling off the falls combined with choppy waves made for an ominous scene. In that moment the reality of slipping into the waters of the Willamette River hit home for some on



the boat... questions were whispered between one another. “How cold is the water?” “Are we climbing up to the top of the falls?”

More prudent questions were being asked amongst seasoned lamprey harvesters “How many eels are needed for each family for the year?” “How many eels should we put up for canning versus smoking?” Or, “Do we have the burlap sacks and gloves packed in the boat?”

Courtsey photo by Nick Dugan

Left to right: Dylan Gorman, Zena Green, Katrina Hudson and Stan van de Wetering

Lamprey, on page 3

Clinic is building for the future, expanding services to members

By: Savannah Worman

On February 9, 1991, the first Siletz Community Health Clinic (SCHC) building was opened through a partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Indian Health Service. Since 1991, the clinic has expanded significantly.

In April 2010, a new facility was opened to provide more office space and additional programs. Earlier this

year, the new SCHC Pharmacy began operations in downtown Siletz, and in August (if construction allows) a second clinic will open in Lincoln City to better serve the local community.

The Siletz Community Health Clinic is unique in that it offers an extensive wraparound service in-house. The clinic provides services in medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, laboratory, Commu-

nity Health, Behavioral Health, the CARES program and even at the Tel-tvm’ farm property. Finding all of these services offered by one entity is highly unusual and a very cherished addition to the tribe.

SCHC has several exciting projects underway, ranging from a basement build-out to the development of a mobile health unit, extending services and increasing accessibility. When

asked about these projects, Miranda Williams and Forrest Pearson were eager to share the new developments happening within the clinic.

Alongside the well-established main clinic in Siletz, a newly built satellite clinic in Lincoln City will provide medical, dental, Behavioral

SCHC, on page 9

For an application, go to
www.ctsi.nsn.us/heritage/pow-wow/

**2025
NESIKA ILLAHEE
POW-WOW
HIRE
DATE**

Hourly Rate
\$20.00

Positions
Maintenance/Security &
Kitchen (Multiple Shifts)

Bring
Valid Photo ID and
SS Card

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
SILETZ COMMUNITY CENTER
402 GOVERNMENT HILL DR.**

Drought, early snowmelt, and dryer conditions raise wildfire concerns



Once again, many regions across the country are facing a severe drought year.

By Andy Taylor

Multiple wildfires are burning across Oregon right now, with thousands of acres scorched and communities on high alert.

The largest, the Rowena Fire in the Columbia River Gorge, has consumed 3,700 acres and is 53% contained, prompting Level 1 and 2 evacuation warnings. In Central Oregon, the

Alder Springs Fire near Redmond has grown to 3,442 acres with no containment, forcing evacuations and closing parts of Cove Palisades State Park. Southern Oregon’s Upper Applegate Fire has burned over 300 acres and triggered evacuation notices for more than 1,200 residents.

Firefighters are working around the clock to contain the blazes, with structural protection and emergency shelters activated in several counties.

Many state and federal agencies around the country are warning of heightened wildfire risks and urging residents to take immediate action to protect their homes, communities, and natural resources.

Multiple states are imposing burn bans earlier than usual in an attempt to manage and reduce damage during this year’s wildfire season.

Wildfire, on page 13