The Voice of CLUSI

January 2026

Issue 1

Volume 27

www.ctclusi.org

NEWS FROM THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA & SIUSLAW INDIANS

Tribal Families Gather for Annual Holiday Celebration



Tribal Council celebrate with Santa at the Annual Holiday Celebration. Pictured left to right: Ashley Russell, Debbie Bossley, Iliana Montiel, Julie Siestreem, "Santa", Teresa Spangler - Vice Chair, Chief Doug Barrett, and Brad Kneaper - Chair

Contributed by Morgan Gaines, Communications Specialist

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians held their annual Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at the Three Rivers Casino Resort in Florence, Oregon. Tribal families gathered to celebrate and were greeted by Tribal Government staff serving up warm welcomes and smiles. Each family received their 2026 Tribal Calendar, wooden die cut ornaments in the shape of snowflakes printed with the CTCLUSI Government Seal, canned salmon and tuna.

After a warm welcome by members of Council and an invocation by Chief Doug Barrett, a delicious feast of roast and an assortment of side dishes was enjoyed by all. A selection of hors d'oeuvres were also savored throughout the afternoon, followed by sweet treats including apple pie, cookies, and cobbler for dessert.

Families enjoyed visiting with one another and reminiscing over the slideshow of photos from previous holiday gatherings that played throughout the day. A festive backdrop and fun holiday props were provided for families to take photos with and were gifted with prints of these photos throughout the day. Guests also visited the Tribal member run vendor booths and played their odds by purchasing raffle tickets for a gift basket and 50/50 raffle from the Education Department. All proceeds of the two raffles are going towards Tribal Scholarships for youth.

Following the meal, Tribal youth and those young at heart joined in singing some holiday songs alongside Tribal Council member Ashley Russell, accompanied by Janet Niessner from the Department of Culture and Natural Resources on the keyboard. The pair delighted guests with the lyrics to sing along with them to an Indigenized rendition of 'The 10 Days of Solstice'. The next song helped call in the special guest of the evening, Santa Claus!

Santa made sure to take time to speak to all the children in attendance and was assisted by his "elves" from Tribal Council, in handing out gifts and stockings to all the children.

Tribal Chairman Brad Kneaper and Chief Doug Barrett, along with all Tribal Council helped call out the raffle prize winners. A number of gifts found new homes with lucky winners.

The Education raffle basket was won by Jessica Olson and the 50/50 raffle winner was Leann James. Congratulations to them both and thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to go towards scholarships!

Tribal members then gathered on the stage, sang and danced a friendship round dance to end the event in a good way. Thank you to all the incredible members of Tribal Government and the Staff at Three Rivers for all of their hard work. Without you, these events would not be possible.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!



More photos can be viewed on page 10

Confederated Tribes of Coos,
Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Eugene, OR
Permit #481

baldija Naming Ceremony

February 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

see page 4 for more details

Tribal Council Business

Activity of Elected Tribal Council Members from November 9, 2025 - December 14, 2025

Chief Doug Barrett
11/09 Budget Presentation – Tribal Council Meeting
11/10 Sea Otter Recovery Tribal Engagement Meetings
11/11 Moon Complex Cooperator Meeting
11/13 Culture Committee Meeting
11/14 Special Meeting: Election Code Amendment, Connection to Culture for Painted Horse Recovery in Portland
11/15 Harvest Celebration and Drum Making, Confederated Tribes of Siletz 48th Annual Restoration Pow Wow
11/17 City or Florence Proclamation: Native American Heritage Month
11/18 Canoe Carving – Education Afterschool Data Canoe
11/19 MHA/LADPC Monthly Meeting
11/20 Leaders Circle
11/24 GFORB / Tribal Council Business Meeting
11/25 maniis tei hap' Data Canoe planning meeting / NARA Board Meeting
11/26 Meeting on Sea Otters
11/28 Native Heritage Day
12/03 STEP Meeting
12/04 Peace Givers Training / Special Council Meeting / Leaders Circle, Culture Items Task Force Meeting / Elakha Alliance Board Meeting
12/05 Peace Givers Training
12/06 Peace Givers Training
12/07 Deedee Celebration of life
12/08 Sea Otter Tribal Engagement Meeting / DOC – Tribal Advisory Committee
12/09 Indian Country Elders Knowledge Holders Culture Keepers ECHO
12/10 OYA – NAAC Quarterly Meeting / MHAC Special Meeting / Lane ACT Meeting
12/11 Peace Hike Planning Meeting / maniis tei hap' Data Canoe Event, Culture Committee Meeting
12/12 Solstice Ceremony Planning Meeting
12/13 Holiday Celebration
12/14 Tribal Council Regular Meeting
Total Hours: 172

Brad Kneaper, Chair
11/09 Budget Hearing with Budget Committee, Regular Council Meeting
11/20 Meet (ZOOM) with Legal and CEO for updates, Leader's Circle: Meet new Director of Oregon Youth Authority; Discussion on state grant; Discuss land acquisition and Fee to Trust; Budget Committee meeting; Various discussion.
11/24 Gaming Operational Review Board, Tribal Council Business Meeting
12/02 Meet (ZOOM) with Oregon Governor discuss Consultation Task Force; Elliot State Forest
12/04 Special Council Meeting: Resolutions: Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Family Support and Connections Program Grant; PacificSource Funding Request (Health Initiative related to Food and Nutrition); Discussion Blue Earth; Discussion Three Rivers Casino Budget, Leaders Circle: Update on Misery Creek Restoration Property; Discussion with Education and presentation of SB 13 Curriculum
12/05 Meeting (ZOOM) with CEO and Legal regarding budgets
12/10 Meet with TRC CEO, GFROB Chairman, and Legal regarding format of Three Rivers Casino Budget, Meet with Oregon State Police Tribal Gaming Section, and Interim Gaming Commission Director at Florence Outreach
12/13 Holiday Celebration
Total Hours: 145

Teresa Spangler, Vice Chair
11/09 2nd Budget Hearing, Regular Council meeting
11/14 Special Meeting (Zoom only)
11/15 Harvest Celebration
11/20 Leaders Circle
11/24 Tribal Council Business Council Meeting
12/04 Special Council Meeting BECF and TRCR Budget discussions, Leaders Circle
12/13 Holiday Celebration
Total Hours: 65

Debbie Bossley
11/14 Special Mtg
11/20 Leaders Circle
11/24 Business Mtg
12/04 Special Mtg, Leaders Circle
12/13 Holiday Celebration
12/14 Tribal Council Mtg
Total Hours: 70

Julie Siestreem
11/09 2nd Budget hearing Tribal Council-excused, Tribal Council General Council Regular Monthly meeting-excused
11/13 Elders Luncheon Three Rivers Casino Florence
11/14 Tribal Council Special Meeting, Southwestern Oregon Community College Port Development Discussion Oregon State University Sea Grant Sara Swett
11/15 Harvest Celebration Tribal Hall, Community Center Coos Bay
11/20 Oregon Department of Health Services Transformation Project Kristen Potts zoom, Tribal Council Leaders Circle Coos Bay
11/24 Gaming Operational Review Board Three Rivers Casino Florence, Tribal Council General Council Business meeting Three Rivers Casino Florence
12/04 Tribal Council Special Meeting Blue Earth Federal Corporation and Three Rivers Casino Budget discussion, Tribal Council Leaders Circle Coos Bay, Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services Budget Information Session Rep. Sanchez zoom
12/09 4j NATIVES Program IPC meeting Eugene
12/10 4j NATIVES Program Culture Gathering Activities Eugene, Oregon Department Of Early Learning and Care Interview Panel New Administrator zoom
12/13 Annual Christmas Gathering Three Rivers Casino Florence
12/14 Tribal Council General Council Regular Monthly meeting Community Center Coos Bay
Total Hours: 130

Iliana Montiel
11/09 Tribal Council Regular Meeting
11/14 Special Meeting
11/15 Harvest Celebration
11/19 Leaders Circle
11/24 GFORB / Tribal Council Business Meeting
12/04 Special Meeting / Leaders Circle
12/13 Holiday Celebration
Total Hours: 40

Ashley Russell
11/13 Harvest Celebration Prep
11/14 Harvest Celebration Prep
11/15 Harvest Celebration
11/19 Reviewed Leader's Circle Packet
11/23 Reviewed Business Meeting Packet
11/24 Business Meeting
12/03 Reviewed Leader's Circle Packet
12/04 Special Meeting and Leader's Circle Meeting
12/13 Holiday Celebration
12/14 General Council Meeting
Total Hours: 79

Upcoming Regular Council Meetings

January 11, 2026

February 8, 2026

March 8, 2026

Election Day - April 12th

Regular Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

CTCLUSI Community Center
338 Wallace Avenue,
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Join by Zoom link by logging in to the Citizen Portal of www.ctclusi.org

Information

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?
The CLUSI Tribal Council welcomes your ideas, comments, criticisms, etc.
Please write to: Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
ATTN: Tribal Council 1245 Fulton Ave.
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

COMMITTEE INTEREST LIST
If you are a Tribal member and interested in being on a committee, please contact Lorin Krossman at 541-435-7178 or enrollment@ctclusi.org
We are currently keeping a list of those interested so that when a committee vacancy occurs we can fill it as soon as possible, so please contact us whether there is a vacancy or not.

ATTENTION VETERANS AND FAMILIES
Veterans we need your help. Veterans are honored at the Salmon Ceremony each year. Please contact Lorin Krossman at 541-435-7178 or at email lkrossman@ctclusi.org for new requirements needed to be honored.

US FOREST SERVICE NORTHWEST FOREST PASSES
Now available at the Tribal Administration Building, Florence and Eugene Outreach offices.
Requirements are: 1. Must be a CTCLUSI Tribal member. 2. Must be over 16 years old. 3. You may only be issued one per year. The passes hang from the rear view mirror and are good for access to some Forest Service fee areas. Area maps available.

CHANGES?
Please let us know if you have a change in address, phone number, name or addition to your family. Changes should be submitted to Enrollment Dept., either online at www.ctclusi.org/enrollment or mail to Enrollment Dept., 1245 Fulton Ave., Coos Bay, OR 97420. Phone: 541-435-7178 or Fax: 541-888-2853.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES
The full meeting video is available at www. ctclusi.org If you are an enrolled member of CTCLUSI and would like to receive typed copies of the Tribal Council Meeting minutes please submit a written request to Jeannie Miller at 1245 Fulton Ave. Coos Bay OR 97420 or lkrossman@ctclusi.org Please include the meeting date requested, your name, current address, and Tribal Roll number for verification.

CTCLUSI Departments, Services & Offices

Government Office
Lee Ann Wander
Chief Executive Officer
lwander@ctclusi.org

Brian Dubray,
Chief Operating Officer
bdubray@ctclusi.org

1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-9577

Eugene Outreach Office
149 149 W. 12th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone 541-744-1334
Toll Free 1-800-877-2718
Fax 541-744-1349

Florence Outreach Office
Physical: 3757 Hwy 101
Mailing: P.O. Box 2000
Florence, OR 97439
Phone 541-997-6685
Toll Free 1-866-313-9913
Fax 541-997-1715

Dept. of Human Resources
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone: 541-888-7508
Fax: 541-897-9881
recruitment@ctclusihr.org

Health Services Division
Davon Smith, Chief Operating Officer of Health Operations
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-7515
Fax 541-888-5388
dsmith@ctclusi.org

Community Health
Diann Weaver, Director
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone: 541-888-7502
dweaver@ctclusi.org

Purchased/Referred Care
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-4873
Toll free 1-800-227-0392
Fax 541-888-5388
prc@ctclusi.org

Three Rivers Health Center
150 S Wall Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone (541) 435-7200
info@threerivers.health

Three Rivers Behavioral Health
250 HullStreet
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone (541) 435-7200
info@threerivers.health

Three Rivers Pharmacy
150 S Wall Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone: (541) 435-7234
Fax: (541) 435-7233

Three Rivers Dental Clinic
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-6433
Toll free 1-877-688-6433
Fax 541-888-7505

Forestry Department
Tyler Slyter, Director
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-1311
tslyter@ctclusi.org

Department of Culture and Natural Resources
Ashley Russell, Director
Phone 541-888-9577
arussell@ctclusi.org
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Amanda Craig, Assistant Director
Phone 541-435-7164
acraig@ctclusi.org
149 W. 12th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Jesse Beers,
Cultural Stewardship Manager
Phone 541-997-6685
jbeers@ctclusi.org
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Social Services Department
Kelly Bradley, Director
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-7537
Toll Free 1-888-280-0726
Fax 541-888-5388
kbradley@ctclusi.org

Tribal Housing Department
Mary Gordon, Director
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-435-7150
Fax 541-435-0492
mgordon@ctclusi.org

Education Department
Jemiah Wassman, Director
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone: 541-888-1318
Toll free 1-888-280-0726
jwassman@ctclusi.org

Elders Activities
Barbara Black, Tribal Navigator/ Community Health Aide
1245 Fulton Ave.
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-7532
bblack@ctclusi.org

Tribal Gaming Commission
Brian Dubray, Interim Executive Director of the Gaming Commission
5647 Hwy 126, Suite 100
Florence, OR 97439
Phone 541-997-2830
Fax 541-997-7293
rbossley@ctclusi.org

Tribal Police
Brian Dubray, Police Chief
5647 Hwy 126, Suite 100
Florence, OR 97439
Phone 541-997-6011
Fax 541-902-6507
bdubray@ctclusi.org

Tribal Court
Karen Costello, Chief Judge
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-9577
Toll Free 1-888-280-0726
tribalct@ctclusi.org

Tribal Committee Members

Budget Committee
1. Martin Harris
2. Allen "Butch" Swigert
3. Margaret Corvi
4. Stephanie Watkins
5. Kerry Brainard
6. Sarah Marcial
7. Roseana Perry - Chair

Culture Committee
1. Earla Kirk
2. VACANT
3. Alyssa Lydick
4. Nicole Romine
5. Michael Brainard
6. Patricia Whereat-Phillips - Chair
7. VACANT

Education Committee
1. Lorin Krossman - Chair
2. Julie Siestreem
3. Nicole Romine
4. Ashley Russell
5. Michael Brainard

Elders Committee
1. Arleen Perkins - Chair
2. Laura Fortin
3. Warren T. Brainard
4. Eddie Helms
5. Mike Lent
6. Stan McNutt
7. Teresa Spangler

Enrollment Committee
1. Courtney Krossman
2. Patricia Whereat-Phillips
3. Skip Brainard
4. Vicki Faciane - Chair
5. Teresa Spangler

Housing Committee
1. VACANT
2. Dan Krossman
3. Enna Helms
4. Tyler Slyter - Chair
5. Melinda Sprague

Language Committee
1. Nicole Mendoza
2. Tammy Evarts
3. Ashley Vandevort
4. Jade Fong - Chair
5. Naomi Biesanz
6. Jesse Beers
7. Ayuthea Cisneros

Election Board
1. Jade Fong
2. Michael Brainard - Chair
3. Tes Gagner
4. Mark Petrie
5. Kathy Perkins
6. Kimmy Bixby
7. Ashley Russell

Are you a Tribal member who would like to learn more about a Tribal Committee, or are interested in being on a committee? Reach out to a Committee Chair person or a Tribal Government Staff member.

Committee Chairs are noted at left with current sitting members of the committee at the time of publication of this paper.

For questions, please contact Lorin Krossman, at 541-435-7178 or enrollment@ctclusi.org

The Tribe maintains a list of those interested so that when a committee vacancy occurs we can fill it as soon as possible, so please contact us whether there is a vacancy or not. Letters of interest remain on file for one full year. Members can serve on up to three committees simultaneously.

THE VOICE OF CLUSI

If you or anyone in your Tribal family has had any recent special awards or achievements that you would like to share, please submit your information and photos to the newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you!
-Morgan Gaines, Communications Specialist
mgaines@ctclusi.org or 541-888-7536

Upcoming Events

Turn to page 19 of this publication for a monthly calendar of upcoming events or visit the Events Calendar on the tribal website at https://ctclusi.org/events/

Tribal Council

Doug Barrett, Chief
541-297-2130 (cell)
doug.barrett@ctclusi.org

Ashley Russell
Position #1 Council
541-808-4455 (cell)
ashley.russell@ctclusi.org

Brad Kneaper, Chair
Position #2 Council
541-808-5178 (cell)
brad.kneaper@ctclusi.org

Julie Siestreem
Position #3 Council
541-294-6055
jsiestreem@ctclusi.org

Teresa Spangler, Vice Chair
Position #4 Council
541-294-3972
tspangler@ctclusi.org

Iliana Montiel
Position #5 Council
541-217-4613(cell)
iliana.montiel@ctclusi.org

Debbie Bossley
Position #6 Council
541-808-5580(cell)
debbie.bossley@ctclusi.org

Council Meeting

January 11, 2026
Regular Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Coos Bay Community Center
338 Wallace Ave.
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Please login to the citizen portal of www.ctclusi.org and click Council Meetings for the zoom link to this meeting.

Agenda:
1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Approval of Minutes as needed
4. Tribal Council Reports
5. Tribal Chief Executive Officer Report
6. Chief Financial Officer Report
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Other
10. Good of the Tribes
11. Executive Session as needed

Council meeting video available to view at www.ctclusi.org

Join Us in Returning baldija (Gregory Point) Back to its miluk Name Through Ceremony

Contributed by Jesse Beers, Cultural Stewardship Manager

baldija - Gregory Point – baldija, baldija, baldija

baldija Naming Ceremony
February 7th at 10:00am

Come join us in returning Gregory Point back to its miluk name through Ceremony.

Imagine our miluk ancestors gathering for dances at baldija, facing the ocean in reverence, canoes tied in the trees to avoid the pounding waves below. For thousands of years or since time immemorial the miluk people lived on baldija they truly were the people of the ocean. Shortly before Euro-American contact the village site was attacked by our southern Athabascan neighbors and most of its inhabitants were killed at this time. This place became a place of remembrance, a memorial. When Euro-Americans came to our lands this is one of the first places they took from the miluk people. Due to its orientation, the United States felt it was perfect for a lighthouse so in 1854 the President of the United States withdrew the lands from public entry. They did this despite the lands not being owned by the United States as the land had not yet been ceded under treaty to the United States (of course, as we know, the treaty of 1855 that would have legally ceded our lands to the United States was never ratified by congress). Regardless the United States occupied baldija, renamed it Gregory Point and built and rebuilt boat houses, crew quarters, keepers quarters, bridges and lighthouses through the years. This place even though owned by the United States continued to be a place of healing and memory for the people. Eventually through the hard work, perseverance and dedication of a few of our Tribal Members Gregory Point was returned to our Tribe in 2013 by the United States Coast Guard.



Photo from before the bridge to the island was removed

Many of our Tribal Citizens will recognize this place as Gregory Point, or as the site where, in recent years, we have practiced our annual Salmon Ceremony. However, the name baldija was not lost, only sleeping. Our Linguistic staff have been working alongside our Language Committee to bring back the use of these traditional place names. The surviving names of these places hold great meaning for us and for our lands. Please join us on February 7th for the first of many returning place-name ceremonies. Together, we will once again face the ocean in reverence at baldija.

RSVP to Jesse Beers at 541 297-0748 as transportation will be available from Tribal Hall.

IMPORTANT FITNESS PROGRAM REMINDER:

Receipts for July-December 2025 are due no later than January 14, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

QUESTIONS? Contact fitnessprogram@ctclusi.org

Save the Date: Election Forums

Forum Day - Saturday, March 21, 2026

Forums will be held from
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join in person at

Community Center
338 Wallace Avenue,
Coos Bay, Oregon
97420

or Join Online via
Zoom
(link will be made available in the Citizen Portal of the www.ctclusi.org closer to date of Forum)

Questions?
Email enrollment@ctclusi.org

Hidden Image Search: Can You Find Me?

In this edition of The Voice of CLUSI there is a hidden image of **A <u>SNOWFLAKE exactly like the one pictured here</u>**.

It could be any size and on any page, but will look exactly like the one shown here.



If you find it, email mgaines@ctclusi.org to have your name entered into a prize drawing. **In your email you must include your name, age, address (for mailing purposes) and contact phone number.**

In your email you must also let us know what page and where on the page you spotted the <u>Snowflake</u> hiding!

Must email by January 15th to be included in the raffle drawing.

Winners will be notified by phone or email and their name will appear in an upcoming edition of the Voice of CLUSI paper. Prizes will vary and are provided by different CTCLUSI Government departments.

December Cranberries Raffle Winners:
Adult - Stan McNutt
Youth - No youth entered December raffle
The cranberries were hidden in the photo on page 11 (In the basket of the top left photo under Fall Harvest and Drum Making banner)

Important PRC Application Deadline

The Purchased and Referred Care department is now accepting applications for the Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program for 2026. You must submit a new application each year for each PRC-eligible Tribal member in your household.

This year, the deadline for applications is Friday, January 30, 2026. Failure to apply for the program will result in denial of eligibility for the PRC program. If an application is received after January 30, 2026, PRC will only pay claims 90 days prior to the date the application was submitted for that calendar year.

You can apply online at www.ctclusi.org. You will see a link at the bottom of the home page that will take you to the online form (or look under Member Services, Purchased and Referred Care). Please be sure to upload the front and back of your insurance card(s) to ensure we have the most current information. You must complete a separate form for each PRC-eligible family member. Please call PRC at (541) 888-4873 or (800) 227-0392 to have a hard-copy application mailed to you or with any questions.

New Limited Benefit

PRC is pleased to announce that both Massage Therapy and Acupuncture have been added to your annual Limited Benefits. Starting January 1st, 2026, you will be able to seek Massage Therapy and Acupuncture with a licensed provider. The facility you chose must bill all insurances and be willing to work with the PRC billing requirements. Each benefit will be limited to one visit per month for a total of 12 visits in a calendar year.

All remaining Limited Benefits remain the same.

NOTICE - IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION DATE: APRIL 12, 2026

POSITION NUMBER	INCUMBENT
Position #2	**Brad Kneaper**
Position #4	**Teresa Spangler**
Position #6	**Debbie Bossley**

Tribal Council Guidelines per Chapter 7-3 Elections

7-3-22 Public Notice of Upcoming Elections

(a) The Election Board must publish in the Tribal Newsletter and post at the Tribes' Administrative Building, Tribal Hall, Outreach Offices, on the Tribes' website and in the office of the Gaming Commission, a notice of upcoming regular Tribal Council elections. This shall be done no later than **one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the scheduled date** of a regular Tribal Council election.

7-3-5 Voters List: no later **than 90 days prior to an election**, Chief Executive Office or the Enrollment Clerk shall furnish a list to the Election Board a list of eligible voters.

7-3-23 Candidate Eligibility

According to the Tribal Constitution (Article VIII, Section 4(a), in order to be eligible for election to a Tribal Council position, candidates shall meet the following qualifications:

(a) Be a duly enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes.

(b) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age; and

(c) Never have been previously removed from office for good cause after the date the Tribal Constitution was ratified. (May 23, 1987).

1-1-24 Candidacy Procedures

(a)Statements of Candidacy (1) Candidates shall file Statements of Candidacy **no later than thirty (30) days** before the scheduled date of the election. (3) Each candidate shall indicate the position (#2, #4, or #6) for which he or she is filing. Once a person has filed for a position, he or she will not be allowed to change positions or to withdraw and refile for the same election. (All Gov. Offices have this form)

The Candidate Filing Deadline for the 2026 Tribal Council Election

Friday, March 13, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

7-3-24(b) Public Notices and Position Statements

(1) Per Article VII Section 4(c) "A Public list of candidates shall be published **no later than 20 days** before elections for the calendar year. March 23, 2026- in all offices and website.

(2) Election Board shall publish in January 2026 issue a notice of Tribal Council Election Deadline for this posting

(3) Position Statements: Candidates will be given the opportunity to present a **Position Statement** for inclusion **in February, March or April Tribal Newsletter**. The statement must be submitted before the paper's deadline and shall be no longer than one (1) sheet of 8-1/2" x 11" paper printed on both sides, capable of being copied on a black and white copier.

February 2026 Newsletter – deadline is January 15, 2026; March Newsletter – deadline is February 15, 2026; April Newsletter – deadline is March 13, 2026

Ballot Mailing: Once a person has declared to run by filing a "Statement of Candidacy"; if a "Position Statement" is submitted by the final deadline March 13, 2026, it will be included in the ballot mailing.

For the complete Election Code and other information please see www.ctclusi.org Tribal Code, Chapter 7-3 Elections or visit the Elections Page. For questions, please email enrollment@ctclusi.org.

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN ANY TRIBAL ELECTION

Only registered voters will be sent a ballot

Election Day: April 12, 2026

Voting hours shall be from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Election shall be held at the

Tribal Hall
338 Wallace Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

You can register and vote in person during this time.

Please reach out to enrollment@ctclusi.org to verify your registration is valid

Visit www.ctclusi.org and sign in to the Citizen Portal to view more details of the 2026 Tribal Council Election.

Constitutional Amendment - Secretarial Election

Contributed by Lorin Krossman, Enrollment Specialist & Election Clerk

Tribal Council would like to update you and provide information on the current efforts to amend the Tribes Constitution. Our Tribe's Constitution is one of the few that have never been amended since its original final recorded date of June 23, 1987. This process currently requires the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to facilitate the process called a "**Secretarial Election"**. There will be several areas called "**Proposed Constitutional Amendments**" you will be able to vote on.

A Secretarial Election Board will be established under the BIA to assist with this Election process; this will allow some representation from our Tribe.

All CTCLUSI members will be contacted directly by the BIA. First, you must register and then the BIA will create and send those who registered a ballot to vote. The BIA will also make the final determination of result of this Election.

Previously, the Tribal Council directed outreach to membership, held question and answer forums and collected comments about various areas of proposed amendments. Council has worked with legal Counsel and submitted proposed language for amendments to the BIA to seek a technical review and ensure all suggested language meets legal sufficiency. The BIA brought back an approval to the request.

We will begin again to provide you with information through various methods. Please review these communications when they are received as we move through this historic process together.

Please update your information through the website, www.ctclusi.org or contact the Enrollment Department at enrollment@ctclusi.org for more information.

Department of Culture and Natural Resources:

Year in Review & Welcoming Our Growing Team

dai chil sla (m), shin dai sla (h), nishachii chamanii (sq), Greetings relatives,

The Department of Culture and Natural Resources (DCNR) is honored to share highlights from a year of tremendous growth, stewardship, and cultural reconnection. Guided by our mission to braid Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science, our work supports the health and well-being of our lands, waters, non-human relatives, and people, for the next seven generations.

This year, DCNR organized into four sectors, Environmental, Cultural Resources, Language, and Culture is Prevention, to strengthen our programs and better serve the community.

Highlights from 2025

- Expanded the Air Quality Program and continued monitoring lands and waters across the Tribe's Area of Interest.
- Grew the Environmental Toxicology Lab, adding new testing capabilities.
- Advanced restoration projects, including haich ikt'at'uu (Waite Ranch) and Misery Creek (Brainard Tract)
- Collaborated on new interpretive signage in Coos Bay and Florence.
- Continued cultural stewardship, artifact care, and practitioner access through the Cultural Resources Protection Program.
- Offered subsistence fishing opportunities and provided salmon for the Sacred Salmon Ceremony.
- Hosted monthly cultural gatherings and expanded Language Program offerings.
- Published 16 early literacy books and a language workbook in the Tribe's heritage languages.
- Acquired the Florence Canoe House and expanded Building C with new offices and a conference room.
- Finalized key Tribal policies, including FPUP, ERA, TCMP, and the Tribal Forest Access Policy.
- Welcomed 13 new staff across all sectors.

DEPARTMENT

Direct Supervisor: Ashley Russell

Environmental Sector

- **Janet Niessner**, Laboratory Manager
- **Jessie Marlenee**, Laboratory Technician
- **Patrick Winczewski**, Quality Assurance Specialist
- **Kathryn (Katie) Ribble**, Cultural Resources Protection Technician II
- **Sarah Hardisty**, Tribal Response Specialist
- **Dan Kirk**, Restoration Projects Manager

Cultural Resources Protection Sector

- **Courtney Krossman**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- **Tribal Archaeologist**, Vacant

Direct Supervisor: Amanda Craig

Language Sector

- **Patty Whereat Phillips**, Linguist
- **Enna Helms**, Contract Language Teacher
- **Ashley Vandevort**, *miluk tɬiis də yets k'a* (miluk Language Nest Facilitator)
- **Naomi Biesanze**, *tɬ'iisu ets'me* (hanis Language Nest Facilitator)
- **Kris Wing**, *wa'asamɬ hiits 'ii 'ii hiich* (sha'yuushtɬ'a uɬ quuiich Language Nest Facilitator)
- **Isa Helms**, Language Nest Helper

Culture is Prevention Sector

- **Jesse Beers**, Cultural Stewardship Manager
- **Alycia Cossey**, Cultural Stewardship Associate
- **Angela Henry,** Camps Director
- **Nicole Romine**, Tribal Tobacco Prevention Specialist II
- **Sam Riding In**, Tribal Youth Engagement Specialist
- **Isaac Dull**, Tribal Youth Engagement Coordinator

We thank Tribal Council, elders, youth, and community members for supporting this work. Together, we are strengthening our lands and waters, our culture, and our future.

Leadership



Ashley Russell, Director, Oversees the Department as a whole, with primary leadership of the Environmental and Cultural Resources Sectors, and guides DCNR's growth through culturally grounded, community-centered leadership.

Ashley Russell, a Miluk citizen of the Tribe, serves as the Director of DCNR, a role she officially assumed in October 2024 after working in the department since 2014. Ashley brings over a decade of experience in environmental stewardship, policy development, and cultural resource protection. Her leadership focuses on integrating Indigenous Knowledge with Western Science to protect Tribal lands, waters, and cultural lifeways. Her work centers community stewardship, cultural revitalization, and strengthening opportunities for Tribal citizens of all ages.



Amanda Craig, Assistant Director, Oversees the Culture is Prevention and Language Sectors Returned to DCNR in March 2025.

Amanda is honored to be back with the Tribe and the Department of Culture and Natural Resources (DCNR), supporting youth, families, and community through culturally grounded programming. Her work centers language revitalization, Culture is Prevention, and intergenerational learning, connecting land, language, and people.

Amanda brings a strong interdisciplinary background in cultural stewardship, program development, planning, environmental science and education, landscape architecture, and collaborative leadership. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon.

Amanda has worked for and with the Tribes for over 14 years, beginning at the age of 16, and brings deep institutional knowledge and long-standing community relationships to her role. She is especially passionate about creating safe, welcoming spaces for youth and strengthening partnerships that support long-term community well-being.

Tonya Davis, Administrative Coordinator,
Supports all DCNR sectors and the Directors. Tonya has lived most of her life in North Bend, with earlier administrative experience in city government, the timber industry, and legal offices. She enjoys reading, hiking, bicycling, and spending time with her family. She and her husband, Chris, have two children, Cooper and Lexi.

Meet the Team

Angela Henry, Camp Director



shin dai sla, my name is Angela Henry, and I am excited to join the DCNR team as the Camp Director. As a Tribal member, mother of two, and dedicated advocate for youth education and development, I bring a deep passion for creating culturally rich, engaging programs for our Tribal youth.

Nature has always been a guiding force in my life, especially the ocean. In 2022, along with my husband, Cy, and two kids, Elijah and Shiloh, we moved onto a sailboat in Hawaii and sailed it to Coos Bay then down to Mexico. Since then, we have been splitting our time between sailing and spending time in Oregon.

These adventures continually strengthen my appreciation for the environment, our traditions, and the importance of connecting young people to both.

As a mother of two, I understand firsthand the impact that meaningful experiences can have on young minds. I am thrilled to step into this role and honored to serve the Tribes by helping create safe, inspiring, and culturally grounded opportunities for our youth.

Janet Niessner, Laboratory Manager



Janet Niessner is the Laboratory Manager of CTCLUSI's Environmental Toxicology Laboratory. The Laboratory investigates contaminants of concern for Tribal lands and resources and supports the Tribe in ensuring resource health and prosperity. The Laboratory also supports the Tribe's cultural collections and curations through the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), ensuring that materials are accessible to Tribal membership. Janet has a B.A. in Archaeology from George Washington University (2007), and an MSc in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology from Cranfield University (2014). She has strong scientific background and forensic laboratory management experience as well as cultural resource management experience.

Department of Culture and Natural Resources:
Meet the Team

Jesse Beers, Cultural Stewardship Manager



Niisachii. Jesse Beers namɬiin ɬiin. Sha'uushtɬ'axan uɬ quuiich'axan hiich. (hello everyone. My name is Jesse Beers. I am a Siuslaw and Lower Umpqua person.) I am an enrolled citizen of our Tribal Nation and currently I serve as a Cultural Stewardship Manager for our Tribe. I live in the Department of Culture and Natural Resources. We work to restore and steward the lands and waters that are necessary for our Culture to thrive while also working to restore and steward our Culture so that our lands and waters may thrive, bringing the lessons of our Ancestors into the present so that our future generations may have healthy and abundant resources and relatives to appreciate. Currently I'm excited to introduce the community to the siixaiyamɬ hiitsii'ii (the canoe's house). This is the location of my new office and of cultural programing out of the Florence area. These buildings will be where the family canoe program will be run and provides a place in between Eugene and Coos Bay to base cultural activities, staff and resources. If you'd like to visit me at siixaiyamɬ hiitsii'ii feel free to call or text me and set a time at 541 297-0748 and I can give you a tour. ailaɬa.

Alycia Cossey, Cultural Stewardship Associate



Alycia Cossey sinsanuu, wen miluk k'a'uu. My name is Alycia Cossey (formerly Brainard), and I am miluk Coos. I am deeply grateful to serve our people as the Cultural Stewardship Associate, now entering my second year in this full-time role. I am always learning something new and continually striving to grow for the benefit of our community and future generations.

In this position, I have the rewarding role of helping to plan and support cultural events for our tribe. These include ceremonies, regalia making, gathering traditional medicines, and harvesting basketry materials, to name a few. When I'm not preparing for events, I assist with cultural partnership requests within DCNR—supporting projects such as interpretive signage, art initiatives, land stewardship, and other collaborative efforts. I love the variety of this work and the opportunity to contribute to our people, our culture, and the well-being of our lands.

What excites me most about this role is the ongoing opportunity to engage with our community—teaching, sharing, building confidence, and helping to strengthen our connection to the traditions and knowledge of our ancestors and lands. As I continue my own learning, I hope and aim to be in service to our people and the generations to come

Samuel Riding In, Tribal Youth Engagement Specialist



I am excited to continue to work for the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. Some of the work I'm most proud of being involved with has been supporting the Harvest Party, and Fresh Air and Language Camps. Working with the CTCLUSI community has been a great experience, and positively impactful for both myself and my family who have continued to be welcomed at all Tribal events we've attended. My role as the Youth Engagement Specialist involves working with Tribal youth and promoting the Culture is Prevention method towards Youth Prevention. I look forward to continuing to engage with the Tribal community from the Eugene area office, as well as in Florence, and Coos Bay when necessary.

Working in the Department of Natural Resources and Culture has been an honor and I look forward to supporting traditional cultural activities and events.

Dan Kirk, Restoration Projects Manager



I'm Dan Kirk, nə hanis coos me (I am a hanis coos person) and I'm the Restoration Projects Manager. I like being on a journey with the department and the Tribe to develop and implement programs and projects that center care and healing of our homelands. Currently, I work with my department and outside organizations and entities to bring back the full potential of natural processes to wetland areas that lack this potential. This might mean increasing native habitats, reshaping how water flows through a wetland, adding more complexity to channels, removing invasive species, and so much more. This type of on-the-ground work is one way to perpetuate healing and growth of abundance of natural and cultural resources within our homelands. While I greatly enjoy the work in the field, strategizing and project planning, and various other aspects of my position, what makes my job particularly special, though, is weaving this work with the broader scope of restoration and stewardship (of languages, forests, histories, baskets, etc.) that has and continues to take place at the Tribe. We have the honor, privilege, and right to steward the many intersecting pieces that define our cultures, lands, and identities.

Issac Dull, Tribal Youth Engagement Coordinator



I serve as a Youth Engagement Coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians within the Department of Prevention and Culture. In this role, I help create meaningful, culturally grounded learning opportunities that support the growth, resilience, and overall well-being of tribal youth. My work centers on sharing traditional knowledge, building hands-on skills, and encouraging healthy, drug-, alcohol-, and commercial tobacco–free lifestyles.

I instruct a wide range of outdoor and cultural activities—including archery, hunting and fishing tactics, woodworking, wilderness survival, and plant identification—designed to strengthen confidence, connection, and cultural identity. I also help plan and lead youth camps, community events, and prevention-focused programming that create safe, supportive spaces for learning and personal growth.

A lifelong outdoors enthusiast, I'm passionate about snowboarding, hunting, spearfishing, fly fishing, traditional archery, working with sharp tools, and spending time near water and fire. These experiences shape not only my personal life, but also the way I connect with youth and bring authentic, land-based learning into every program I support.

Jessie Marlenee, Laboratory Technician



Jessie Marlenee is an ecologist with a background in mycology, forestry, and molecular biology. She joined the CTCLUSI Environmental Testing Laboratory in August 2025 as a Laboratory Technician/Microbiologist. In this role, Jessie tests environmental samples using genetic tools like eDNA and qPCR to track ecosystem health and support restoration projects. She also helps develop new testing methods, ensures the lab meets quality standards, and assists with water quality monitoring in the field. Jessie earned her B.S. in Biology from Western Colorado University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Biology from the University of New Mexico. She is passionate about environmental stewardship and using molecular tools to identify rare or vulnerable species, document biodiversity, and understand how climate change and related disturbances affect natural communities. Jessie is excited to learn more about the local ecosystems and the environmental issues impacting the Tribe, and to use her skills to help manage and protect its natural and cultural resources.

Katie Ribble, Cultural Resources Protection Technician II

Katie Ribble is a Marine Scientist with a strong background in water quality assessment, harmful algal research, and environmental outreach. She currently serves as a Cultural Resources Protection Technician II, where she focuses on water quality monitoring through both fieldwork and laboratory analysis.

Katie holds a B.S. in Marine Science and an M.S. in Environmental Science from Florida Gulf Coast University. Her previous roles include conducting research on harmful algal blooms and marine toxins, as well as leading water quality compliance investigations for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Her work has spanned coastal ecosystems across the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of Maine and now Pacific Northwest.

Outside of the lab, Katie is passionate about outdoor exploration and environmental stewardship. In 2022, she thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, an experience that deepened her connection to the landscapes of the western U.S. and reinforced her commitment to conservation and sustainability.



She is especially excited about the opportunity to contribute to long-term environmental monitoring efforts that are rooted in both science and cultural stewardship. She looks forward to working on projects that directly impact local ecosystems and communities.

Department of Culture and Natural Resources:
Meet the Team Continued

Ashley Vandevort, miluk Language Nest Facilitator



dai chil sla. Ashley Vandevort tɬə'nə san. miluk k'a'uu. tɬə'nə halqaima Brainard. tɬə'nə umnatɬ'əch Madeline Knowlton də san. miluk tɬiis də yets k'a.

(hello you all. My name is Ashley Vandevort. I am a miluk (Coos) person. My family is the Brainards. My grandmother is Madeline Knowlton. I am the miluk Language Nest Facilitator.)

Learning, speaking and teaching my language are all aspects I enjoy about my job. Supporting other learners as they speak miluk in their homes is very rewarding. I love speaking miluk with my k'ilga (baby) and my husband in the home and sharing language with my extended family.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Indigenous Foodways and Heritage Reclamation and a certificate in Culinary Arts from University of Alaska Fairbanks. I enjoy using miluk in the kitchen and cooking with ingredients indigenous to North America.

In my free time I enjoy gathering, listening to audiobooks, working on a myriad of different crafts, rock climbing, kayaking and hiking. In 2023 my husband and I hiked the Oregon Coast Trail from Astoria to California. Spending time on the land and water is when tɬə'nə k'ele luwe (my heart is happy).

Courtney Krossman, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



Courtney Krossman sinsanuu, wen miluk k'a'uu. My name is Courtney Krossman and I am a miluk coos person. I am an enrolled citizen of CTCLUSI, where I currently serve as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, within the department of Culture and Natural Resources. In this role, my focus is the protection of cultural resources within our ancestral territory, cultural continuity, and our sacred places and to ensure that archaeological preservation reflects our Tribal values and cultural protocols. We strive to protect and preserve these resources through engagement, consultation, and collaboration with Federal, State, and local agencies as well as private landowners. Hosting Cultural Monitoring Training has been a highlight the last few years, and I look forward to having more Tribal members trained on cultural preservation in the coming year.

Outside of the office, I enjoy raising our four kids within the Tribal community and teaching them our love for the outdoors through harvesting our own food in the garden and hunting in our Tribal forests.

Patrick Winczewski, Quality Assurance Specialist



Patrick Winczewski (he/him) joined CTCLUSI in December 2024 as the Quality Assurance Specialist for DCNR and the Environmental Testing Laboratory. His work focuses on building and maintaining the lab's Quality Management System as testing capacity and programs continue to expand.

Patrick earned his B.S. in Chemistry with a minor in Nutrition from Oregon State University in 2015. His background includes laboratory work, regulatory compliance, quality assurance in the food industry, and more than 15 years supporting outdoor youth programs. He enjoys learning, and has passion for all things related to environmental science, public health, and is excited to keep growing professionally with CTCLUSI.

Outside of work, Patrick loves all things mushroom-related, he forages, cultivates, cooks, and educates about them through a nonprofit he leads. He lives in Albany with his wife, pets, and an ever-growing list of hobbies.

Sarah Hardisty, Tribal Response Specialist



Hi all - my name is Sarah and I just had my two-year anniversary working for Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians as the Tribal Response Resource Specialist. I look forward to continue this work ensuring that Tribal land gets assessed and remediated. My background is in biology and marine science, and I have really enjoyed learning about all the marine life that is important to CTCLUSI and exploring the Southern Oregon Coast. I hold a B.A. in Biology and B.S. In Integrative Biology, with a background in computational and laboratory analysis. When not working, I enjoy food, reading a good book, painting, pulling weeds from my community garden, and hiking all over the beautiful PNW rain or shine. Right now is a really expansive time in indigenous science and important time to work in natural resources for a Tribal government, and I am constantly learning and growing!

Naomi Biesanz, hanis Language Nest Facilitator



I'm thrilled to be part of the project of bringing our languages back into use! I teach the hanis language nest, our weekly online hanis (Coos) class for children 0-5 years old and their caregivers.

I also assist our Tribal linguists with developing educational materials like flashcards, children's books, and example audio demonstrating pronunciation.

I hope to help make learning and using our languages as approachable as possible.

Kris Wing, sha'yuushtɬ'a uɬ quuiich Language Nest Facilitator



niishachii! Kris ɬiiniin, quuiichaxan hiich. tain tqauwii quuiich hyatsuuwiiyuus tainat namɬiin qastɬiiuu uɬ namɬiinɬ shiit'a. (Hello all! My name is Kris, I am a quuiich person. I live upriver in Reedsport with my husband and our pets.)

I am our sha'yuushtɬ'a uɬ quuiich Language Nest Facilitator and I am so in love with my role in our community. I am always looking for new ways to bring language into the homes of our tribal families as well as my own. I have a passion for linguistics on its own, but learning our language has made me feel connected to our land and our people in ways that are indescribable. Being able to hear all three of our languages be spoken on a regular is such a special, irreplaceable feeling. I am looking forward to seeing how much our community language use will grow!"

Patty Whereat Phillips, Linguist



Patricia Whereat Phillips is a tribal member of miluk descent. She was born and raised on Coos Bay and from an early age was interested in wildlife around her family's house. She also learned a lot of tribal history from her father Don Whereat.

Inspired by her interest in wildlife and Native languages, she earned a BS in biology in 1992 from Oregon State University and an MA in linguistics at University of Oregon in 1996. Since that time she has spent much time researching and teaching the Tribe's languages; miluk, hanis and sha'yuushtɬ'a uɬ quuiich.

2026 Cedar Cape Workshop Series
dates updated

Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
Join us in community to learn the traditional art of creating cedar bark capes — from identifying and gathering cedar to making cordage and constructing finished capes for all genders.

Workshop Series Dates Time & Focus: 10 am – 4 pm

January 17th 2026 – LCC Longhouse
Focus: Cultural teachings, Cape assembling

May – 22nd – Focus: cultural teachings, gathering cedar
(location TBD, date subject to change depending on cedar readyness)

June 20th, 2026 – Coos Bay, Tribal Hall Cedar Bark Cape Workshop
(During Summer Solstice)
Focus: Cultural teachings, Gathering Cedar & processing, making capes

Registration & Contact:
Please RSVP by scanning the code and filling out the attached form

Locations:
Florence Canoe House
Coos Bay Tribal Hall
Eugene Outreach

Questions?
Contact: Alycia Cossey
acossey@ctclusi.org or 541-294-1237
for any questions or assistance with filling out the form

Certification of Two Language Teachers

Contirbuted by the Language Sector

On Sunday, October 12, the Tribal Council officially approved the certification of our two first Language Teachers: Patty Phillips (miluk) and Enna Helms (miluk). This marks another important milestone in the Confederated Tribes' Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw continuing commitment to language revitalization and cultural continuity.

The overarching goal of the Tribe's language program is to broaden and strengthen our speech communities for miluk, hanis, and sha'yuushtɬ'a uɬ quuiich. Extending not only within our citizenship, but also among the descendants of our languages enrolled in neighboring tribes; the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Language revitalization efforts first began through consulting and working with the elders from both the Confederated Tribes' Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw and Coquille Indian Tribe. Elders recalled words, phrases, songs in the language and stories of their elder's using language. In total, over two dozen elders recalled.

"Working with our elders shifted something within me, both in my passion for language revitalization and in the language itself," said Enna Helms, Language teacher for miluk, hanis, sha'yuushtɬ'a uɬ quuiich. "It rewired language memory and activated pathways of our tribal identity, emotion, and continuity of our culture and language."



Patty Phillips and Enna Helms

Since working with the elders (2017-2019), the Tribes language sector has continued to grow. The Language committee was established in 2020 to guide language advocacy, policy and education, and our community is celebrating its sixth year of teaching the three different languages.

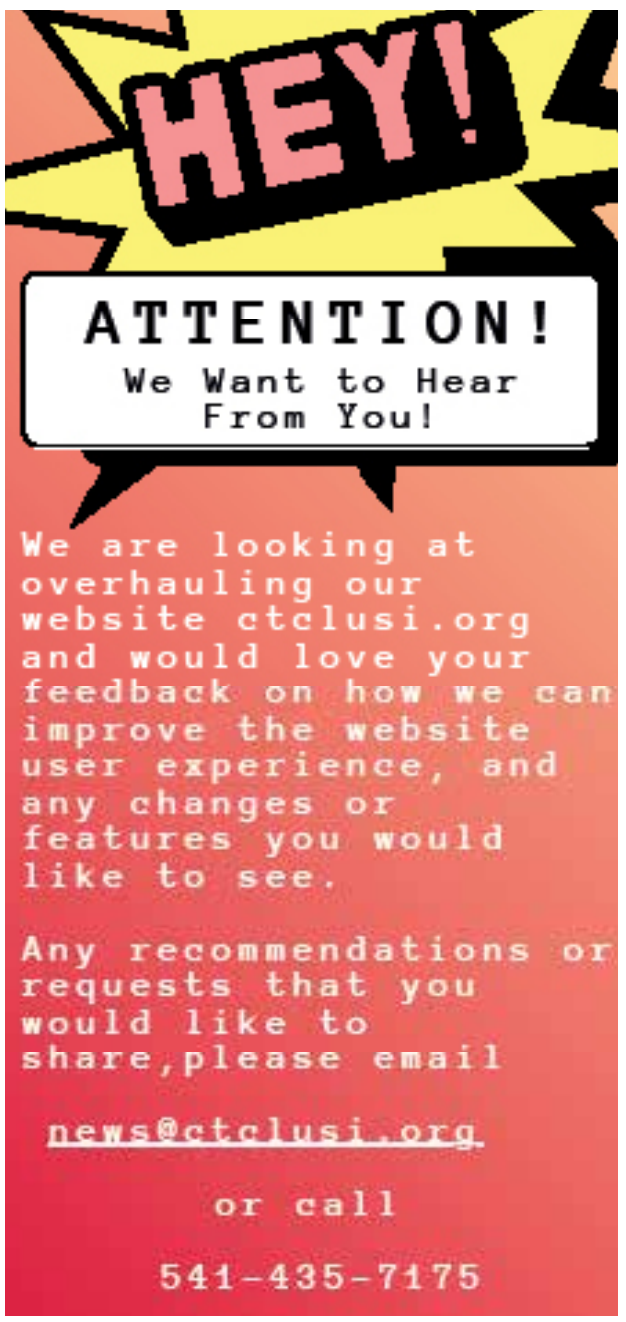
Some of the work includes building dictionaries, developing curriculum and learning materials, producing bilingual and multilingual children's books, developing the Language Nest Program for young children and their families, and continually working with elders, and shaping policy to support language revitalization. The adoption of the Tribe's Language Teacher Certification Protocol provides a framework for training, experiential opportunities, and resources to certify and support future language teachers.

The certification of Language Teachers Patty Phillips and Enna Helms allows them to apply for the American Indian Languages Teaching License to teach in public schools. Enna said, "It is our hope that this milestone will guide conversations to developing the pathways and capacity for teaching in the local public schools".

Want to learn more about language? Contact the language sector by emailing language@ctclusi.org







Holiday Celebration 2025

































Holiday Celebration 2025
























Tribe Hires New Diabetes Educator

Please join us in welcoming our new Diabetes Educator, Elizabeth "Liz" Escobedo. Elizabeth will be stationed at our Eugene Outreach Office and can be reached at her office direct line of 541-435-7191 or email eescobedo@ctclusi.org. Below is a bio Elizabeth has prepared, together with a photo of her at the beach.

"My name is Elizabeth Escobedo and I'm excited to be joining the team in the Eugene Outreach Office as a Diabetes Educator. My background is in medical nutrition and health education. Diabetes education is personal to me. My family's journey with diabetes inspired me, and I'm excited to support others on theirs. Outside of work, I enjoy reading, hiking, and spending time outdoors. The photo I'm including is from my Highway 1 drive on my own from the Redwood National and State Parks. One of my favorite nature trips!"



Elizabeth will be working directly with the SDPI (Special Diabetes Program for Indians – IHS) and the GHWIC (Good Health and Wellness in Indian County – CDC) grants. In addition, she will be providing prevention education, doing demonstrations of diabetic-friendly recipes, and provide blood glucose testing at certain Tribal events to name a few.

We are happy to have Elizabeth onboard and look forward to working with her.

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month

Contributed by Elizabeth Escobedo, MS, CHES, Diabetes Educator

Did you know that people living with diabetes are twice as likely to develop glaucoma and other eye diseases? The Indian Health Service reports that about 14% of American Indians and Alaska Natives live with diabetes in 2024. This puts our communities at higher risk for vision loss.

The good news? Finding it early makes all the difference. A complete eye exam can find eye disease before you get any vision changes. The CDC reports that getting treatment quickly can lower your risk of serious vision loss by 95%. Vision loss happens slowly. You won't feel it or see symptoms until later. There's no way to prevent glaucoma, but treatment can help keep it from getting worse. That's why finding it early is so important.

This month, we encourage you to:

- Make an appointment with your primary care doctor
- Ask about getting a complete eye exam with an eye specialist
- Don't wait until you notice a problem. Early detection helps protect your sight!

See the flyers at right for more information about diabetic eye disease.
Sources: Indian Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and prevention, Mayo Clinic.

Diabetic Eye Disease

What is diabetic eye disease?

Diabetic eye disease can happen when a person has high blood sugar over a long period of time. This causes blood vessels in the back of the eye to leak or bleed. It can occur in one or both eyes. This is called **retinopathy.**



How do you know if you have diabetic eye disease?

There are often no warning signs. The only way to know if you have diabetic eye disease is by getting your eyes checked. People with diabetes need to get their eyes checked at least once a year.



There are two ways to check:

1. Get a dilated eye exam by an eye doctor.
2. Some clinics can screen for diabetic eye disease by taking pictures of the back of your eyes.



You can help prevent or slow diabetic eye disease.

- Manage your blood sugar and blood pressure.
- Take your medicines as prescribed.
- Get an eye exam every year.

Produced by the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention in collaboration with the IHS National Diabetes Eye Care Committee.
For more diabetes information and materials, visit www.ihs.gov/diabetes
05/2020

Take a picture with your cell phone.
Look at the picture later as a reminder!

How is diabetic eye disease treated?

People who have diabetic eye disease are seen more often by an eye doctor. They may also need the following:

- Eye medicines
- Laser treatment
- Surgery





Diabetes increases the risk for common eye problems, such as cataracts and glaucoma.

- **Cataracts** are cloudy areas in the lens of the eye.
- **Glaucoma** happens when there is increased pressure in the eye.

Your eye doctor can check for these eye problems during an eye exam.

If you notice sudden changes in your vision, such as dark spots or vision loss, get checked by a health care provider right away.

Women with diabetes need to get an eye exam if they are planning to become pregnant and while they are pregnant.

Produced by the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention in collaboration with the IHS National Diabetes Eye Care Committee.
For more diabetes information and materials, visit www.ihs.gov/diabetes
05/2020

Take a picture with your cell phone.
Look at the picture later as a reminder!

Elders Corner

Save the Date

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

wish to invite you to the

27th Annual Oregon Tribal Elders Honor Day

To be held March 13 & 14, 2026
at the Three Rivers Casino & Resort
Florence, Oregon

Registration forms and Agenda will be coming soon

All GUEST MUST BE OVER 55 YEARS OLD WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LEGAL SPOUSES, CAREGIVERS AND STAFF

Free! 'Trust & Will' Workshop Informational Series

CTCLUSI in partnership with Cow Creek Band Of Umpqua Tribe Of Indians and the Native American Program of Legal Aid Services of Oregon (NAPOLS), present an informational free 'Workshop Series on Creating Trusts & Wills'. The series is for all adult (ages) and will include an expert and an attorney as presenters. A free binder for storing documents will be given to all participants and this event is intended to promote general information.



3 WEEK WORKSHOP :

- For All (Adult) Ages in the Tribal Community
- Collaborative Event
- Trust & Will Attorney and Expert as Presenters
- Hybrid (Zoom) and In Person
- Connect with Attorneys and learn more



REGISTRATION INFORMATION :

RSVP: 541-435-7190 (leave message)
or email: kgillooly@ctclusi.org

March 12, 19, & 26th @ 6p - 7:30p

Eugene Outreach Office | Coos Bay Tribal Community Center | Online Event



Welcome New Tribal Elders

Wendi Smith
&
Dana Sallinger

Calling All Veteran Elders!

We are looking for Veterans to volunteer to carry the flags for the upcoming Elders Honor Day in March 2026.

If you are interested, please contact Barbara Black at 541-888-7520



Calling All Artisans!

We are looking for donations for gifts to be given out at the upcoming Elders Honor Day in March 2026.
Your handmade items are special and greatly appreciated by the Elders who receive them.



If you would like to donate items for Elders Honor Day
please call Barbara Black at 541-888-7520

Save the Date: February Elders Luncheon

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Three Rivers Casino Resort Event Center
Doors Open at 11:30 a.m.
Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by Friday, February 6th to Doug Morrison (541)-997-6685
or toll free 1-(866) 313-9913

Limited transportation is available from the Coos Bay and Eugene Offices

(Elders Committee Meeting to Follow Lunch)





Why Should YOU Join Our Team?

Contributed by Sailee Baldwin, Youth Mentor, DCNR/Education Intern

Becoming a camp counselor is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you don't want to miss. It's more than a job—it's becoming part of a community in a way you never have before. Nothing compares to the warmth of early mornings in the plank house, sitting around the fire with fellow CITs and campers. In those moments, you feel a sense of belonging that's impossible to replace. It's a place where everyone is welcome and where strangers quickly become family.

As a counselor, your role is to help campers learn, grow, and try new things—but what people don't realize is that the campers teach you just as much. Every day they show you something new, whether it's patience, a new game, or a different perspective. They're not just faces you see daily; they become your little family.

And even when campers aren't with you, the fun doesn't stop. Between activities and the 4 o'clock meeting, the real memories are made—archery tag, inside jokes, late-night snack runs, and friendships you never expected. You might not show up looking for friends, but you'll definitely leave with more than one.

Sure, the job can be tiring, but by the end of the week the feeling of community makes it all worth it. The connections I've built with other CITs are some of my favorite friendships, and I know I'll still think about these moments decades from now. Even doing dishes becomes fun when you're with people who make you laugh—and honestly, there's no group I'd rather do them with.

Scan QR Code to fill out special events employee application today!

Learn & Teach Traditional Skills







Make Frienships That Last A Lifetime!



SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES — JOIN OUR TEAM!

Camp season is right around the corner, and we're looking for enthusiastic adults 18 and older to help create meaningful memories with our Tribal youth. Come share culture, connection, and community this summer!

NOW HIRING!

- **Camp Counselors (18+)**
- **Camp Cook (25+) – Must be able to drive a CTCLUSI vehicle**
- **Drivers (25+) – Must be able to drive a CTCLUSI vehicle**
- **Elders & Artisans – Half-day opportunities (4 hours)**



If you're passionate about supporting youth and celebrating culture, we'd love to have you join us!

Need help with your application?

Contact Lexi Sterling at recruitment@ctclusihr.org or call 541-435-7193

Questions? About camp programing: Email Angela Henry at ahenry@ctclusi.org

Scan QR Code: Fill out the Special Events Employee Application Today!

Culture & Natural Resources and Education Departments Excited to Have Tribal Intern Aid with Youth Outreach

Contributed by Sailee Baldwin, Youth Mentor, DCNR/Education Intern

Dai sla!

My name is Sailee, and I'm your new youth mentor! In this role, I will be working with both the Cultural & Natural Resources Department as well as the Education Department.

As a youth mentor, I will support youth outreach and help strengthen connections with our tribal youth aged 12–24. One of my main goals is to encourage more youth involvement in cultural, educational, and community-based events. I'm excited to create meaningful opportunities for our young people and help them feel supported, heard, and engaged.



A little more about me personally: I'm currently still in school and graduating this coming June. Alongside this new position, I also work a part-time job as a barista for Mad Boba and Espresso in Springfield, OR. Growing up, I was very involved in youth events within our tribe. I've also spent time working at tribal camps for our community and for other tribes, which allowed me to build strong relationships and deepen my commitment to supporting the next generation.

Outside of work, you'll usually find me with my dog Duke, at the movies, and taking spontaneous adventures. I'm excited for this opportunity and can't wait to build connections with our youth and be someone they can come to.

If you'd like to reach me, you can contact me at: sbaldwin@ctclusi.org

luuwii—I'm excited for the journey ahead!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CULTURAL-DCNR
Winter 2025 - Summer 2026

January 17th
Cedar Cape Workshop Series (Eugene, LCC Longhouse)

March 7th
all-gender sweat

April 18th & 19th
invasives removal + planting dahai, daha, chiiyuusan

May 22nd
medicines, basketry, and Cedar gathering (location TBD)

June 5th & 6th
Maple Bark Gathering/processing

June 20th
During Summer Solstice, Cedar Bark Cape Workshop

More to Come...
Look for more events and event information in the coming months newsletter.

OR

email Alycia Cossey-**acossey@ctclusi.org** if you would like to sign up to have direct communication about upcoming cultural events.

Please Note: ***Dates*** *and locations are subject to* ***change*** *as we work with community schedules, weather, and the natural seasons. These gatherings are* ***guided*** *by* ***availability*** *of materials, teachers, and the* ***flow of community life*** *– thank you for your* ***understanding*** *and willingness to* ***adapt*** *as we move together in a good way.*



THE VOICE OF CLUSI MONTHLY TRIBAL PAPER

If you or anyone in your family has had any recent special awards or achievements that you would like to share, please submit your information and photos to the newsletter.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Visit www.ctclusi.org/events to view the online event calendar

Morgan Gaines, Communications Specialist
Office: (541) 888-7536
Cell: (541) 808-7918
Email: mgaines@ctclusi.org

Resolution Summaries

Number	Date	Subject/Title	Vote
25-130	07/13/2025	Approval and Submittal Authorization of FY 26 O'Link 78 Memorandum of Agreement	7-0-0
25-131	07/13/2025	Amendment to Chapter 1-1 Tribal Court for First Reading	7-0-0
25-132	07/13/2025	Enrollment of New Members	7-0-0
25-133	07/13/2025	Enrollment Name Change and Corrections to the Roll	7-0-0
25-134	07/13/2025	Enrollment - Active to Historic	7-0-0
25-135	07/13/2025	Contract	5-2-0
25-136	07/13/2025	PacificSource Health Plans Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement and Tribal Council Approval Thereof	6-0-1
25-137	07/13/2025	Education Committee Appointment	7-0-0
25-138	07/13/2025	Recruital LLC Master Service Agreement and Tribal Council Approval Thereof	6-0-1
25-139	07/30/2025	Tribal Participation in Nationwide Elder Needs Assessment	6-0-1
25-140	07/30/2025	Approval to Submit ODOT Mobility Management Grant	7-0-0
25-141	07/30/2025	Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance Appointments	6-0-1
25-142	07/30/2025	Florence Outreach Center Trust Acquisition & Reservation Proclamation	7-0-0
25-143	07/30/2025	Approval of Amazon Voucher Program Funding Support	7-0-0
25-144	07/30/2025	Gaming Machine Order	6-0-1
25-145	07/30/2025	Master Agreement	6-0-1
25-146	08/01/2025	Organization and Operations of CTCLUSI Forest Management LLC	6-0-0
25-147	08/10/2025	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Funds for haich ikt'at'uu (Formerly Waite Ranch) Implementation	5-0-1
25-148	08/10/2025	FY23 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Grant Monetary Amendment for haich ikt'at'uu (formerly Waite Ranch)	5-0-1
25-149	08/10/2025	Approval of Administration Facility Elevator Modernization Project	6-0-0
25-150	08/10/2025	Approval of Heluu Timber Sale	6-0-0
25-151	08/10/2025	Approval of Hawatsit Timber Sale	6-0-0
25-152	08/10/2025	Approval of Taqnis Salvage Timber Sale	6-0-0
25-153	08/10/2025	Enrollment Committee Appointment	6-0-0
25-154	08/10/2025	Budget Committee Appointment	6-0-0
25-155	08/10/2025	Law Enforcement RMS Purchase/Agreement for Tribal Police Department	6-0-0
25-156	08/27/2025	Change Order #2 for Final Phase of Construction at haich ikt'at'uu (formerly Waite Ranch)	7-0-0
25-157	08/27/2025	Canoe Cultural Center Trust Acquisition & Reservation Proclamation	7-0-0
25-158	08/27/2025	Florence Outreach Center Trust Acquisition & Reservation Proclamation	7-0-0
25-159	08/27/2025	Hatch Tract Acquisition & Reservation Proclamation	7-0-0
25-160	08/27/2025	Hatch Tract II Trust Acquisition & Reservation Proclamation	7-0-0
25-161	08/27/2025	Hatch Tract III Acquisition & Reservation Proclamation	7-0-0
25-162	08/27/2025	LNW Gaming Inc Master Agreement	6-0-1
25-163A	09/04/2025	Gaming Machine Order	6-0-1
25-163	09/14/2025	Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Membership Delegate Appointment and Membership Dues	7-0-0
25-164	09/14/2025	Walmart Purchase Program Accountholder Agreement	7-0-0
25-165	09/14/2025	Amend Chapter 3-3 (Violations) on an Emergency Basis	7-0-0
25-166	09/14/2025	Approval to Submit ODOE C-REP Grant Application	7-0-0
25-167	09/14/2025	Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) Delegate and Alternate Delegate	6-0-1
25-168	09/14/2025	ALSCO Agreements	7-0-0
25-169	09/14/2025	Amendment of CLUSITC Chapter 1-1 Tribal Court for Second Reading and Final Approval	7-0-0
25-170	09/14/2025	Establishment of Culture Coalition Committee Code for First Reading	7-0-0
25-171	09/24/2025	Request for Waiver of Requirement to Collect Forest Management Deductions	7-0-0
25-172	09/24/2025	Approval of CTCLUSI Representative to Board of Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership Watershed Council	6-0-1
25-173	09/24/2025	Interlocal Memorandum of Agreement with United States Coast Guard	7-0-0
25-174	09/24/2025	OVC FY25 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Program	7-0-0
25-175	09/24/2025	FY 2026 Health Center Program Service Area Competition Grant	5-1-1
25-176	09/24/2025	Three Rivers RV Park Project	6-0-1
25-177	09/24/2025	Three Rivers Coos Bay Cafe Expansion Project	6-0-1
25-178	09/24/2025	Elders Committee Appointment	7-0-0
25-179	09/24/2025	Designation of TRC Distribution	7-0-0
25-180	10/12/2025	Approval of Forest Products Use Policy	6-1-0
25-181	10/12/2025	Resolution to Certify Language Teachers for miluk, hanis and sha'yuushtl'a ul quuich	7-0-0
25-182	10/12/2025	Enrollment of New Members	7-0-0
25-183	10/12/2025	Enrollment Name Change and Corrections to the Roll	7-0-0
25-184	10/12/2025	Enrollment - Active to Historic	7-0-0
25-185	10/12/2025	Gaming Machine Order	7-0-0
25-185A	10/29/2025	Misery Creek Brainard Tract Floodplain Restoration Project - Funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association	6-0-1
25-186	10/29/2025	Misery Creek Brainard Tract Floodplain Restoration Project - Funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Focus Investment Partnership	6-0-1
25-187	10/29/2025	Application to the Oregon Department of Education's Tribal Early Literacy FY26 Grant	6-0-1
25-188	10/29/2025	CY2026 Indian Health Service Special Diabetes Program for Indians Community-Directed Grant Program Continuation Application (SDPI)	7-0-0
25-189	10/29/2025	Approval to Award Environmental Services Contracts	7-0-0
25-190	10/29/2025	Approval to Award 105(I) Lease Appraisal Services Contract	7-0-0
25-191	10/29/2025	Gaming Machine Order	6-0-1
25-192	10/29/2025	Gaming Machine Order	6-0-1
25-193	10/29/2025	Approval of Property Purchase	7-0-0
25-194	10/29/2025	Emergency Amendment of Tribal Code Section 7-121 Disenrollment and Section 7-1-122 Suspension of Tribal Benefits	7-0-0
25-195	10/31/2025	Emergency Tribal Member General Welfare Assistance for FY2025	6-0-0
25-196	11/09/2025	Memorandum of Understanding with Adapt Integrated Health Care	5-0-1
25-197	11/09/2025	Title VI Grant Application	5-0-1
25-198	11/09/2025	Establishment of CLUSITC Chapter 7-15 Cultural Coalition Committee for Second Reading and Final Approval	5-0-1
25-199	11/09/2025	Establishment of Chapter 7-16 Visions Committee Code for First Reading and 28 day Comment Period	6-0-0
25-200	11/09/2025	Amendment to Chapter 7-8 GFORB (Gaming Facility Operational Review Board) for First Reading	4-0-2
25-201	11/09/2025	Three Rivers Health Center Trust Acquisition & Reservation Proclamation	5-0-1
25-202	11/09/2025	Food Security Assistance Grant	6-0-0
25-203	11/14/2025	Amendments to Chapter 7-3 Elections for First Reading	5-0-0
25-204	11/14/2025	Approval of CTCLUSI Representative to the West Coast Ocean Alliance	6-0-1
25-205	11/24/2025	Child Care Infrastructure Funding Application	6-1-0

Resolution Summaries

Number	Date	Subject/Title	Vote
25-206	11/24/2025	Misery Creek Restoration - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Tribal Project Development Grant	6-0-1
25-207	11/24/2025	2025 Forest Lands Road Budget Resolution	6-1-0
25-208	11/24/2025	Human Resources Staffing Agreement	6-0-1
25-209	11/24/2025	Rescission of Resolution No. 25-185 regarding Arbon Equipment Quote	6-0-1
25-210	11/24/2025	Approval of Three Rivers Health Center - Hull Center Project Budget	5-1-1
25-211	11/24/2025	BEFC Contract	7-0-0
25-212	11/24/2025	Gaming Machine Order	6-0-1

In this public paper, some Resolution titles and explanations will not be displayed or minimal details due to confidentiality.

Oregon Tribal Student Grant

Funding is now available for undergraduate and graduate student college costs for enrolled members of:

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Klamath Tribes

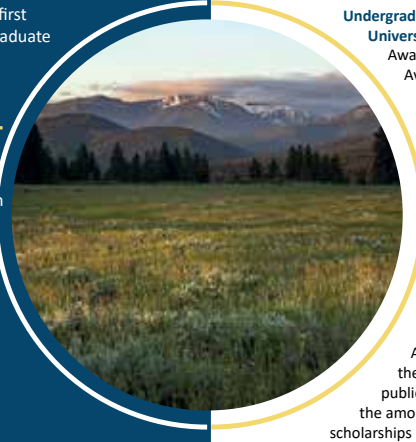
Eligibility

The **Oregon Tribal Student Grant** is available to new and existing students. Eligibility requirements are:

- Must be an enrolled member of an Oregon federally recognized tribe
- Enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an Oregon college or university
- Working towards earning first associate, bachelor's or graduate degree

Application

- Complete a grant application
- Submit a Free Ap-plication for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA)
- See website for additional information



Funding is available for the 2022-2023 academic year for undergraduate and graduate students. Grant renewal is dependent on funding being allocated for the 2023-2024 academic year by the Oregon State Legislature.

Awards

The Oregon Tribal Student Grant is expected to pay for most or all public college-related expenses not covered by other grants for students pursuing their first **Associate, Bachelor's, or Graduate degree.** Award amounts will vary depending on where the student attends school and the degree pursuing.

Undergraduate Public Colleges or Universities:
Award will be calculated based on the Average Cost of Attendance (COA) reduced by the amount of state/federal grants and scholarships

Undergraduate Private Universities:
Award will be calculated based on the average COA at the highest cost public university reduced by the amount of state/federal grants and scholarships

Undergraduate Other Private Institutions:
Award will be calculated based on the average COA at the highest cost public community college reduced by the amount of state/federal grants and scholarships

Graduate Student Awards:
Award will be calculated based on the average undergraduate COA at the highest cost public institution reduced by the amount of state/federal grants and scholarships

Award amounts cannot exceed the student's actual cost of attendance.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

Additional information can be found on our website:
OregonStudentAid.gov/Oregon-Tribal-Student.aspx



Three Rivers Health Center Launches Behavioral Health Deflection Program

Contributed by Kelli Bosak, Behavioral Health Director, LCSW

In April of 2025 the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) received a grant from the State of Oregon's Criminal Justice Commission to start a Behavioral Health Deflection program.

This funding would allow CTCLUSI to increase its capacity to serve tribal members needing treatment for mental health and substance use issues. In September of 2025, a team was assembled under the umbrella of Three Rivers Health Center's Behavioral Health Department and led by Behavioral Health Director Kelli Bosak, LCSW. The team comes equipped with many years of lived and professional experience in behavioral health as well as an in-depth understanding of substance abuse and its treatment. CTCLUSI has a long history of providing transformational support to tribal members and families impacted by substance use disorders, including programs through Social Services, Wellness Court, Culture and Prevention, Community Health and more. We aspire to learn from the work and continue the tradition of collaboration through prevention, intervention, treatment, and supporting long-term recovery.

So, what is deflection?

Behavioral Health (BH) Deflection is a voluntary program to help individuals with unmet behavioral health needs, such as mental health or substance abuse problems, to get screening for treatment and access recommended services. BH Deflection is often designed as a collaborative program between law enforcement agencies and behavioral health entities to prevent worsening health outcomes or involvement in the criminal justice system. Within CTLCUSI, BH Deflection continues this key pillar of deflection through collaboration with Tribal Police and expands its partnership to all departments in the government, tribal members and families, and community partners. Here are a few ways the BH Deflection team provides help:

- **Wrap-Around Support.** Participants will be assigned to our Deflection team who will provide wrap-around peer support, navigation, and case management.
- **Connection to Care.** Referrals will be coordinated and provided to programs (mental health and/or substance use) within CTCLUSI/TRHC and community programs to help promote recovery and restore wellbeing.
- **Resources.** Resource and/or treatment assistance will be available to some eligible participants.
- **Rapid Low Barrier Access.** Individuals can be referred to BH Deflection and connected the same-day with a Peer Navigator and/or Case Manager for services. The BH Deflection team can travel to meet participants in the community, at other government offices, or when interacting with Tribal Police or other criminal justice entities within the 5-county service area.

Eligibility:

- Native Americans and Alaska Natives over the age of 18 who are experiencing a behavioral health need and at risk of criminal justice system involvement.
  - Order of priority: CTLCUSI tribal members, enrolled members of other federally recognized tribes, and others identifying as Native American or Alaska Native.
  - Family members of Native Americans and Alaska Natives are eligible based on program capacity.
  - Exclusionary criteria will apply depending on ongoing legal involvement and/or behavioral health needs.

Referrals:

- Referrals to Deflection can be made for people who are accused of or charged with some crimes related to addiction.
- Referrals to Deflection can be made for people who are not accused of a crime and may benefit from peer navigation and intensive case management services for mental health and substance use issues.
- All referrals will receive outreach and screening. Eligibility and admission decisions will be made by the BH Deflection team.
- **If you think treatment or wrap-around case management services might help someone, please consider BH Deflection.**

Hours of Operation and Contact Information:

- Deflection operates 5 days a week, Monday-Friday, from 8am-5pm.
- Call the BH Deflection line at 541-435-7222 to arrange for outreach to an individual in the community, email deflection@ctclusi.org, or stop by TRHC 250 Hull St in Coos Bay (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm).

We're here to help - refer today!

CTCLUSI Human Resources
recruitment@ctclusihr.org

COOS BAY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Department	Job Title	Status	Age	Starting Wage
Human Resources	Human Resources Coordinator	FT	25+	$55,300/yr - DOE
Health Services	Community Health Nurse*	FT	25+	$83,430 /yr - DOE
Three Rivers Health Center	Patient Services Representative	FT	18+	$22.00/hr - DOE
Education	Education Outreach Advocate	FT	25+	$22.66/hr - DOE
Special Events	Depends on Assignment	OC	14+	Depends on Assignment
Natural Resources & Culture	Tribal Archaeologist**	FT**	25+	$68,000/yr - DOE

FLORENCE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Department	Job Title	Status	Age	Starting Wage
Gaming Commission	Licensing Associate	FT	21+	$22.30/hr - DOE
Special Events	Depends on Assignment	OC	14+	Depends on Assignment
Natural Resources & Culture	Tribal Archaeologist**	FT**	25+	$68,000/yr - DOE

EUGENE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Department	Job Title	Status	Age	Starting Wage
Health Services	Public Health Nurse*	FT	25+	$83,200/yr - DOE
Special Events	Depends on Assignment	OC	14+	Depends on Assignment
Natural Resources & Culture	Tribal Archaeologist**	FT**	25+	$68,000/yr - DOE

*Position requires a valid driver's license and ability to be insurable by CTCLUSI's insurance agency.
** This posting represents one full-time position offered across multiple locations; applicants may select their desired location.

Please visit Job Opportunities on the Tribes website for full job descriptions and benefits available.
You may also apply for any position online. https://ctclusi.org/human-resources-job-opportunities/
Tribal Members please log in to your Citizen Portal to access additional CTCLUSI Tribal Member Job Opportunities as they

PEACEGIVING

Peacegiving is a traditional Restorative Justice option available to you for the resolution of conflict.

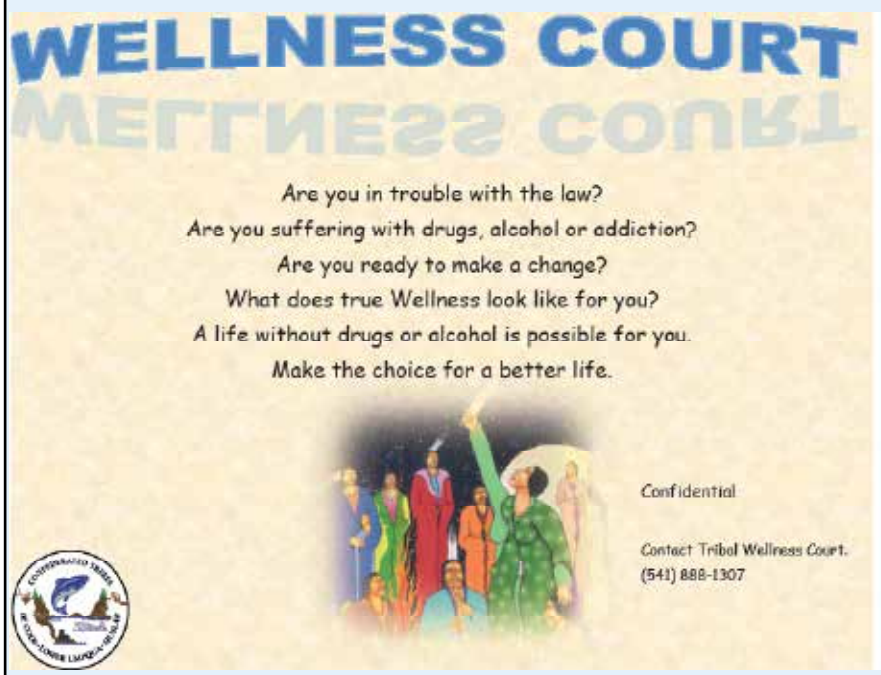
All Peacegiving issues are confidential.



Photo by Jesse Beers

For more information about Peacegiving, please visit the Peacegiving Website or contact the Peacegiving Coordinator at the address listed below.

Peacegiving Coordinator
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
PHONE: (541) 888-1306 or (541) 888-1316
EMAIL: Peacegiving@ctclusi.org Website: http://ctclusi.org/peacegiving



Upcoming Events

RSVP for events by calling
1-541-435-7155

January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day Tribal Offices Closed Peace Hike Yachats, Oregon	2	3
4	5 Littles Program Language Classes Orientation	6 Tribal Scholarship Applications OPEN miluk class 4pm	7 hanis class 4pm	8 Culture Committee Meeting 4pm	9 wa'as class 4pm	10 Littles Program Language Class 9am
11 Regular Council Meeting 10:00 am	12	13 miluk class 4pm	14 2025 Fitness Program Reimbursement Deadline hanis class 4pm	15 Deadline for Tribal Council candidate to run Position Statement in February paper	16 Fitness Program Reimbursement Deadline for 2025 wa'as class 4pm	17 Littles Program Language Class 9am Cedar Cape Workshop Series, Eugene LCC Longhouse
18	19	20 miluk class 4pm	21 hanis class 4pm	22	23 wa'as class 4pm	24 Littles Program Language Class 9am Cedar Cape Workshop Series,Eugene
25 Cedar Cape Workshop Series,Eugene	26 Martin Luther King Jr. Day All Tribal Offices Closed	27 miluk class 4pm	28 hanis class 4pm	29	30 PRC Application Deadline wa'as class 4pm	31 Littles Program Language Class 9am

February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 miluk class 4pm	4 hanis class 4pm	5	6 wa'as class 4pm	7 Littles Program Language Class 9am baldija Naming Ceremony 10 a.m.
8 Regular Council Meeting 10:00 am	9	10 miluk class 4pm	11 hanis class 4pm	12 Save the Date Elders Luncheon	13 wa'as class 4pm	14 Littles Program Language Class 9am
15 Deadline for Tribal Council candidate to run Position Statement in March paper	16	17 miluk class 4pm	18 hanis class 4pm	19	20 wa'as class 4pm	21 Littles Program Language Class 9am
22	23	24 miluk class 4pm	25 hanis class 4pm	26	27 wa'as class 4pm	28 Littles Program Language Class 9am
1	2	3 miluk class 4pm	4 hanis class 4pm	5	6 wa'as class 4pm	7 Littles Program Language Class 9am

hiisəch hai – with a good heart

Social Services Shares Important SNAP Update for Oregon Residents

Contributed by Nichole Benner, ICWA Case Manager

The Social Services Department would like to share important updates regarding recent state changes to eligibility requirements for the SNAP assistance program. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact SNAP at 833-947-1694

📢 Important SNAP Update for Oregon Residents

New Work Rules for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)
Effective December 1, 2025
Starting **December 1, 2025**, new federal rules mean that Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) in **all Oregon counties** must meet updated SNAP work requirements. If these requirements are not met, SNAP benefits may end after **three months**.

🔍 Who Must Meet ABAWD Work Rules?

You may be required to follow the ABAWD Work Rules if:

- You are **18–64 years old**, **and**
- You **do not** have a child under age 14 on your SNAP case.

If you believe you qualify for an exemption, you **must notify SNAP**, and you must report exemptions **each time you renew** your SNAP benefits.

🛠 What Are the Work Requirements?

If the ABAWD rules apply to you, you must complete **80 hours of work activities each month** through one or more of the following:

- **Paid work** (including self-employment)
- **Unpaid work**, such as volunteering or bartering (working in exchange for housing, goods, or services)
- Participation in a **SNAP Employment & Training Program**
- A combination of the above activities

⏳ SNAP Time Limits

If you must follow the ABAWD rules but **do not meet** the monthly work requirement, you can receive SNAP benefits for **only 3 months** during the current **three-year period**:
January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027

✔ You May Already Be Meeting the Work Rules

You may already satisfy the ABAWD requirements if you can provide proof of:

- **Working 30+ hours per week**, or earning **$935.25 per month** before taxes
- **Self-employment income** of at least **$935.25/month** (no business costs) or **$1,870.50/month** (with business costs)
- **Working 20 hours/week (80 hours/month)** in exchange for money, goods, or services
- **Volunteering or community service**
- **Receiving or applying for unemployment benefits**

🧩 Exemptions from ABAWD Work Rules

You may be **exempt** if **one or more** of the following apply:

- A **child under 14** receives food benefits with you
- You are **pregnant**
- You are enrolled in **school at least half-time**
- You are the **caregiver for someone unable to care for themselves**, even if they don't live with you
- You are in an **alcohol or drug treatment program** (not including AA or NA support groups)
- You are receiving (or have applied for) **unemployment benefits**
- You work **30+ hours/week**
- You earn **$935.25+ per month** in paid work
- You earn sufficient **self-employment income**
- You receive **disability income**
- You cannot work due to **physical, behavioral, or mental health** reasons
- You are participating in a **refugee resettlement training plan** (such as IRCO)
- You are **working, volunteering, or bartering** (proof required)
- You or an immediate family member are enrolled in a **federally recognized tribe**
- You are eligible for services through **Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Clinics, or Urban Indian Clinics**

If you think you qualify for an exemption, contact SNAP right away.
Exemptions must be verified and reported at every application or recertification.

📞 Need Help? Contact SNAP

To report an exemption, ask questions, or submit proof of work hours:
📱 **Phone:** 833-947-1694
✉ **Email:** snap.abawdteam@odhsoha.oregon.gov
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time

