The Voice of CLUSI

August 2026

Issue 8

Volume 27

www.ctclusi.org

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

Student Recognition and Language Ceremony 2026



High School Graduates pictured left to right:
Ramil Beers, Natasha Tervort, Isa Helms, Sawyer Kilbourne, and Enza Hall



College Graduates pictured left to right:
Isabelle Green, Conner Tervort, Ashley Russell, and mok (Mark) Petrie

Contributed by Morgan Gaines, Communications Specialist

On Saturday, July 11, 2026, Tribal families gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of our students at the annual Student Recognition and Language Ceremony held in the Tribal Community Center in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Education Director Jemiah Wassman shared a warm welcome to attendees for gathering to celebrate the achievements of our Tribal Students. Wassman asked members of Tribal Council to share a few words with this year's students. Chief Doug Barrett, along with council members Julie Siestreem, Ashley Russell, and Chair Teresa Spangler all spoke about how proud they are of our students and how excited they are to see where their journey's take them. Council members, Iliana Montiel and Debbie Bossley were also in attendance to support the students. After an invocation by Chief Doug Barrett, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, filling our bellies as full as our spirits. Following the meal together, Mapleton High School Graduate and Valedictorian, Ramil Beers shared some key words. "I think one of the most important lessons we've learned is that progress doesn't always look the way you expect it to. Sometimes it's slow, sometimes it's frustrating, and sometimes it feels like you're not moving forward at all. But looking back now, it's clear that every step mattered."

mok (Mark) Petrie, a graduate of Portland State University with his Master of Social Work also spoke during the event. Petrie shared that "pursuing this pathway had its challenges…social work hasn't

Story continues page 6

After 15 Years, haich ikt' at'uu Comes to Siuslaw Estuary

Coalition celebrates breach of levee, adding a connection to traditional waterways

Brian Bull, June 3, 2026 - Underscore Native News

On the foggy morning of May 29, a thick, earthen barrier was the only thing separating a restored dairy farm from its reclaimed destiny: an estuary to welcome back the Salmon People, as well as lamprey, shorebirds, and numerous plants not seen on the premises since the mid-1800s.

Tall, dinosaur-like excavators stood on either side of the levee, with a crowd of people from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CLUSI), the McKenzie River Trust, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council watching from roughly 50 feet away on a raised mound of earth, clad in hard hats and reflective vests.

Nearby, Dan Kirk, the restoration projects manager for CLUSI, waved a smoldering bundle of sage across the damp landscape.

"This is a big moment that a lot of our project partners and community members have been waiting for," smiled Kirk. "It's going to be really beautiful and amazing for everyone."

Blessings have been done nearly daily for about a month, at a site that has undergone an incredible transformation since redevelopment began in the late summer of 2023. Contractors leveled out the terrain and removed drainage ditches and other agricultural fixtures, while in June 2024, CLUSI officials approved a new name for the 217-acre expanse: haich ikt'at'uu. It means "heart of the river."

"It makes me think of heartbeat and pulse," said Kirk, as they...

Story continues, see haich ikt' at'uu page 8

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

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CTCLUSI CULTURE SUMMER CAMP

Save the Date:

Summer Culture Camp

August 23-27, 2026

Deadline to sign up: August 10th

Turn to Page 4 for sign up information

Tribal Council Business

Activity of Elected Tribal Council Members from June 14, 2026 - July 12, 2026

Chief Doug Barrett:

06/14 General Tribal Council Meeting
06/15 NAAC OYA Meeting
06/16 Coos Bay Tribal Staff Solstice lunch & Teachings, Tribal Consultation Task Force SB 770
06/17 NNLPC 250 Years as "Merciless Indian Savages", Coos County Historical Society Award for Patty Phillips and Steven Dow Beakham, MHA/LADPC Monthly Meeting
06/18 Three Rivers Foundation Lunch and Grant Awards Celebration
06/19 – 06/22 Summer Solstice Celebrations and Ceremonies
06/23 Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap Roundtable at the Ko-Kwel Casino Resort, Northwest Land Camp – Tech Check
06/24 Northwest Land Camp – Keynote Speaker, GFORB Casino Meeting – Tribal Council Business Meeting
06/25 Northwest Land Camp – Breakfast
06/26 Meeting
06/27 Coquille Indian Tribe 37th Restoration Day Celebration
06/29 Bonfire Meeting
06/30 Field School Dinner and Rattle Making Activity
07/02 Southern Sea Otter Recovery Plan Discussion
07/07 "Lift Off EUG" Event at the Eugene Airport, AERI Monthly Partner Meeting
07/08 South Slough Reserve Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – New Roads & Parking Expansion
07/09 Special Meeting – Leaders Circle, Culture Committee Meeting
07/11 Student Recognition Lunch Celebration, Grand Round Veterans Pow Wow
07/12 Tribal Council General Meeting

Total Hours: 169

Teresa Spangler, Chair:

06/14 Regular Council meeting
06/16 Tribal Government Staff Solstice Lunch: Staff learned about our culture and played games. It was a great experience for everyone who participated.
06/17 Special meeting on Committees and upcoming meetings with Council, Meeting with Stephen Dow Beckham. Discussion on the long history he has had with the tribe. Really positive learning experience for myself and all who attended. Event at the Coos County Historical Museum. Patty Whereat Phillips received the Nathan Douthit local historian award! Stephen Dow Beckham did a power point at the same event about his personal history, which was fascinating.
06/18 Three Rivers Foundation Luncheon. There were 83 grants given to different nonprofits.
06/21 Summer Solstice event
06/23 Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap Roundtable
06/24 Washington Association of Land Trusts. Chief was a Keynote speaker talking about the restoration of haich ikt' at' uu. Business Council Meeting
06/26 Attorney General Rayfield requested a meeting to check in with the tribe. Met with Tribal member at the Deadwood property regarding restoration plans.
06/29 Met with possible vendor in Florence. (More to come soon)
06/30 Second meeting with possible vendor in Coos Bay. 9 Tribes meeting. (General discussions). Dinner with the Field School students. Everyone did a quick round of high low Buffalo, a highlight from their day, a challenge or low point, something surprising, fun, or unexpected. It was great to hear what the students were getting out of the camp. Very impressive! The food was fantastic as well.
07/06 Met with our Lawyer, CEO and Vice Chair about being double booked and where we need to put our resources to best serve the tribe
07/07 Lift Off EUG Expansion Showcase. Took a tour and looked at plans the Eugene Airport has for future expansion. Visit to Lake Tract Property
07/08 Ribbon Cutting at South Slough Visitor Center. Made improvements to the entrance to accommodate more visitors.
07/09 Special Meeting: Working on potential contract there will be (more to come on this matter as soon as possible). Working on updates to committee codes. Will send out to committee members when finalized. Discussion on Visions committee. No action taken. Leaders Circle
07/11 Student recognition Luncheon. Staff did a wonderful job; the students and adults all had a great time!

Total Hours: 148

Brad Kneaper, Vice Chair:

06/14 Tribal Council Regular Meeting.
06/16 Tribal Government Staff Solstice Lunch.
06/17 Special Council Meeting: Discuss upcoming Committee Meetings (no action taken). Council Meeting with Stephen Dow Beckham on local tribal history.
06/18 Three Rivers Foundation Luncheon.
06/24 Meet with Tribal Gov Management and staff, prior to Business Council Meeting. Gaming Facility Operational Review Board. Tribal Council Business Meeting.
06/26 Meet with Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield at his request: Discussion of any items of interest to the Tribe.
06/29 Meet with potential Contractor at Three Rivers Casino.
06/30 9 Oregon Tribes Meeting by ZOOM
07/06 Meet with Chair, CEO and Legal regarding upcoming committee meetings.
07/07 Attend the City of Eugene "Lift Off EUG Expansion Showcase" at the Eugene Airport, Chief, Chair and CEO also attended.
07/09 Special Council Meeting: Discuss potential contract with a company; Committee Code Updates discussion; Visions Committee Updates. Leader's Circle: Meet with Gov Kotek Staff (Asked for a Consultation - Didn't happen); Meet with Sue Wilson Mapleton School District Superintendent; Meet with Budget Committee; Meet with Enrollment Committee; Discuss Dept of Interior Tribal Advisory Committee.

Total Hours: 127

Debbie Bossley:

06/16 Tribal Government Staff Lunch
06/17 Special Meeting, Stephan Dow Beckham Meeting, Coos Historical Museum Award Ceremony
06/18 Three Rivers Foundation Lunch
06/23 Offshore Wind Roundtable
06/24 Tribal Council Business Meeting
06/26 Council meeting with AG Rayfield
06/29 Lobbyist meeting
06/30 Lobbyist meeting
07/09 Special meeting/Leaders Circle
07/11 Student Recognition Dinner
07/12 Tribal Council Regular Meeting

Total Hours: 80

Julie Siestreem:

06/14 Tribal Council General Council regular monthly meeting Coos Bay
06/16 Tribal Government Staff Solstice luncheon Tribal Hall Plank House, Sweat Lodge Coos Bay, Education Committee meeting zoom
06/17 Visions Committee Special meeting Coos Bay, NNLPC: 250 Years as "Merciless Indian Savages" zoom, Tribal Council Steven Dow Beckham Tribal History presentation Coos Bay, Steven Dow Beckham Coos Bay History presentation Coos County History Museum/Patty Whereat Phillips Coos County Historical Society Award Recognition
06/18 Three Rivers Foundation Grant Awards Presentation TRC Florence
06/19 – 06/21 Summer Solstice Ceremonies, Tribal Hall, Community Center, Plank House, Sweat Lodge, Sunset Beach Coos Bay
06/23 State of Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap Roundtable all day KoKwell Casino Conference rooms
06/24 Tribal Council GFORB regular monthly meeting TRC Florence, Tribal Council Business regular monthly meeting TRC Florence
06/25 Tribal Council Oregon AG Rayfield
06/27 Coquille Indian Tribes 37th Restoration Ceremony Coos Bay
06/29 Tribal Council PACE LLT meeting
07/07 Lift Off Eugene Airport Expansion Project
07/08 South Slough Entrance Project celebration Charleston
07/09 Tribal Council Special meeting Coos Bay, Tribal Council Leaders Circle meeting Coos Bay
07/11 Student Recognition Luncheon Ceremony Coos Bay
07/12 Tribal Council General Council regular monthly meeting Coos Bay
07/12-07/13 Elders Honor Days Grand Ronde

Total Hours: 130

Iliana Montiel:

06/14 Tribal Council Regular Meeting
06/16 Tribal Gov Staff Solstice Lunch
06/17 Meeting with Steven Dow Beckham
06/18 Three Rivers Foundation – Grant Awards Celebration
06/24 GFORB / Tribal Council Business Meeting
06/26 Meeting with AG Rayfield
06/29 Meeting with PACE LLC
06/20 Meeting with PACE LLC - tour
07/09 Special Meeting / Leaders Circle
07/11 Student Recognition Lunch

Total Hours: 50

Ashley Russell:

06/16 Reviewed Special Meeting Packet
06/17 Special Meeting and Coos County Historical Society Award Recognition for Patty Whereat Phillips
06/23 Reviewed Business Meeting Packet
06/24 Business Meeting
06/26 Meeting with AG Rayfield
06/29 Meeting with Lobbyist
06/30 Meeting with Lobbyist, Field School Dinner
07/08 Reviewed Leader's Circle Packet, Leader's Circle
07/09 Special Meeting and Leader's Circle
07/11 Student Recognition Dinner; Reviewed Tribal Council Meeting Packet
07/12 Tribal Council Meeting, Drafted and submitted Council Business Report

Total Hours: 67.75

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 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

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 Hull Street
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
Brian Dubray, Interim
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-1311
rbronson@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
Brian Dubray, Interim Director
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-997-6011
Fax 541-435-0492
bdubray@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
250 Hull Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Phone 541-888-7520
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
bdubray@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. VACANT
2. VACANT
3. Margaret Corvi
4. Stephanie Watkins
5. Kerry Brainard
6. Sarah Marical
7. Roseana Perry - Chair

Cultural Coalition Committee
1. Enna Helms
2. Cynthia Hovind
3. Pam Stoehlser
4. Kyle Gaines
5. VACANT

Culture Committee
1. Earla Kirk
2. Kyle Gaines - Chair
3. Alyssa Lydick
4. Nicole Romine
5. Michael Brainard
6. Patricia Whereat-Phillips
7. Chief Doug Barrett

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 (Tom) Brainard
4. VACANT
5. Mike Lent
6. Stan McNutt
7. Teresa Spangler

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

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

Housing Committee
1. Andrew Brainard
2. Danny Krossman
3. Enna Helms
4. Tyler Slyter - Chair
5. Sarah Marical

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

All committee members with an expired term have been notified and are encouraged to submit a letter of interest for reappointment.
If you wish to no longer participate as an active member, please send an email to enrollment@ctclusi.org

Interested in being on a committee? Submit a letter of interest (can be found on the Enrollment page on the Tribal website). 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, Vice 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, 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

August 9, 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

CTCLUSI CULTURE

SUMMER CAMP

August 23 - 27, 2026

CTCLUSI Summer Culture Camp Sign Up Today!

The Deadline to sign up for camp is August 10, 2026.

Open to CTCLUSI Tribal Youth, Youth in Tribal Households, Youth of neighboring Tribes and Youth of CTCLUSI Staff ages 8-18. Join us in learning, growing, connecting, and having fun!

Camp will be held at Camp Lutherwood.

Scan QR Code to register

Questions? Call Angela Henry at 541-294-9602
Email ahenry@ctclusi.org

Hidden Image Search: Can You Find Me?

In this edition of The Voice of CLUSI there is a hidden image of **a CALYPSO ORCHID exactly like the one pictured here**.
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 CALYPSO ORCHID hiding!**
Must email by August 14th 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.
Thank you to all of the Tribal Government Departments that donate raffle prizes!
Thank you to everyone for playing, and for your patience as the raffle prizes for the winners are mailed out.
Questions? Contact mgaines@ctclusi.org

July Flicker Feather Raffle Winners:
Adult - Amanda Craig
Youth - No Youth Entered into the July Raffle

The Flicker Feather was hidden on page 15, Picture of all the Tribal Flags on display, about the center of the right edge of photo.

Three Rivers Casino RV Park Construction Update

Contributed by Drew James, Project Manager

Construction on the Three Rivers Casino RV Park continues to make steady progress, and we're excited to share the latest developments.

All of the RV hookup bollards and utility pedestals have now been installed and poured. Bringing us another step closer to welcoming guests.

The registration building is taking shape, with the walls now standing and the first phase of the roofing system currently being installed.

Work has also begun on the shower building. The initial phase includes pouring the concrete foundation, which will allow construction of the walls to begin, followed by the masonry work for the shower stalls.

In addition, bids have been received for the final phase of the project, which includes landscaping, sidewalks, and paving throughout the RV park.



Shower House construction

We're excited to see this project continue to come together and appreciate everyone's hard work in bringing this vision to life. Our goal is to create a premier stopping point along the Oregon Coast, offering guests a comfortable and enjoyable stay while providing easy access to the outstanding dining, gaming, and amenities available at Three Rivers Casino.



Registration Building Progress

Planning Department Welcomes Tribal Citizen Drew James to the Team

Contributed by Jeremy Doze, Director of Planning

Please join me in welcoming Drew James to the organization as our new Project Manager within the Planning Department.

Drew brings more than 12 years of Heavy Civil Construction experience and is also a CTCLUSI Tribal Member. His background, knowledge, and perspective will be an invaluable addition as we continue to expand the Planning Department's project management efforts and strengthen oversight of capital projects across both the Government and Gaming segments of the organization.

We are very happy to have Drew on board and look forward to the contributions he will make in support of our team and the Tribe's ongoing work.

Please take a moment to say hello and welcome Drew when you have the chance.



Drew James, Project Manager

Need a Ride?

If you live within our five-county service area and need help accessing public transportation, please contact **Kathy Perkins at 541-888-9577 ext. 7550** or email **kperkins@ctclusi.org**

For Coos County Tribal Members

All ***CTCLUSI Tribal Members*** can ride ***CCAT public transportation*** services free of charge. This benefit includes all regularly scheduled public transit routes.

Please note that **demand-response services**, such as **Dial-a-Ride**, are available only to riders who are **65 years of age or older** or who have a qualifying disability. Assistance with the application process is available if you would like to apply for these services.

When boarding, please present your **Tribal ID** to the driver to receive your free fare benefit.

Cafe 1297 Project Update

Contributed by Drew James, Project Manager

We're excited to share that the front-of-house bar is now complete and fully operational! With this major milestone behind us, construction is moving into the next phase on the café side, where work is underway on the new kitchen and expanded seating area.

During this phase of the project, Café 1297 will operate with a limited menu as food service operations are temporarily relocated to the Three Rivers food truck. The limited menu will remain in place until construction is complete.

This project represents a significant investment for Three Rivers Casino Coos Bay, expanding seating capacity for our guests while creating a more functional and efficient kitchen for our team members. We're excited to see this vision come together and look forward to providing an even better dining experience for our guests.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue building toward the future of Café 1297!



dai (hello)!

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Social Services

4th Annual Crime Summit Strengthening Families!

CTCLUSI Social Services Presents:

Albert Pooley

THURSDAY SEPT 10-11 FRIDAY

Three Rivers Casino Resort, Florence, Oregon
5647 OR-126, Florence, OR 97439



2026 Register Today by Scanning QR Code

hiis haiyach (with a good heart)

Student Recognition & Language Ceremony *continued from cover page...*

always been a positive field for our families, with policies that were not so positive for us." He went on to share that by entering this field he wants to make a difference for Tribal people experiencing hardships with behavioral health and support programs that support Tribal youth. He shared how important it is to lean on community and that he would always lend a hand to those in need of support.

Tribal Council member Ashley Russell, who received her Master of Natural Resources from Oregon State University, also shared some inspirational words about her experience as a full-time professional, leader, and student.

Language teachers Patty Whereat Phillips and Enna Helms gave a presentation about the Language Revitalization Program, giving special recognition and thanks to all the Language Nest Facilitators; Kris Wing, Ashley Vandevort, Tammy Evarts, language committee members, and all those who continue to support the growth of the language program. Together, Patty and Enna brought Isa Helms up to be honored. Isa Helms graduated this year from South Eugene High School and earned the Oregon Seal of Biliteracy for the miluk language. She is the first student in Eugene School District 4J to earn a Seal of Biliteracy for an Indigenous language. In honor of her incredible accomplishment, Isa was gifted an Eagle feather with beading on leather made by Tribal artisan Amanda Craig.

Opening her speech with miluk coos, Isa Helms shared about her language journey. "I started my language learning journey because it was a chance to feel more connected to my culture and community. Growing up, my mom made sure Chinuk wawa and the miluk coos language had a place in our home through songs, conversations, cooking, cleaning, and everyday moments. She taught me that our languages were something to value, protect, and carry forward." Her words of encouragement to other youths to learn their traditional language were impactful and heartfelt. Before thanking her language teachers and all those who supported her language journey, she shared "If I could leave one message with the younger people here today, it would be this…don't be afraid to begin.

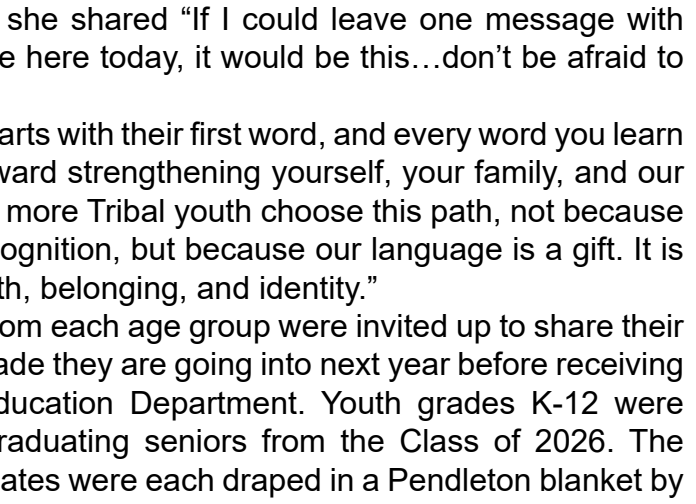
Every speaker starts with their first word, and every word you learn is another step toward strengthening yourself, your family, and our community. I hope more Tribal youth choose this path, not because of an award or recognition, but because our language is a gift. It is a source of strength, belonging, and identity."

Tribal students from each age group were invited up to share their name and what grade they are going into next year before receiving a gift from the Education Department. Youth grades K-12 were followed by the graduating seniors from the Class of 2026. The High School graduates were each draped in a Pendleton blanket by members of Tribal Council.

College graduates were also honored with a blanket draped upon them by members of Tribal Council. They were each gifted with a beaded dentalium necklace made by several Tribal artisans, made especially for Higher Education graduates. In a poignant moment all the other women currently on Tribal Council came together to wrap college graduate and Tribal Council member Ashley Russell in her Pendleton blanket.

Throughout the day, more fun was had as folks took turns sitting for a caricature artist, taking pictures in front of the balloon backdrop, or enjoying the fun bounce house options outside in the sun. By the end of the afternoon, nearly everyone won a raffle prize from the generous gifts provided by the Education Department.

Thank you to Tribal Council for your continued support of our youth, to the Education Department team of Jemiah Wasson, Morgan Cloud, Daylen Cossey, Cheri Moos, Lyndsay Carroll, and Sam Chase. Special thanks to the Department of Culture and Natural Resources Language Sector and Language teachers Patty Whereat Phillips and Enna Helms for their dedication to language revitalization, and all those extra supportive players who worked tirelessly to put the event together. Thanks also go to those who continue to support our youth and students growing and learning, always.



Patty Whereat Phillips, Isa Helms and Enna Helms



Graduating High School Senior Natasha Tervort



Student Recognition & Language Ceremony *continued from cover page...*



High School graduate Ramil Beers



College graduate mok (Mark) Petrie



College graduate Conner Tervort



High School graduate Sawyer Kilbourne

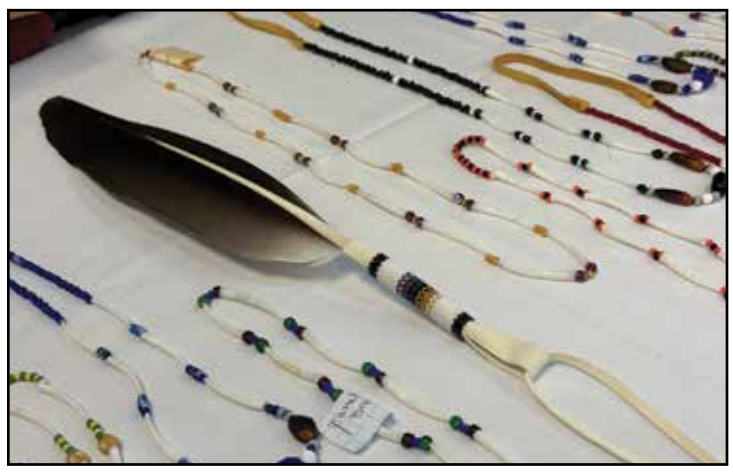


Siblings Myrtle and Thorin Gaines pose for a fun fantasy caricature



The women of Tribal Council pictured left to right: Julie Siestreem, Chair Teresa Spangler, Iliana Montiel and Debbie Bossley wrap college grad and Council member Ashley Russell in her honor blanket





Above:The Eagle feather and necklaces gifted to the graduates
Left: High School graduate Enza Hall

Education Department
Services - Sign up Here with QR CODES

Dress For Success

$ 250 per Enrolled CTCLUSI student Kindergarten through age 24 for school clothes

Questions? Contact Lyndsay.carroll@ctclusi.org

Higher Education Students must provide class schedule
ENDS DECEMBER 1ST 2026

Back to School Supplies - Amazon

$110 voucher per student in CTCLUSI Households Kindergarten through 12th grade

Questions? Contact Lyndsay.carroll@ctclusi.org

Voucher may be redeemed from a provided amazon list

High School Support Program

Limited Reimbursement available for:
Yearbooks, Class Rings, Letterman Jackets
Graphing Calculators, Dual Enrollment materials and more

Questions? Contact us at Education@ctclusi.org

Youth Camp Support

$300 provided directly to approved educational camps for CTCLUSI Household Students k-12 residing outside of the 5 county service area

Athletic and sports camps are not eligible at this time funding is limited, sign up soon.
All CTCLUSI household students k-12 are eligible

haich ikt' at'uu continued from cover page...

walked to the levee. "That's what I get excited about, is just seeing the rhythm of the river do its thing."

The McKenzie River Trust acquired the Waite Ranch site for $750,000 in 2010 with a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Since then, the total cost has been roughly $16 million, according to Kirk. A large portion of that is a 1.2 mile earthen ridge -or berm- that protects the section of Highway 126 that runs adjacent to the estuary.

"Today we will be reconnecting the tidal Siuslaw River into the site," said Kirk, as a survey team put up a wide yellow barrier called a silt curtain between the Siuslaw River and the levee. "So creating about 180 acres of new wetland that was historically tidal wetland before the mid-1800s when it became a dairy farm."

Huddled with the observers was Margaret Treadwell, the central coast conservation program manager for the McKenzie River Trust. She had never seen a levee breach before, and was excited for what was to happen in the next few minutes.

"The waters of the Siuslaw River are going to come back into this place from the tide for the first time in probably over 100 years. It's returning the natural processes to this place."

Breaking down to rise up

At 7:33 a.m., an excavator lowered its toothed bucket against the earthen levee, and readily broke it apart as the onlookers cheered. River water coursed in immediately, seeping quickly into the area that hadn't touched brackish water for generations.

"Keep an eye out for animals coming back in," said Treadwell. She said wildlife has a way of knowing when things like breaches happen, and return to their ancient habitat.

"It's a pretty good feeling," said CLUSI Chief Doug Barrett. He'd performed a short ceremonial drum song to complement Kirk's blessing of the estuary. Until this moment, he'd only really known of the site as farmland. Barrett was excited to see this transformed into a special place for the wildlife significant to his tribe.

"This is a pretty awesome place now to call our home," he said, as the waters began to rise higher along the estuary channel. "And our salmon to call their home, and our lamprey."

A trending push to reclaiming the land and the waters

The CLUSI is one of several Pacific Northwestern tribes that have reclaimed and restored coastal areas since the beginning of the millennium. In 2015, a levee breach was carried out by the Tulalip Tribes of Washington State, assisted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Marysville, among others. Named the Qwuloolt Estuary, the breach connected 354 acres of historic wetlands to the Salish Sea, which also created more favorable passage and conditions for salmon.

And at Similk Bay on the south side of Fidalgo Island in northern Washington state, a habitat restoration project is in the works that could help reverse the trend for chinook salmon, which are listed as an endangered species. The Swinomish Tribe and the Skagit River System Cooperative are collaborating on a 17-acre parcel of saltwater marsh habitat for juvenile chinook, namely a pocket estuary coordinators say will help the fish rebound. At last check, the project is expected to wrap up this summer.

Mizu Burruss of the Siuslaw Watershed Council said partnerships between tribes and nonprofit organizations like hers are essential as resources and bandwidth can be tight for just a lone group to tackle.

"They make them richer, better, more complex and diverse projects," said Burruss. "When we're talking about ecosystem restoration, that's what we want."

Closing ceremony through canoe

With the Siuslaw Estuary steadily filling up with river water, Chief Barrett made his way back to Florence. There, he joined the CLUSI tribal council and other officials at the Port of Siuslaw, and boarded "Lottie", a 32.5-foot cedar canoe.

With oars at the ready, the dozen-person crew launched into the dark green waters of the Siuslaw River, and paddled roughly four miles eastwards towards the newly-opened channel of haich ikt'at'uu. Several seals and a sea lion were spotted on the way, and a small armada of kayakers joined the canoeists in the final leg of the journey.

The image could not have been more iconic of the traditional and modern worlds: the dugout canoe with its crew wearing woven basket-hats approaching a restored space still flanked by dump trucks and excavators, while several drones hovered above. Some people in the craft sang, as Chief Barrett and others threw tule seeds and tobacco into the estuary.

Jesse Beers, CLUSI's cultural stewardship manager, carefully placed a woven grass mat bearing the remains of a salmon into the current, which swept it away towards the newly-formed habitat.

"We came in and did a protocol ceremony," said Beers, after the canoe docked. "When we were in the channel, it almost brought tears to my eyes." He said the salmon remains were to let the Salmon People know that this was a "good place" to come again, to "fatten up and be healthy."

Beers said as the increasingly salty water flows in from the ocean, there'll be less invasives and briars to contend with, and more cattail and tule growing across the restored space.

"Just seeing the breach actually happen after this long, it's just an amazing experience."

One last piece remains: a canoe landing which wasn't installed yet by the time of the levee breach. The landing was suggested by CLUSI youth, who wanted cultural access to the area to interact and learn with the estuary's environment. Organizers expect the canoe landing to be done sometime in July.

This story originally appeared on ***Underscore Native News*** by **Brian Bull**.

Photos provided by Elizabeth Goward and Margaret Treadwell with McKenzie River Trust and Tim Moffett with the Siuslaw Watershed Council, Owen Cass with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Hunter White, Project Engineer, ESA





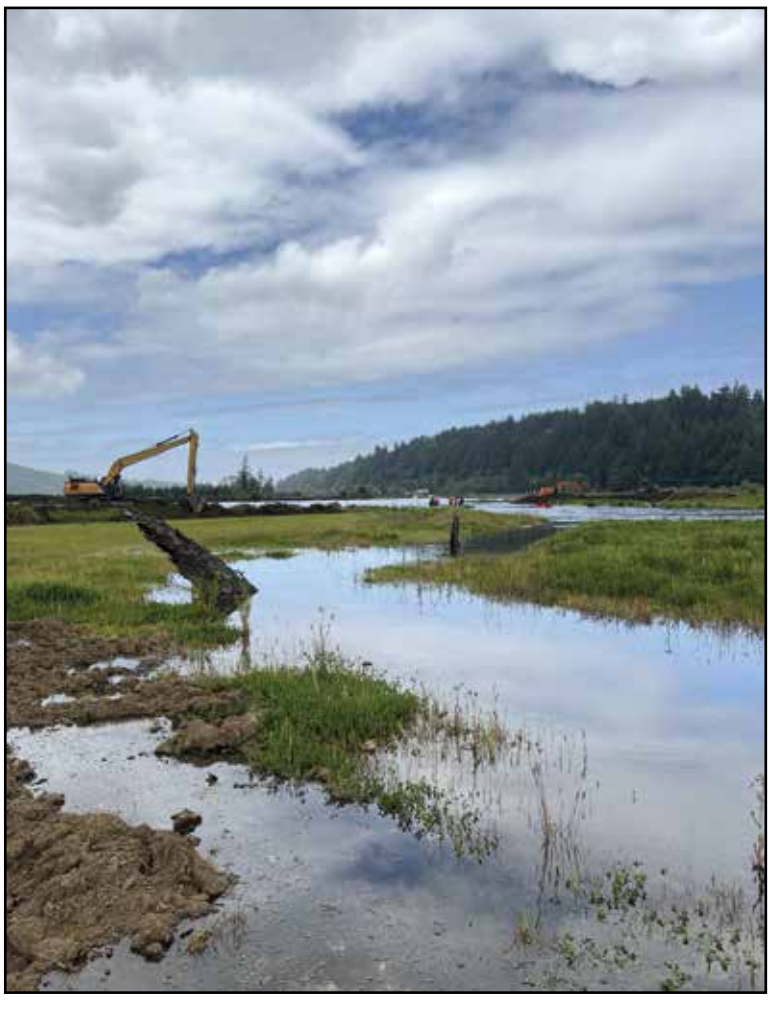















CASE



Congratulations High School Graduates Class of 2026



Avri Ludwig

Avri Ludwig graduated from Homer High School in Homer, Alaska.
Avri plans to attend Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado to earn a Bachelors in Engineering, and participate in their Lacrosse Club.



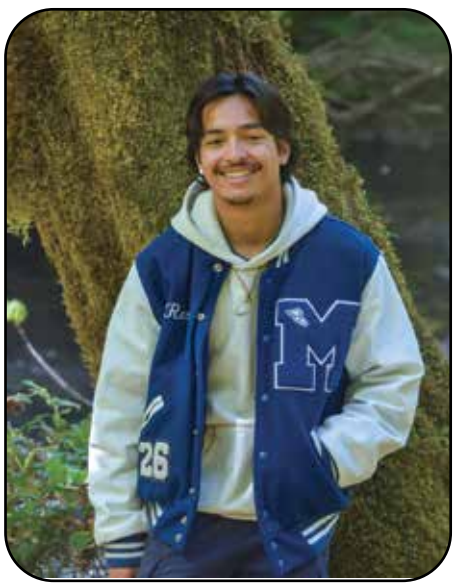
Cash Gorman

Cash Gorman graduated from Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon.
Cash will be attending Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon to follow his dreams of being in theater and to pursue a minor in business.



Sailee Baldwin-Garcia

Sailee Baldwin Garcia graduated from Sheldon High School in Eugene, Oregon where she was a member of the Native American Student Union and Latin Student Union. Sailee is a CTCLUSI Youth Ambassador planning to pursue a nursing degree and attend Lane Community College.



Ramil Beers

Ramil Beers graduated Valedictorian of his class from Mapleton High School in Mapleton, Oregon
Ramil will be attending Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon in the Fall to major in Psychology and Neuroscience.



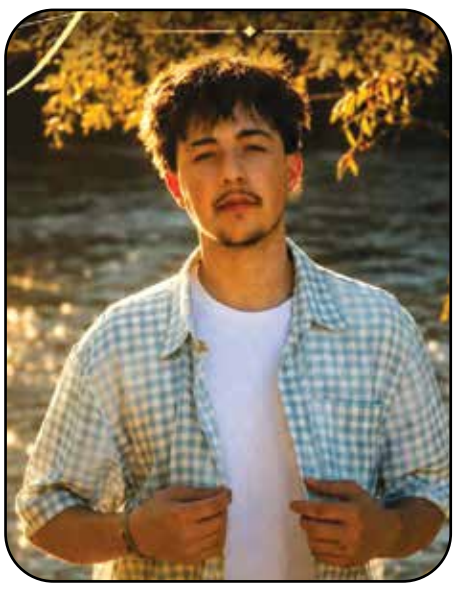
Natasha Tervort

Natasha Tervort graduated from Elko High School in Nevada where she was a member of the Speech and Debate teams.
Natasha will be attending Great Basin College in the Fall with the goal to become a high school English teacher.



Enza Hall

Enza Hall graduated from Nelson High School in Happy Valley, Oregon.
Enza will be attending the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, California this fall for fashion design and communication.



Jordan Davies

Jordan Davies graduated from Sheldon High School in Eugene, Oregon where he participated in Future Build where he received certifications in multiple construction areas.
Jordan would like to continue his soccer career in college.



Isa Helms

Isa Helms graduated from South Eugene High School with honors and earned the Seal of Biliteracy in miluk language.
Isa plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with the goal of becoming a scientist.



Mayah Wisdom

Mayah Wisdom graduated Valedictorian from Elma High School in Washington where she was president of both the Choir and Theater clubs and a member of the National Honor Society.
Mayah will be attending George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon to pursue a Major in English and Minor in Theater.



Sawyer Kilbourne

Sawyer Kilbourne graduated Valedictorian of his class at John F. Kennedy High School in Mount Angel, Oregon where he earned his FFA State Degree and served as President of the National Honor Society as his class ASB Representative.
Sawyer plans to be a Doctor.



Daniel Schmidt

Daniel Schmidt graduated from Montesano High School and completed an intense yearlong pre-EMS/Firefighter training. Danny plans to continue at Gray's Harbor College where he's participated in the running start program to complete his AA, then onward to Eastern Oregon University's Fire Science Program.



Are you a 2026 Graduate?!?

We want to celebrate YOU!

Send in your photograph and graduation information to be futured in a future edition of The Voice of CLUSI paper and on CTCLUSI Social Media pages

Scan QR code to fill out the Student Recognition Form or email Morgan Cloud ***mcloud@ctclusi.org*** or Morgan Gaines ***mgaines@ctclusi.org***

Congratulations College Graduates Class of 2026



Ashley Russell

Ashley Russell earned her Master of Natural Resources Degree from Oregon State University.
Ashley is a first-generation college student, working professional, mother of three, and Tribal Council leader. She completed the graduate program while continuing to serve the Tribe and Community as a sitting member of Tribal Council and The Director of Culture and Natural Resources.



Jorney Baldwin

Jorney Baldwin graduated from the University of Oregon earning her Master in Couples and Family Therapy and a Master in Strategic Communications. Jorney is also the recipient of the Future Steward Award.
After graduation, Jorney plans to backpack through Southeast Asia before beginning her role as a mental health therapist at Bethel Health Center in Eugene, Oregon where she will continue working with youth and families.



mok (Mark) Petrie

mok Petrie graduated with a Master of Social Work from Portland State University.
mok earned his degree while interning with the CTCLUSI Behavioral Health Program at Three Rivers Health Center in Coos Bay, Oregon. mok wants to continue to support Tribal programs that support Tribal youth and families within the Behavioral Health and Social Services fields.

2026 Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship Recipients were announced at the Student Recognition & Language Ceremony on July 11, 2026

2026 Elders
Kirsten Casillas
Alhana McNutt

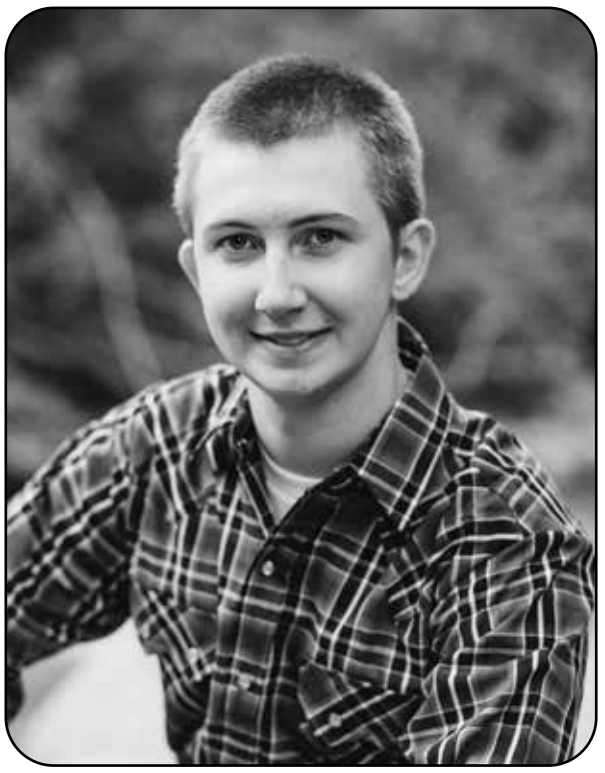
2026 Mitsis
Devin Clark
Alhana McNutt

2026 Pepsi
Kirsten Casillas
Devin Clark
Tyler Garcia
Naomi Green
Sawyer Kilbourne
Erin Kowalski
Jaid McNutt
Emma-Leigh Moore
Bryton Pender
Jack Sallinger
Heidi Schmidt
Haylie Tobel
Shasta Wing

2026 Chief Doc Slyter
Jacob Carnation
Evan Ellefsen

2026 Carolyn Slyter
Erin Kowalski
Shasta Wing

2026 Tribal Government
Beers, Ramil
Blankenship, Aurora
Bolling, Adam
Bradley, Levi
Brainard, Lee
Brainard, Tyler
Branco, Clayton
Byer, Tanner
Carnation, Jacob
Carroll, Lyndsay
Casillas, Kirsten
Clark, Devin
Ellefsen, Evan
Folkes, Maleyia
Gagner, Conor
Garcia, Tyler
Hall, Enza
Harmon, Aaron
Kilbourne, Griffin
Kilbourne, Sawyer
Kimura, Sydnie
Kowalski, Erin
Lozeau, Brody
Lum, Sydney
McNutt, Alhana
McNutt, Alyssa
Moore, Emma Leigh
Norton, Carter
Pender, Bryton
Sallinger, Jack
Sallinger, Ryan
Schmidt, Daniel
Schmidt, Heidi
Tervort, Conner
Tervort, Natasha
Tobel, Haylie
Vielma, Isa
Wisdom, Mayah
Wright, Abbie
Wright, Isaac



Conner Tervort

Conner Tervort earned his Associates of Arts Degree from Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada.
Conner persevered and found his path after changing majors and facing challenges in his academic career, and is now on his way to earning his Bachelor's Degree in English from Great Basin College for a future career in Publishing and Editing.

Isabelle Green

Isabelle Green earned her Associates in pre-nursing. Isabelle will be joining the Registered Nursing Program at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon this fall.



Kaylynne Grigsby

Kaylynne Grigsby earned her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Certification from Lane Community College.
After completing her final exam, she was immediately hired at the Peace Health Peace Harbor Medical Center in Florence.



Elders Trip to Grand Ronde

Contributed by Kimmy Bixby, Community Health Representative

On July 12th, CTCLUSI Elders loaded up the vans and bus from Coos Bay, Florence and Eugene to head out to Spirit Mountain Casino for the night.

Once everyone arrived and checked in, we met for dinner at Mountain View Restaurant inside the casino. From burgers, sandwiches, fish & chips and salads, we all seemed to enjoy our food, along with a little dessert afterward.

Some gambling may have gone down that night before lights out. Congratulations to all who won!

The morning of Grand Ronde's Elders Honor Day, we met outside the events center dressed in our ribbon skirts and shirts. Everyone settled at their tables with a yummy breakfast while waiting for the event to begin. After Color Guard presented flags and Opening Prayer, Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy announced that anyone who didn't have a ribbon skirt could come up and pick one to borrow for the day!

After raffle drawings and socializing, we got to hear from Grand Ronde's Canoe Family about their journey, before we began lining up for lunch.

During the delicious buffet lunch, Grand Ronde's Tribal Children introduced themselves and entertained us all with a beautiful song and dance. The cultural sharing through drumming, singing and dancing was wonderful and enjoyed by all. Cheryle then announced that the ribbon skirts were in fact NOT lenders, but a gift from their Tribe! One of our Tribal Elders, Veteran Peggy Shobe was gifted with a beautiful red and blue ribbon skirt. She accepted with tears of happiness.

Before closing and retiring of the flags, we all played 5 rounds of Bingo. Many of our CTCLUSI Elders won!

When the event was over, some of our Elders headed to view the Longhouse, while others headed home.

Thank you to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for their hospitality and entertainment!







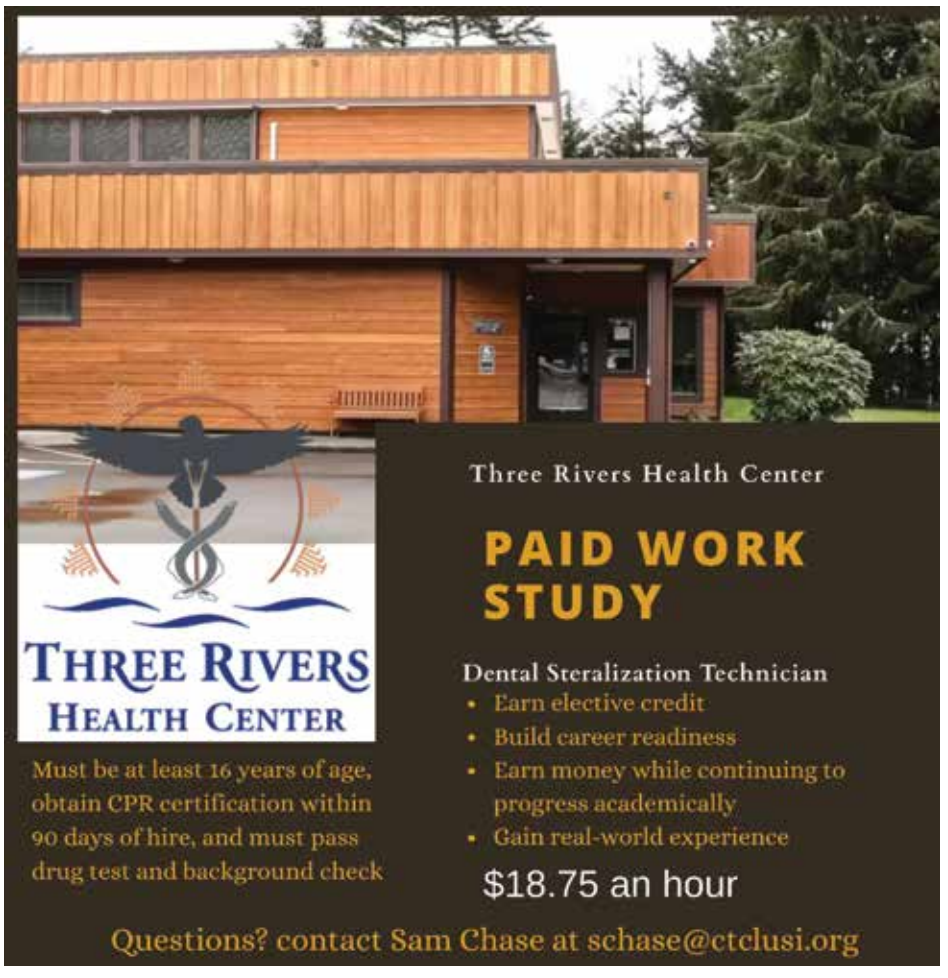












Supplemental Security Income Program for Elders

On December 18, 2026 Tribal Council approved Resolution 25-217 to Increase the Tribal Elders Pension and Supplemental Security Income beginning on January 1, 2026. Tribal Elders aged 65 and up are eligible for this $1,000 monthly supplemental security Income.

An application form is required. The form can be found on the Tribal Government website or using this web address ***https://laserfiche.ctclusi.org/Forms/Elder-Supplemental-Security-Income***

Need assistance filling out your application or have questions about the program?

Contact the Enrollment Department today at 541-435-7178.

Elders Corner

BARBARA BLACK,

TRIBAL NAVIGATOR/COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE

IS MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION!

New address is:
Three Rivers Health Center
250 Hull Street, Coos Bay, OR 97420.
Phone: 541-888-7520
Cell: 541-294-5472

Also moving with her are the Frozen meals, Fresh Vegetables, and Over-The-Counter medications.

Elders Lunch

September 10th, 2026

Florence Outreach Office

(Blue Room Conference Area)

3757 Hwy 101

Florence, OR. 97439

Door open 11:30am

Lunch at Noon



Please RSVP By Friday September 4, 2026

To Doug Morrison (541) 997-6685

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
Health and Social Services Division

Welcome New Tribal Elder

Doreen Belcher

CTCLUSI Tribal Offices Holiday Closures

All CTCLUSI Tribal Government Offices will be CLOSED in Observance of these holidays

Labor Day - Monday, September 7

Native American Day - Friday, September 25

Indigenous People's Day - Monday, October 12

CTCLUSI Restoration Day - Saturday, October 17, observed Friday, October 16

Veteran's Day - Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 26

Native American Heritage Day - Friday, November 27

Staff Appreciation Day (Christmas Eve) - Thursday, December 24

Chirstmas Day - Friday, December 25

SAVE THE DATE

Eugene Elders Luncheon

Thursday, October 8, 2026
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Location: TBD
We hope to see you there!

3rd Distribution for the Hands of Harvest Farmers Market Program

Application Opens August 16th
Close September 15th

Scan QR Code to open and fill out Hands of Harvests Application Form.

CTCLUSI Enrolled Tribal Member Households Required.
First-come, first-served system!

Be sure to apply as soon as possible if you are interested in utilizing the Farmers Market Program in Coos Bay & Eugene, Oregon.

Culture Sector DCNR Gatherings

Honoring Our Relationships with Land, Season, and Community

Contributed by Alycia Cossey, Cultural Stewardship Associate

Throughout the year, the DCNR Culture Sector hosts gatherings that create opportunities for Tribal citizens and families to reconnect with cultural teachings, strengthen relationships, and spend time together in community. These gatherings are not simply events, they are opportunities to practice, learn, and carry forward the teachings that continue to guide our people.

Cedar Gathering – May 22

On May 22, Tribal citizens gathered with support from the Department of Culture & Natural Resources (DCNR) Culture Sector for our annual cedar harvest on sha'yuushtɬ'a tɬ'a'ai (Siuslaw homelands). The gathering offered an opportunity to reconnect with cedar and learn the teachings surrounding respectful harvesting like understanding when and how to harvest, taking only what is needed, and caring for the trees so they can continue to heal and thrive for future generations.

A meaningful moment of the day was witnessing youth Ray Cloud and Elder Roy Brainard harvest cedar for the first time. Their participation reflected the importance of creating opportunities for multiple generations to learn alongside one another and carry these teachings forward.

Isaac Dull also crafted cedar prying and scraping tools from ocean spray specifically for the harvest. These handmade tools worked exceptionally well and demonstrated the knowledge, creativity, and resourcefulness that comes from working with materials provided by the land.

Beyond the cedar itself, the day was filled with laughter, storytelling, and shared knowledge. Participants strengthened relationships with one another, with the cedar trees, and with the lands that continue to sustain our people. Gatherings like these remind us that cultural teachings are not simply preserved; they are lived, practiced, and strengthened through our relationships with each other and all our relations.





Ray Cloud Pulling Red Cedar for the first time, with Isaac Dull, Jesse Beers, and elder Roy Brainard. Photo Credit: Alycia Cossey

Pictured left: Ocean spray tool created by Isaac Dull aka 'Stickie' Photo Credit: Alycia Cossey





Elder Roy Brainard Pulling Red Cedar for the first time. Photo Credit: Alycia Cossey





Isaac Dull and iila Kirk Processing Cedar Photo Credit: Alycia Cossey

Culture Sector DCNR Gatherings

Honoring Our Relationships with Land, Season, and Community

Contributed by Alycia Cossey, Cultural Stewardship Associate

Summer Solstice – June 19–22

From June 19–22, Tribal citizens and families gathered to celebrate the Summer Solstice, honoring the sun for its long days, warmth, energy, and life-giving power while acknowledging the gradual return of shorter days.

Throughout the weekend, community members participated in activities that connected us to seasonal teachings, including the building of a traditional earth oven, cultural learning, weaving, personal projects, songs, dances, and shared meals. Participants also took part in several sweats throughout the gathering, including a women's sweat, men's sweat, and a hijii, xe, s'a (he, she, they) sweat for relatives who identify outside the male/female gender binary. Many women participated in sweat for the first time and shared that the experience was meaningful and healing for both body and spirit to say the least.

Meals throughout the weekend highlighted many First Foods (foods Indigenous to the Americas) including blue corn pancakes, pine nut butter, shore pinecone syrup, salmon, venison, pickled sea asparagus, and other seasonal foods alongside familiar favorites.

On June 21, community gathered at Sunset Bay to spend time together through games, a barbecue, and connection on the beach. That evening, Chief Barrett offered a ceremonial blessing for the solstice fire, and Mok Petrie tended the fire throughout the night and into the following day, ensuring it remained burning for the duration of the ceremony.

Each evening, community gathered in the plankhouse to practice songs and dance together. The Solstice Feast featured smoked steelhead chowder, hominy stew, microgreens salad, berry cobbler, and s'mores. Before the dances began, Elder Brenda Brainard shared stories about Tribal Hall and why this place holds such significance for our people. Dancers then shared with the community a few traditional dances, including the dip net dance, feather dance, and all who were able joined in the friendship dance. The evening concluded with community gifting, where relatives brought and shared gifts with one another.

Approximately 50–60 community members participated each day, including many people attending their first cultural gathering. It was beautiful to welcome both familiar and new faces into a space centered on connection, learning, and belonging.

Summer Solstice is a gathering for Tribal members and their families. We recognize that entering cultural spaces can sometimes feel intimidating, especially as many teachings continue to be reclaimed within our community. Everyone is encouraged to ask questions, connect with knowledge holders, and spend time in community. There is no expectation that anyone already knows everything. Each person carries unique gifts, experiences, and teachings that strengthen our community when they are shared.

Through gatherings like Cedar Harvest and Summer Solstice, we continue to nurture relationships with the land, our ancestors, our teachings, and one another. Culture remains alive through the ways we gather, practice, and care for each other.



Isaac Dull shows prepared salmon wrapped with fresh vegetables and skunk cabbage leaves before cooking in the earth oven. The salmon was provided through the Tribe's annual salmon allotment, the vegetables were sourced from the local farmers market, and the skunk cabbage was respectfully gathered on miluk homelands in coordination with South Slough Reserve. Photo Credit: Nicole Romine



Earth Oven Prep laying down Sword Ferns and skunk Cabbage. Mok Petrie, Ashley Vandevort, Mexeye Vandevort, Isaac Dull, and Eddie Helms Photo Credit: Nicole Romine



Earth oven Prep. Roy Brainard, Isaac Dull, John Schafer, mok Petrie, and Eddie Helms. Photo Credit: Daylen Cossey



Shinny and hanging out at Sunset Beach Photo Credit: Alycia Cossey



Getting ready to dance in the Plank house Ashley Vandevort, Alycia Cossey, Enna Helms and Daughters Isa and Liila Photo Credit: Daniel Vandevort

Good Things to Come in August

Contributed by: Elizabeth Escobedo, MS, CHES, CNC Diabetes Educator
Sources: American Diabetes Association, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Health, Indian Health Service (IHS)

August is a special month for our community. It is National Wellness Month. It is also a time when we honor the salmon, a fish that has nourished our tribes for generations. This month, those two things come together beautifully on one plate.

Salmon: Honored Then and Now

Salmon is something special to our community. This month, we gather to honor it. From the catch, the fish, and even the bones. Our tribes have known this long before any study.

Today, science agrees. The American Diabetes Association says to eat fatty fish like salmon at least twice a week. Salmon has omega-3 fats. These are healthy fats that help protect your heart. Salmon is also high in protein. Protein helps you feel full after a meal.

Blackberries Bring More Than Sweetness

Wild berries have long been part of traditional foods, and for good reasons. Studies show that eating berries often is linked to a lower risk of type 2 diabetes and a reduced risk of heart attack. Blackberries are also full of fiber. Fiber slows the flow of sugar into the bloodstream, leading to a gradual, gentle rise rather than a quick spike. This is good for everyone, whether you have diabetes or are working to prevent it.

A Plate Full of Good Things

This is what wellness looks like in our community, not rules or restrictions. It is about eating foods that have always been good for us. A piece of salmon. A handful of blackberries. Some fresh greens. Good food that connects us to the land, traditions, and each other.

This salad is for everyone. Living with diabetes. Supporting someone who is. Or just looking for a fresh summer meal. This one is for you.



Image and recipe from: eatfresh.org

Coastal Salmon BlackBerry Salad

Serves: 2

Ingredients:

- 3 cups Blackberries
- 3 tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar *optional*
- 1 1/2 tablespoons Maple Syrup
- 2 Wild Salmon *fillets, 3oz. each*
- 1/2 cup Spinach *or Claytonia Perfoliate*
- 1/4 teaspoon Sea Salt *optional*
- 3/4 teaspoon Black Pepper *optional*
- 1/2 cup Feta Cheese *crumbled optional*
- 3/4 cup Walnuts *chopped*

Instructions:

1. Prepare a small pot over medium heat. Wash produce items before use.
2. Add 1 cup of blackberries, balsamic vinegar, and maple syrup to small pot. Mash blackberries as they become heated. Simmer sauce for 15 minutes and remove from heat. Sauce will thicken as it cools.
3. Prepare to grill salmon fillets. Oil the grill. Wash and pat salmon dry. Lightly coat with olive oil cooking spray and sprinkle with salt and pepper(optional). For best quality and to prevent flaking use a fish grill basket.
4. Grill salmon covered for 7-10 minutes, turning one time. Salmon is cooked when it flakes easily.
5. Put spinach greens on two plates. Top with the remaining blackberries, cheese, walnuts, and optional balsamic vinegar dressing. Place grilled salmon on top and cover with blackberry sauce.

Scan the QR Code at left to visit https://eatfresh.org/recipe/main-dish/coastal-blackberry-salmon-salad/for full recipe, step by step instructions with photos and full nutritional facts.



Resolution Summaries

Number	Date	Subject/Title	Vote
26-129	06/24/2026	Approval of Emergency Amendment to CLUSITC Chapter 3-4 Hunting Fishing Trapping and Shellfish Gathering section 3-4-23	7-0-0
26-130	06/24/2026	2026 Hunting and Fishing Regulations	7-0-0
26-131	06/24/2026	OHA (Oregon Health Authority) THHGP (Tribal Healthy Homes Grant Program) Data Sharing Agreement	7-0-0
26-132	06/24/2026	TruNarc Delta Handheld Narcotics Analyzer Purchase	6-0-1
26-133	06/24/2026	Gallagher Proposal of Insurance	7-0-0
26-134	06/24/2026	Silviculture Budget	7-0-0
26-135	06/24/2026	Approval of Amended Project Budget for the 1275 Ocean Blvd Project	7-0-0
26-136	06/24/2026	TRC Machine Order	7-0-0
26-137	06/24/2026	TRC Machine Order	7-0-0



Housing and Social Services Relocation Notice

Dear Tribal Citizens,

The Housing Department and Social Services Department will be relocating to the Tribe's new Outreach location at:

1275 Ocean Blvd.
Coos Bay, OR 97420

The newly remodeled location is nearly complete, and our target date to be fully operational at the new site is August 3rd. Please plan any visits on or after August 3rd accordingly.

For reference, the new Outreach location is located on Ocean Blvd., right between EZ Mini-Storage and Coos Bay Marine.

During the transition, including staff relocation and equipment setup, there may be temporary delays in email and phone responses. For urgent matters, please contact the Coos Bay Tribal Government Office at: 541-888-9577.

We look forward to welcoming you at the new location and continuing to provide services to the community.









Photographs shared by Melanie Mateski, Housing Navigator, show the progress as of 7/14/26.

Wildfire Season is Here

Contributed by Leslie Thompson, Housing Assistant

Did you know that wildfires only need dry fuel, air, and heat to ignite? Typical wildfire season runs between June and October, however in more recent years they are starting earlier and last longer into the year with increased intensity. They can cause loss of life, property damage, air pollution, and exacerbate already delicate medical conditions.

Steps to prevent wildfires

- Completely extinguish campfires: Douse them with water, suffocate them with dirt, stir the ashes and keep repeating this process until the ashes are cool to the touch.
- Follow local regulations: Research and determine the local fire regulations for your region, and follow them. Contact you local fire department, county emergency management office, state forestry agency, or public land agency that manages the area you live/ plan to visit.
- Create/ Maintain a defensible space: At least 100 ft around your home. Remove dead vegetation, trim and remove tree branches, keep grass and shrubs well-watered and trimmed.
- Dispose of burning butts properly: No matter what kind, never discard of burning butts on the ground or out a vehicle window. Use designated containers and dispose of them responsibly.
- Equipment safety: Use equipment that can generate sparks such as chainsaws or lawnmowers during non-risk periods (*early morning-late night*). Double check to make sure that any equipment that is used outdoors has spark arresters.
- Practice safe burning: Follow local regulations, never leave a burn pile unattended, always have water and tools nearby to control the fire if needed.
- Use fire resistant plants: Fire resistant plants are plants that don't readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. Although fire-resistant plants can be damaged or even killed by fire, their foliage and stems don't contribute significantly to the fuel and, therefore, the fire's intensity.

The Housing Department wants everyone to stay safe, and have a happy, healthy summer. We can all do our part to keep our homes and community around us safe by preventing wildfires from igniting.



CTCLUSI
TRIBAL HOUSING

Tribally Owned HUD Housing

Did you know that if you meet CTCLUSI's program criteria, you may qualify for low-income housing where you only pay 20% of your adjusted gross income towards rent?

We have single-family units, duplexes, and 4-plexes with 1-4 bedrooms, depending on the need and availability.

All of our units are maintained by the CTCLUSI's Maintenance Dept., and rent is paid directly to CTCLUSI's Housing Dept. This program utilizes waitlists when units are unavailable.

Low-Income units in Coos Bay/ North Bend & Florence

CTCLUSI Tribal Preference

Be a part of your community!

Build your rental history!

Contact us at the information below

CTCLUSI
Housing Dept.

1320 Neese St.
Coos Bay, OR 97420

(541)-888-1310

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

https://ctclusi.org/housing-department/

For more information regarding fire resistant plants, and/ or other information about wildfire season:
https://wfca.com/wildfire-articles/oregon-fire-season/
https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/firestats.aspx
https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pnw-590-fire-resistant-plants-home-landscapes

CTCLUSI Human Resources
recruitment@ctclusihr.org

COOS BAY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Department	Job Title	Status	Age	Starting Wage
Special Events	Depends on Assignment ⁂	OC	14+	Depends on Assignment
Health Services	Clinical Pharmacist	FT	18+	$127,874/yr – DOE
Health Services	Community Health Nurse*	FT	25+	$83,430/yr - DOE
Forestry	Director of Forest Management*	FT	25+	$92,680.79/yr - DOE
Health Services	Charge Capture Specialist	FT	19+	$60,640.32/yr - DOE
Housing	Director of Housing*	FT	25+	$82,678.03/yr - DOE
Health Services	Pharmacy Biller	FT	18+	$24.65/hr - DOE
Natural Resources & Culture	Language Program Manager⁂*	FT	25+	$74,159.64/yr - DOE
Health Services	Medical Assistant	FT	18+	$22.00/hr - DOE
Education	Youth Workforce Participant	Temp.	14+	$18.75/hr

FLORENCE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Department	Job Title	Status	Age	Starting Wage
Special Events	Depends on Assignment ⁂	OC	14+	Depends on Assignment
Natural Resources & Culture	Language Program Manager⁂*	FT	25+	$74,159.64/yr - DOE

EUGENE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Department	Job Title	Status	Age	Starting Wage
Special Events	Depends on Assignment ⁂	OC	14+	Depends on Assignment
Natural Resources & Culture	Language Program Manager⁂*	FT	25+	$74,159.64/yr - DOE

*Position requires a valid driver's license and ability to be insurable by CTCLUSI's insurance agency.
⁂ This position is posted for various locations. Please see the job posting for more details.

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 become available.
Updated: 07/21/2026

Seeking Qualified Candidates for Blue Earth Federal Corporation Board of Directors

Contributed by Kerry Brainard, President-Blue Earth Federal Corporation

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) invites enrolled Tribal members and qualified applicants from the public to apply for open positions on the Board of Directors of **Blue Earth Federal Corporation**.

Blue Earth is a federally chartered, 100% Tribally-owned corporation focused on creating sustainable economic opportunities, generating revenue for the Tribe, and building long-term prosperity for our people. As a board member, you will play a key leadership role in setting strategic direction, exercising strong financial oversight, and advancing projects that honor Tribal values and priorities.

Ideal candidates will offer:

- Significant business, financial, or operational expertise
- Deep commitment to Tribal sovereignty and economic self-sufficiency
- Integrity, strategic vision, and collaborative leadership skills
- Ability to attend regular board meetings and contribute actively

This is a meaningful opportunity to serve your Tribe and help guide one of CTCLUSI's most important economic engines. Board service carries important fiduciary responsibilities and the chance to create lasting impact.

How to Apply: Submit a letter of interest and current resume to: Kerry Brainard, President Blue Earth Federal Corporation Email: kerry.brainard@blue-earth.us Phone: 541-953-2854

Applications reviewed on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

Help build a stronger, more diverse economic future for our people.

Apply today!

Blue Earth Federal Corporation

Confederated Tribes of Coos
Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

Upcoming Events

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

Be on the Lookout: Fall Equinox Box sign-ups will be opening in early August! The registration link will be posted on the website, socials, and sent out via text. Keep an eye out so you don't miss it.

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Breakfast Sponsored by Tribal Council 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. Storytelling & Open Mic Sponsored by Culture Coalition 10:30 a.m.
2 Salmon Ceremony baldija (Coos Bay)	3 Salmon Remains Return (Umpqua)	4 Salmon Remains Return (Siuslaw)	5	6	7	8
9 Regular Council Meeting 10:00 am	10	11 Elders Trip - Leavenworth, WA.	12	13 Culture Committee Meeting TBD 4pm	14 Social Services sponsored Block Party at Qaxas, 11am-2pm	15
16 Hands of Harvest 3rd Distribution Applications Open, Apply Today!	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25 Summer Culture Camp	26 Business Council Meeting 6:00 pm	27	28	29

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 All Offices Closed in observance of Labor Day	8	9	10 Elders Luncheon Florence Outreach 11:30 a.m Culture Committee Meeting TBD 4pm	11 2027 Calendar Photo Submission Deadline Crime Summit TRCR Florence	12
13 Regular Council Meeting 10:00 am	14	15	16	17	18	19 Back to School BBQ with Education Dept Honeyman State Park
20	21	22 miluk class 4pm	23 hanis class 4pm	24 wa'as class 4pm	25	26
27	28	29 miluk class 4pm	30 Business Council Meeting 6:00 pm hanis class 4pm	1 wa'as class 4pm	2	3 Littles Program Language Class 9am

3rd Distribution for the Hands of Harvest Farmers Market Program

Application Opens August 16th Close September 15th

Scan QR Code to open and fill out Hands of Harvests Application Form.

CTCLUSI Enrolled Tribal Member Households Required.

First-come, first-served system!

Be sure to apply as soon as possible if you are interested in utilizing the Farmers Market Program in Coos Bay & Eugene, Oregon.

If You Need to Talk, the 988 Lifeline is Here

At the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, we understand that life's challenges can sometimes be difficult. Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our caring counselors are here for you.

You are not alone.

The 988 Lifeline is for everyone. Through the 988 Lifeline, you have access to free, quality, one-on-one assistance. Skilled, judgment-free counselors provide compassionate support. You deserve to feel heard and cared about anytime, anywhere, 24/7/365. Learn more online at https://988lifeline.org/

Dial or Text 988







