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no. 10
October
2001

SILETZ NEWS

Publication by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Vol. 29, No. 10, October 2001



Portland-area youth raft and swim in the McKenzie River. See more photos of Siletz Tribal members in Portland, plus details on another tribally sponsored rafting trip on page 12.

Portland Area Tribal Teens Go Rafting

by Katy Kaady

It's 7 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2001. Eighteen teens and four adults wait to take off from the Portland area office to head toward Eugene for a day of rafting on the McKenzie River. Most of the youth have never rafted before and may not be sure what is in store for them. As it turned out, the day was absolutely beautiful; the weather was in perfect cooperation with clear skies, sunshine, and beautiful landscapes.

Every teen who ventured to come along was absolutely great. They were considerate, fun, cooperative, and full of spunk. We learned how to work as a team, how to turn the rafts right, left, and sometimes completely around. We also learned what to do if we happened to be tossed overboard or got stuck on a rock or boulder.

We learned how to face our fear and work together each time we were confronted with what seemed like some pretty heavy-duty rapids. We enjoyed this day of roller coaster rafting as well as water fights between rafts, swimming in what seemed at first like freezing water, and an occasional dunking.

Our thanks go out to some very wonderful people who made this trip possible: George Nagel, Siletz Mental Health Program, our guide and raft expert who also brought the rafts, equipment, and life jackets from Siletz; Kay Steele, who transported one van full of youth to our destination and back, all while photographing our trip from beginning to end; and Connie Seaburn, our parent volunteer and chaperone.

On the Tragic Events of Sept. 11

by Delores Pigsley

Although several weeks have passed since the unspeakable horror of Sept. 11, we feel, and for a long, long time will feel, sorrow for those who were injured or died in that catastrophe and for the hundreds who still are unaccounted for.

Although we can only imagine the anguish of families, friends, and associates who were left behind by this devastation, I can speak for all members of our tribe that our hearts and prayers are with them.

What happens now to us and our nation will test our strength, courage, and spirit. The Siletz Tribe and other tribes know what that means, for we have suffered throughout history, including the ravages of termination. We were tested and we endured.

We will be called on to make sacrifices – inconveniences and shortages, perhaps even the curtailment of our liberties, though we must be ever vigilant against unnecessary curtailment of our liberties. We also must remember that the strength of our nation lies in our ethnic and religious diversity –

What a wonderful and invigorating day for everyone involved.

Thank you goes to the Siletz Alcohol and Drug Program and Youth Education Program for making this trip possible and bringing our Portland-area youth together.



whether followers of the Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, American Indian – and Moslem – religions.

I am confident that we, the members of the Siletz Tribe, will be up to the challenge and will do our part to see our nation through this crisis with commitment, courage, and dignity.

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Siletz News
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University of Oregon Library
Received on: 09-27-01
Siletz news
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

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