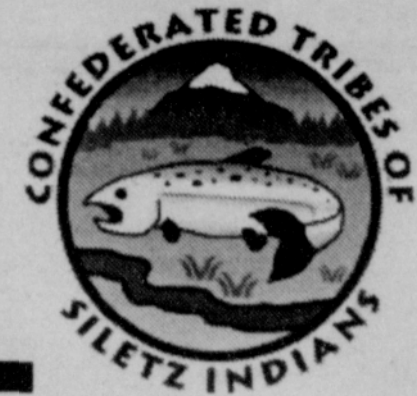


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# ILETZ NEWS

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## Clements Praises Siletz Tribe at Restoration

Rudy Clements said it all:

"They have understood what was right for them and what was not, and they have known what they needed and what they could do without. They have not been afraid to go ahead when they had to, but neither have they been unwilling to bend when it was necessary."

The director of tribal relations for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs made these comments in his keynote address at the Siletz Tribe's 24<sup>th</sup> Restoration Celebration on Nov. 17. His address started a day of food, song, video, and dance.

Emcee Ed Ben, Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley, and the Siletz Royalty kicked off the afternoon's activities. The current royalty – Waleeska Riding In, Tiffany Stuart, and Leslie Lundy-Medlin – were joined by Tasha Rilatos and Sara Bell for the Lord's Prayer.

Rudy then delivered his speech, taking people back 25 years, when few people had heard of the Siletz Tribe or knew that it had been terminated. Despite the obstacles of termination, the tribe found a way to move forward.

"It set its goals, but it was willing to adapt them. It listened to the concerns of its neighbors and respected their interests," said Rudy. "But the tribe also listened to the ways of its own people, and it kept these interests above all others."

Few people, he said, can fully appreciate what the Siletz Tribe has accomplished.

"But the evidence of what the tribe has achieved is all around us. That evidence is in the faces of the Siletz people. It is also in the lands of the Siletz Reservation, its water and trees, its salmon and deer. The significance

of today's celebration is not only that the Siletz have regained and re-established a land for their people, but that they have recaptured a strong spirit for their future."

Following a delicious buffet prepared by Chinook Winds Casino, the audience was treated to a performance by children in Siletz Tribal Head Start. Several children sang songs and others were featured on video.

Another video featured the Oregon Social Learning Center and its work in helping the tribe preserve its ancient stories. Tribal elders, including Sherry Eddings and Esther Stutzman, related the old stories to an audience of children and adults in the dance house.

Frank Petersen helped honor all those who have participated in the seven Run to the Rogue relays. Accompanied by videotape, Frank spoke of how the run came to be – of Jessica Werth's



Ed Ben (l) and Dee Pigsley wrap a Siletz Pendleton blanket around Rudy Clements, who delivered the keynote address at the Restoration Celebration.

enthusiastic exclamation that this is something she wants to do and of Mike Darcy traveling the first mile in 1995.

The evening's pow-wow included a Memorial Honor Dance for those Siletz Tribal members who have passed away during the last year. This occurred

amid several hours of dancing, singing, and drumming, all in the name of the second Indian tribe in the nation to regain its federal recognition.



The Siletz Elders presented this enlarged photo to Chinook Winds Casino to display. Pictured are mothers Angeline Bell (l), Pearl Rilatos, Aurilla Tom, Augusta Simmons, and Maude Lane.

See more  
Restoration  
Celebration  
highlights on  
pages 3, 8, and 9.

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