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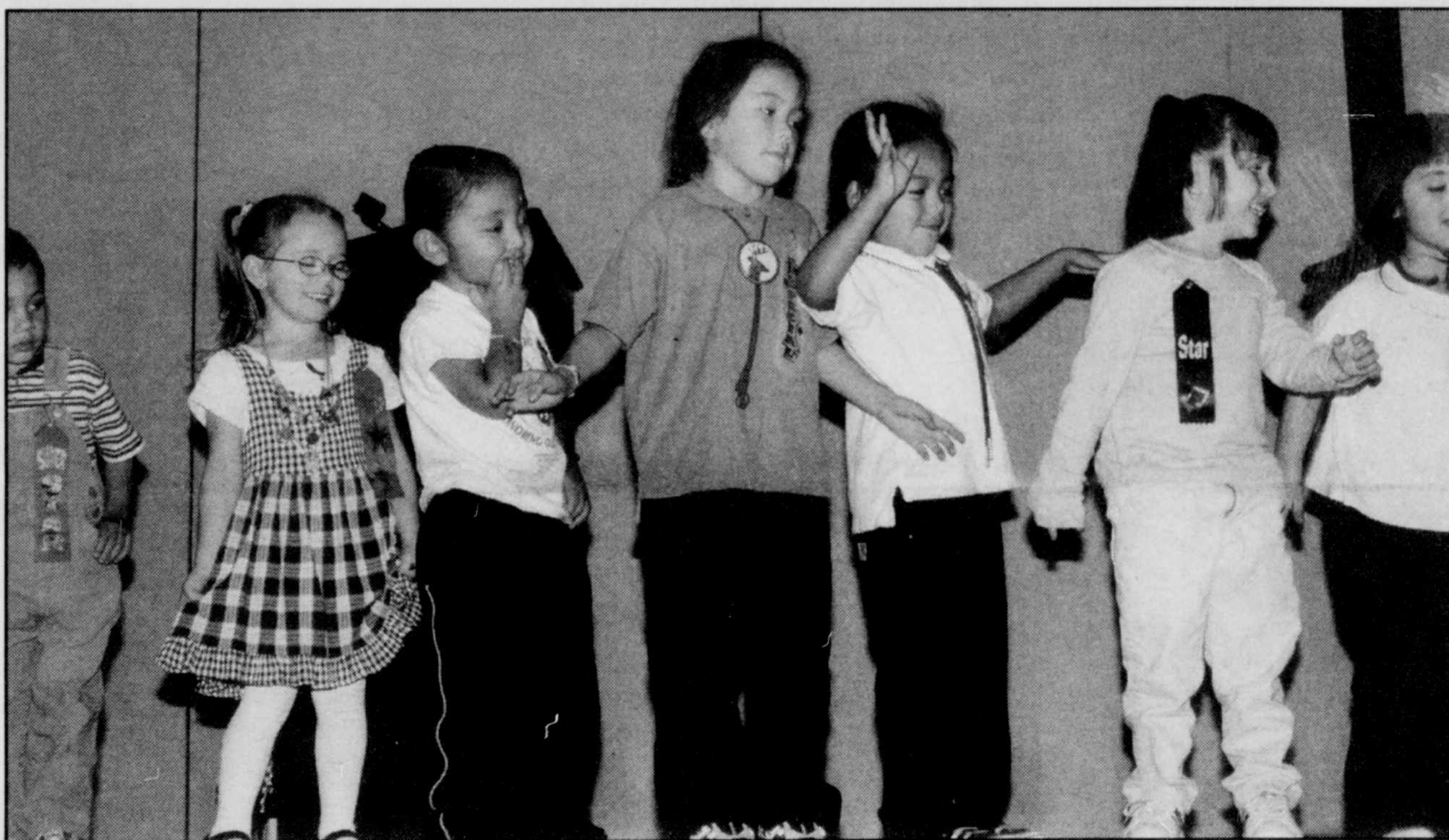


NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

Vol. 31, No. 12 December 2003

Restoration Celebration Draws Families, Friends of the Tribe



Siletz Tribal Head Start kids entertain the crowd with the Hokey Pokey.

The children from Head Start serenaded the crowd as families and friends enjoyed the Siletz Tribe's 26th Anniversary Restoration Celebration on Nov. 15 at Chinook Winds Casino.

Fourteen children first sang *The Wheels on the Bus*, following it with three more numbers. A microphone passed from child to child, with some barely audible and others belting out tunes.

Drawings for several new treaty blankets – red and black with the basketcap design – took place during

the festivities, which included guest speakers Stan Speaks, regional director of the BIA, and former Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

Speaks recapped the history of the Siletz Tribe from the establishment of the original reservation in 1855.

"The Siletz Indians, living on the river by that name, and 26 other bands formed the nucleus of the Indians on the reservation. Most of the coast tribes to the south and on the lower Rogue River were moved onto the reservation in 1856 and 1857," he said.

Speaks quickly moved on to 1977, when the tribe was restored on Nov. 18. Since then, the tribe has grown in numbers and prospered.

"What I have observed ... is the continuous strong and dedicated leadership of this tribe. Leaders and council members that have walked the

halls of the Interior Department in Washington, D.C. They have walked the halls of Congress. They've worked from a government-to-government relationship with the governor of the state of Oregon. And they have worked with the various departments of the state of Oregon. And I will say that this tribe is recognized throughout the Northwest and across Indian Country," he said.

"The tribe's economic and business development has brought success to the tribe, jobs for its people, jobs to non-Indian people up and down the coast of Oregon. The tribe has been extremely good for the state of Oregon, extremely good for Lincoln County."

Gov. Atiyeh specifically addressed tribal members less than 27 years old.

"What you have today came from desperation, hard work, frustration, and a constant fight to overcome hatred," he said, and had them give a round of applause in grateful appreciation to those who had so little and gave so much.

Jake Vasey from Sen. Darlene Hooley's office read a speech that she gave on the Senate floor on Nov. 18 recognizing the tribe's restoration.

The comedy/musical duo of Williams & Ree played several songs during the buffet luncheon, including a few requests from the crowd.

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