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NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Vol. 33, No. 11 November 2005



Bud Lane shares the history of the Siletz and Grays Harbor people. The Siletz and Grays Harbor people welcome the Maori people of New Zealand to Oregon (see photos on page 9). An exhibition of Maori Weaving – Toi Maori: The Eternal Thread – is on display at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University through Dec. 22, 2005.



Chasta Patrick, Jennifer Easter, Stuart Marceau, and Chrissy Joe Perkins gather for Run to the Rogue. See more photos on pages 4 and 7.

Siletz Tribe Invites You to 28th Annual Restoration Celebration

On Nov. 19, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians will hold its annual Restoration Pow-Wow at Chinook Winds Casino Resort. The public is invited to this free event, which begins with a grand entry at 6 p.m.

Siletz cultural displays and American Indian vendors – with jewelry, beadwork, and other items for sale – will be available throughout the day. For those not familiar with American Indian culture, a Culture Room will include Siletz Tribal displays and a tribal video.

This is the 28th year the Siletz Tribe has celebrated the signing of Public Law 95-195, which re-established government-to-government relations between the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the federal government. The Siletz Tribe was among the tribes of Western Oregon that were terminated from federal recognition in August 1954.

In the late 1960s, recognizing the severe effects of termination, a core group of tribal members worked to revitalize common bonds. It soon became apparent that the only way to reverse the downward spiral in the quality of life for tribal members – and to preserve and revitalize tribal culture – was for the Siletz Tribe to regain its status as a tribe recognized by the United States.

In November 1977, after years of intense lobbying, Congress and President Jimmy Carter approved Public Law 95-195, which reinstated recognition of the Siletz as a federal Indian tribe. The Siletz Tribe was the second in the nation – and the first in Oregon – to achieve restoration.

Since 1977, the tribe has made great strides in restoring and preserving tribal history, culture, and traditions. It also has re-established virtually all its institutions of government. The nine-member Tribal

Council has been very innovative in exploring options to produce revenue and provide services.

Dedicated to improving the quality of life of its more than 4,200 members, the tribe puts strong emphasis on the education, health, and the social well-being of all its members. Services are available to tribal members in an 11-county service area that includes Lincoln, Tillamook, Linn, Benton, Lane, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties.

Limited services also are available to tribal members living in other areas. The central office is in Siletz and the tribe operates three satellite offices in Portland, Salem, and Eugene.

Significant accomplishments of the Siletz Tribe include the opening of a state-of-the-art health clinic in 1991 that serves the Siletz Tribe and the local community; the building of more than 100 homes and multiple dwellings for tribal members; the completion of the Siletz Dance House in 1996; the opening of the Tenas Illahee Child Care Center, Siletz Valley School, and the Siletz Gas & Mini-Mart in 2003; and the opening of the Logan Road RV Park in Lincoln City.

To date, the most ambitious economic project of the Siletz Tribe is Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City, which opened in May 1995. The facility stands on ancestral land of the Siletz Tribe, which later became reservation and allotment land. Now again part of the Siletz Reservation, the land has come full circle, utilized once more by the descendants of those who originally dwelled upon it.

See Restoration on page 10.

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