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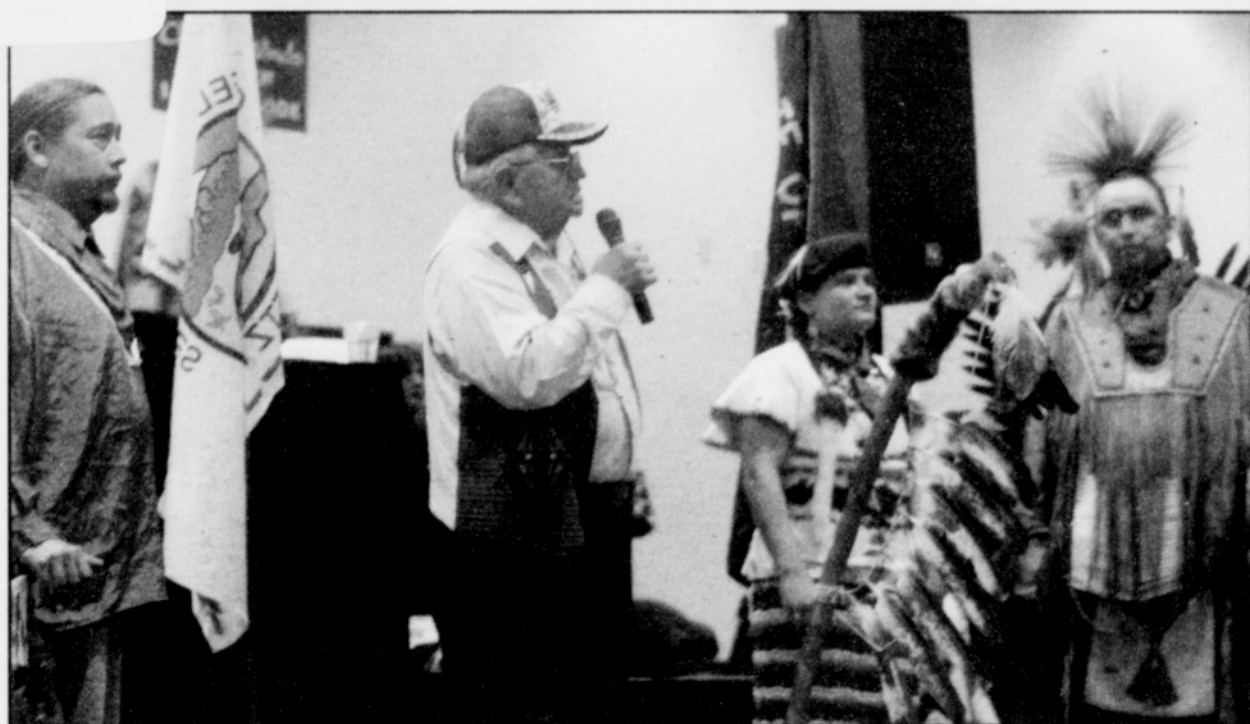
SILETZ



NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Vol. 34, No. 12 December 2006



Ed Ben introduces himself as a World War II veteran as Heather Walker and Harvey Whitford await their turn and Tony Whitehead looks on. Tony is the whipman for the Siletz Tribe and Ed, Heather, and Harvey joined others in the Color Guard for the Siletz Tribal Restoration Pow-Wow on Nov. 18.

Restoration and Beyond: An Era of Progress and Challenges

Remarks by Forrest J. Gerard
Siletz Tribal Restoration Celebration • Nov. 18, 2006

Good morning! I am honored to serve as one of the principal speakers to commemorate this important date in the history of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

First, I want to go back in time to the 1970s when I served on the professional staff of the Senate Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs, a committee that held jurisdiction for Indian legislative and oversight functions.

While attending the annual meeting of the National Congress of American Indians in Portland, Ore., a persistent lawyer from the Native American Rights Fund, Charles Wilkinson, encouraged my counterpart in the House of Representatives, Franklin Ducheneaux, and me to join him at a Siletz Tribal Council meeting to hear their justification for enactment of restoration legislation.

Franklin immediately agreed to be represented at the meeting by his assistant who had accompanied him to the NCAI meeting. Having no assistant, I was left with no choice but to attend the meeting in person. For me, this meeting

precipitated a long and gratifying relationship with the tribe and its members.

Several things stand out in my mind to this day on that council meeting.

- **First**, the council meeting was held in an A-frame building that I mistakenly thought was owned by the tribe; but the reality was at this stage in the history of the tribe, it owned **no** real property – land or buildings. Termination had indeed taken its toll.
- **Second**, the Tribal Council in session at Siletz represented the interests of Indian people whose ties with the federal government had been severed by an act of Congress in 1954. But if proponents of the termination policies believed that this tribe would fragment, assimilate into the general population, and ultimately lose its identity as a tribe, the meeting in Siletz soundly contradicted that belief.

See Restoration on page 12.

Charter Schools in Siletz Offer Opportunity for Complete Education

by Van Peters, School Administrator

Siletz Valley School (SVS) has entered its fourth year of providing an academic program for the K-8 students of the Siletz community.

When the Lincoln County School District (LCSD) announced its plans to close Siletz School at the end of the 2002-2003 school year, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians worked with the community on a charter school application.

The application was negotiated and approved by LCSD and SVS opened in September 2003 with an enrollment of 157 students. During the last three years, enrollment has increased to the current 195 students in grades K-8.

The term "charter school" means:

1. A school to which parents choose to send their children and that admits students on the basis of a lottery if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated
2. Operates in accordance with state law and has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency that includes a description of how student performance will be measured pursuant to state assessments that are required of other schools
3. Agrees to comply with the same federal and state audit requirements as do other elementary and secondary schools in the state
4. Meets all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety requirements
5. Is non-sectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution
6. Does not charge tuition

7. Is exempt from significant state or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools
8. Provides a program of elementary or secondary education in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives
9. Is governed by a local school board

Our School Profile

Ethnicity

- 67% American Indian
- 30% White
- 2% Hispanic
- 1% African American

Free/Reduced Lunch – 68%

Special Education Program – 24%

Mobility Rate – 23%

Special Programs

- Title VII (Indian Education Program)
- SMILE (math and science program sponsored by Oregon State University)
- Title I (for disadvantaged students)

We have 10 certified teachers, eight classified staff, four staff from the LCSD Special Education Department, and three ESD support staff who work with SVS students on a daily basis.

Accomplishments

We have met the conditions of the charter agreement that was negotiated with the school district in 2003. The main criteria included conducting an academic program that meets state education standards, having an annual financial audit of our revenue and ex-

See SVS on page 16.

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