

# SILETZ NEWS



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Siletz News  
Confederated Tribes of  
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**Honor Song** – The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians hosted the largest Restoration Pow-Wow crowd in Tribal history on Nov. 17 at Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City. Tribal members joined with American Indians from throughout the Northwest in an Honor Song during the pow-wow. The Honor Song was written by Chet Clark of the drum group Johonaaii and dedicated to the people of the Siletz Tribe for overcoming years of termination.

## Largest Restoration Pow-Wow Crowd Ever Helps Tribe Celebrate 30-Year Anniversary

by Brent Merrill

The people of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians have a long, rich history. Never before have so many people joined them in celebrating that history.

An overflow crowd of more than 1,000 people jammed the convention center at Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City, Ore., on Nov. 17 to participate in the Siletz Tribe's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Restoration celebration.

"Not only is this a very significant day in Tribal history, it is a very sig-

nificant day in the history of the State of Oregon as well," said Tribal Chairman Delores "Dee" Pigsley. "For the first time, a restored Tribe west of the Mississippi River has reached three decades of self-government.

"We are honored to have so many people join us in celebrating one of the most significant events in Tribal history," she said. "The support we have received from so many sources has been overwhelming and very appreci-

ated. We are moving forward in a positive way as a people and the people of Oregon are celebrating with us."

Tribal leaders, Tribal Elders, honored guests and dozens of Tribal dancers followed the Color Guard into the dance arena during grand entry. As the dancers moved throughout the dance area in a circle, the floor swayed with the rhythm of the movement, literally.

Tribal members had been preparing for the historic occasion all year. A Tribal Restoration Committee that included Tribal leaders and Tribal Elders met monthly throughout the year to plan the celebration. Tribal leaders and Tribal Elders from many Tribes throughout the Northwest made their way to Lincoln City for the Restoration pow-wow. Honored guests included former Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh.

Atiyeh sat in the front row with wife Delores and watched as young dancers circled the floor to the sounds of traditional drumming. He joined the overflow crowd in the center of the dance floor for an honor song that was written by Chet Clark of the drum group Johonaaii. Clark said he wrote the song to honor the people of the Siletz Tribe for overcoming termination and building a bright future for their young people to carry on their traditions.

Termination as a policy devastated Indian Tribes throughout the country when it was adopted by the federal government in 1954. When Congress passed the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act, it severed the trust relationship with Tribes guaranteed in treat-

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