



Siletz News
Confederated Tribes of
Siletz Indians
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380-0549

Delores Pigsley,
Tribal Chairman
Brenda Bremner,
General Manager
and Editor-in-Chief

*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 974
KNIGHT LIBRARY
ACQUISITION DEPT./SERIALS
1299 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE OR 97403-1205

Presorted
First-Class
Mail
U.S. Postage
Paid - Permit
No. 178
Salem, OR

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Vol. 36, No. 12 December 2008

SCA
OrColl
E
78
J06
9523
V. 36
no. 12
December
2008



HONORED – Shirley Walker presents awards to Ed Ben, Donna Kessinger and Angela Ramirez.

Trio Receives National Honors

Ben, Kessinger and Ramirez Honored as National Native Heroes

by Brent Merrill

One of the highlights of this year's 31st Annual Restoration Celebration was the honoring of three Tribal members as "Heroes."

Tribal Elder Shirley Walker, chairman of the Tribe's Elders' Council, used part of the Restoration Celebration events sched-

ule to honor the three Tribal members – Tribal Elder Ed Ben, Tribal Elder Donna Kessinger and Angela Ramirez – for their ongoing work in their communities.

Walker nominated Ben (her brother), Kessinger and Ramirez (her daughter) for the 2008 Heroes Project through

the National Resource Center on Native American Aging at the University of North Dakota and the Administration on Aging Title VI program.

See Heroes on page 12.



SIGN OF THANKS – Tyson Sibley and Brittany Mason present a poster from the freshman class while Jamie Heims reads a poem during the Veterans Ceremony on Nov. 10 at Siletz Valley School. See additional photos from the ceremony on page 7.

Fuel Spill Leads to Nesting Grounds

by Brent Merrill

When the New Carissa, a wood chip freighter, ran aground off the coast of Oregon near Coos Bay in 1999, it spilled 70,000 gallons of thick fuel oil into the ocean and onto nearby beaches.

Nearly nine years later, a settlement to one the state's worst ecological disasters has been reached and the last remaining piece of the shipwreck, a 200-ton piece of the 660-foot cargo vessel's engine, has been removed. The settlement involves the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, marbled murrelets and coastal land.

Following the spill, a multi-agency board of trustees – the New Carissa Oil Spill Natural Resources Trustees – was established as part of the settlement process. The Trustees consisted of state and federal agency representatives, members of the Siletz Tribe and members of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribe.

The Trustees were charged with establishing a restoration plan of action. A Final Restoration Plan was adopted by the Trustees in January 2006.

The cleanup of the shipwreck became kind of a national joke as the vessel broke apart and created not only an ecological disaster area, but an eyesore of a tourist attraction. In the weeks following the wreck, the U.S. Navy towed the bow out to sea and intentionally sank part of the wreckage with a torpedo.

While the stern sat trapped on the beach, a court battle ensued. The result of the court case was a settlement that provided the State of Oregon with funding to begin removing the rest of the wreckage and trying to mitigate the damage with interested local parties.

Trustees determined nearly 2,500 seabirds, including 262 marbled murrelets – a bird on the federal government's endangered and threatened species list – were killed or injured during the spill. Trustees also stated that 672 sanderlings and as many as eight snowy plovers perished. Snowy plovers are also a federally protected species of seabird.

See New Carissa on page 13.

What's Inside

Chairman's Report	2
Tribal Program News	3
Tribal Council Timesheets	9
Tribal Member News	10
Notices	15
Siletz Clinic	18
Chinook Winds	19
Letters to the Editor	21
Passages	23