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and Editor-in-Chief



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Photo by Brent Merrill

GRAND – Siletz Tribal Elder William “Chief Chewescla” DePoe lines up with Warm Springs Traditional Chief Delvis Heath for grand entry during “The Gathering of Oregon Nations Pow-Wow” on Saturday, Jan. 31. The celebration pow-wow was part of the State of Oregon’s 150th Birthday Celebration at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, Ore. See Pow-Wow story and more photos on page 10.

Tribe Elects Council Members Officers Also Selected for 2009

by Diane Rodriquez

Reggie Butler Sr., Lisa Brown and Jessie Davis were elected to the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians in elections held Feb. 7.

Butler Sr., from Siletz, Ore., was re-elected with 415 votes; Brown, also from Siletz, was elected with 401 votes; and Davis, from Keizer, Ore., was re-elected with 337.

“I’m happy to see that two incumbents were re-elected, indicating voter approval of the current government,” said Delores Pigsley, who again was chosen by the Tribal Council to continue as chairman of the Siletz Tribe. “We will miss and have missed former councilman Frank Simmons, who was also on the ballot but passed away recently. Re-election of the current officers also is an indication of voter approval of our government. We look forward to continuing our work as a council to better the lives of our Tribal members.”

The swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected council members took place Feb. 8. Officers are elected on an annual basis and those selected for 2009 were Pigsley, chairman; Alfred “Bud” Lane III, vice chairman; Tina Retasket, secretary; and Davis, treasurer.

“I feel very privileged and honored to be re-elected to the Council for another three-year term,” said Davis. “With the economy being in the state of recession as it is, we are going to have to work harder for our membership and I am glad I was re-elected so I can be a part of making it happen. I appreciate the trust and I will work for the best interest of everyone.”

The elected individuals will serve with Lillie Butler of Siletz, Lane of Siletz, and Pigsley of Salem, Ore., whose terms expire in 2010; and Loraine Butler, Robert Kentta and Retasket, all of Siletz, whose terms expire in 2011. Term of office is three years for each position on the nine-member council.

“I would like to thank all the members who voted for me. I would also like to say a special thank you to those who diligently campaigned on my behalf, said Butler Sr. “I will do my best to be a voice for the people and I will not forget who I work for.”

See Election on page 5.

Newport’s News-Times Apologizes to Siletz Tribe

Publisher Mark Bryan Offers Letter to Tribe, Simmons Family

by Brent Merrill

When Newport News-Times reporter Terry Dillman recently included statements made by the late Tribal Elder and then Tribal Council candidate Frank Simmons in an article about the Siletz Tribe’s upcoming elections, a line was crossed.

Dillman’s article in the News-Times titled “Siletz ready for council elections” appeared in the Jan. 23 issue prior to the Tribe’s Feb. 7 election and included comments posted by Tribal Elder Frank Simmons – who was a candidate for Tribal Council re-election at the time of his passing on Jan. 19. A service was held for Simmons at the Tribal Center in Siletz on Jan. 23.

The inclusion of Simmons’ Tribal Council candidate’s statement from the Tribe’s voter’s pamphlet in Dillman’s article on the day of Simmons’ funeral was more than Tribal leaders were willing to take from a newspaper that rarely seeks both sides of the story when it comes to Tribal issues. Dillman’s article detailed what the News-Times had determined to be an election “controversy.”

Tribal leaders called for a meeting with News-Times publisher Mark Bryan and the culmination of that meeting was an apology published by Bryan in the Jan. 30 issue of the News-Times.

See Apology on page 5.

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