

SILETZ NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Vol. 37, No. 5 May 2009

SCA
OrColl
E
78
.06
\$523
v. 37
no. 5
May 2009

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

T33 P2
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

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

Siletz Tribal Collection at Hallie Ford Museum of Art

by Brent Merrill

Like a person, sometimes a place has a soul. Willamette University's Hallie Ford Museum of Art in Salem could be considered such a place.

When you go there you sense that this place has a story – maybe many, many stories. When you go upstairs to the second floor and you walk into the Siletz Tribal exhibit, you can feel the stories as they surround you in space ... and time.

A special relationship has developed between the folks at Willamette's Hallie Ford Museum and the people of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and this relationship has resulted in a long-standing sharing of trust. That trust has resulted in an ongoing Tribal display that keeps getting larger, deeper and more meaningful as time goes by.

According to Rebecca Dobkins, the curator at Hallie Ford, the museum is planning a major overhaul of the Siletz Tribal exhibit for next year. The showcase has been in place since the museum opened in October 1998. The collection includes nearly 300 Northwest Native baskets.

A chance opportunity at a sneak peak of what's to come leads one to believe that the relationship between this place and the Siletz people will continue for many years to come.

It takes a special place and understanding, caring people to convince a Tribe to display its most precious artifacts somewhere outside the Tribal community and the museum and Dobkins seem to fit for the Siletz.

"The relationship we have with the Siletz Tribal people is important to us here at Willamette," said Dobkins as she showed some Tribal artifacts not on display for the public.

One of the most stunning displays in the entire museum is the Siletz basketry collection. Many of the pieces are very old, but yet sturdy and firm and look like they could hold water and goods to this day. Some of the pieces are new and look just like they were peeled from the past like pages in a sticker book.

Some of the newer pieces were created by Siletz Tribal member Alfred "Bud" Lane III, who is also the Tribe's vice chairman of the council. Lane's basketry includes an acorn mush basket and a women's basket cap made in the style of his great-grandmother.

The mush basket was completed by Lane in 1999 and is an example of an essential basket-type that played a key role in ceremonial feasts. The baskets held acorn mush, which is like porridge and was a food staple of Indian people in Oregon and California. Mush soup still is enjoyed in Tribal communities in the modern day.

See Collection on page 12.

Tribe Receives More Than \$1.4 Million for Housing from Stimulus Package

by Diane Rodriguez

Fifth District Rep. Kurt Schrader presented the Siletz Tribe with a check for \$1,468,998 on April 10 that will help build Tribal housing in Siletz.

This money is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARR, i.e., the stimulus package) and is coming to the Siletz Tribe through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Native American Housing Block Grant program. It is available for new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation and infrastructure development.

In making the presentation, Schrader said he wishes more people were willing to share with their neighbors the way Tribes do and be less like the stereotypical people on Wall Street.

"In D.C., it's still all about 'me' for them. The Wall Street types are discouraging, they disavowed there was any problem. But people are losing their homes and

their farms. They don't really care about people," he said. "That is antithetical to the way Tribes work. The U.S. should try to be like Tribes and share."

Schrader also said that in the ARR, Tribes were called out specifically in several areas in recognition of the roles they play in our country.

"We would rather be at the table in bad times as well as good times to see how we can support each other," said Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley. "We appreciate the support you've shown us in these 90 days (Schrader's first three months in office). We appreciate your help."

11 Apartments in Siletz

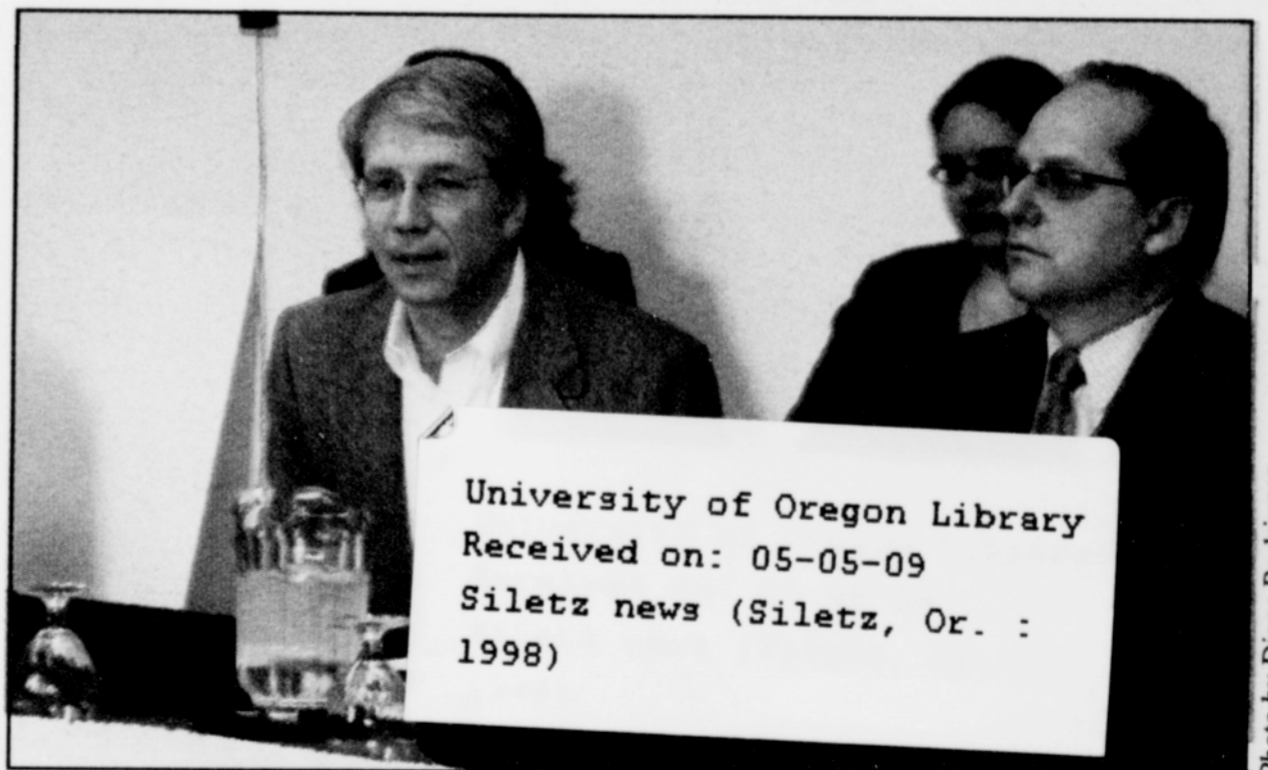
The money will help build 11 new low-rent apartments on Gwee-Shut Road

See Housing on page 8.



Haileigh Corley squeals with delight as she gets ready to join other children at the Tribal Youth Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Siletz. Please see additional photos on page 4.

Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh



Rep. Kurt Schrader (left) listens to the concerns of the Siletz Tribal Council about the country's current economic condition prior to presenting a check for Tribal housing from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Pictured with Schrader are two members of his staff and Jim Jaquith from the Tribal Internal Audit Department.

Photo by Diane Rodriguez

What's Inside

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Chairman's Report | 2 | Notices | 15 |
| Tribal Program News | 3 | Siletz Clinic | 17 |
| Tribal Member News | 10 | Chinook Winds | 19 |
| Hallie Ford Museum | 12 | Letters to the Editor | 21 |
| Tribal Council Timesheets | 14 | Passages | 22 |