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Siletz News  
Confederated Tribes of  
Siletz Indians  
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Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
Vol. 37, No. 8 August 2009

## Richards Named General Manager of Chinook Winds Casino Resort First Tribal Member to Hold Top Spot



Sar Richards

By Brent Merrill

Siletz Tribal member Sar Richards has been named by Siletz Tribal Council as the new general manager of Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City, Ore.

The casino resort is the Tribe's main economic development driver and Richards is the first Tribal member to hold the top management position in the history of the business.

The announcement came in mid-July after Richards served as the casino's interim general manager following the departure of Jim Kikumoto in March.

Richards has been involved with the property since 1997 when he served the casino as a gaming commissioner. He became the slot manager in 2000 and moved up to casino operations director in 2002.

"Sar has been an integral part of our

casino operations and growth," said Chairman Delores Pigsley at the time of Richards' appointment. "We are confident that his gaming and regulatory experience coupled with his commitment to the property are the exact qualities we need to ensure our future growth and success."

Richards, who is the son of Edell Richards and the grandson of Tribal Elder Eddie Collins, said he was honored by the opportunity.

"I am very excited about the appointment and look forward to contributing to the growth and success of Chinook Winds Casino Resort," said Richards. "Additionally, as a Siletz Tribal member, I am deeply honored."

Richards was born and lived in Albany, Ore., before attending Oregon State University and spending four years in military service to the country.

## Siletz Tribe to Receive \$614,000 in Economic Stimulus Package Funds Part of \$90 Million Package for Tribes Nationwide

By Brent Merrill

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has received \$614,000 in federal economic stimulus package funds aimed at allowing the Tribe to improve services to Tribal membership – especially when it comes to access to water.

The Siletz Tribe received the funds as a portion of an overall economic stimulus package that totals as much as \$90 million to go to Tribes throughout the country. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are reserving the money for Tribes ready to go on infrastructure projects that will improve Tribal member health and the environmental conditions in Indian Country.

EPA personnel have stated publicly that the goal of their department is to provide clean drinking water and increase and maintain proper sanitation conditions for economically challenged Tribes.

## Siletz Tribe Invites Public to Annual Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow, Aug. 7-9

Many different Tribal nations will be represented at the annual Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow on Aug. 7-9, 2009, in Siletz, Ore., held by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

The public is invited to attend this family-friendly event, a tradition for the Siletz people and other American Indians.

All events, except the parade, take place at the Pauline Ricks Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds on Government Hill in Siletz.

The celebration will start with the crowning of the 2009-2010 Siletz Royalty on Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. All dance styles will enter the arena at 7 p.m. during the first Grand Entry. Dances in which the public can participate that are non-competitive will follow the Grand Entry.

A parade winds through downtown Siletz at 10 a.m. on Aug. 8. This hometown event includes Tribal royalty, drummers, dancers, equestrian units, vintage cars and floats.

See Pow-Wow on page 8.



Katrina Reis and Kylee Bo Baumgartner at the 2008 Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow Parade

Photo by Brent Merrill

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