

Chaperones Thank R2R Youth Team for Great Run

From R2R Youth Team Chaperones

The R2R youth team chaperones want to thank all the youth who participated this year and made the run enjoyable.

We are glad to have such a great group of kids who were willing to run as many miles as they did (20 miles total). They also helped serve all the Elders and cleaned up after meals. They were very respectful and we couldn't ask for a better group of youth.

We want to let our youth team senior classman – Rachelle John, Raina Johnston and Darod Cheek – know we will miss them all next year and wish them luck in their future endeavors as Siletz leaders. Please know you are all invited next year to be chaperones as you are all good role models.

Good luck and hope you all have a wonderful senior year!



Top row: Ron Butler, John Pullam, Ab Williams, Josh Rilatos, Marika Pullam, Rachelle John, Ryan Williams, Breanna Jordan-Goodell, Kiesha Metcalf, Duane Endres, Darod Cheek, Morgan Crawford, Savannah Worman, Leah Eversole, Clarinda Black, Seth Benedict and Tehya Woodruff

Bottom row: Damien Williams, Terry Mason, Raina Johnston, Jamie Mason, Rachelle Endres, Bo Johnson, Sidney Rilatos and Makiah Woodruff

Courtesy photo by Jamie Mason

Restoration, con't from page 1

was among the Tribes throughout the nation terminated by the U.S. government in August 1954.

Just a few years later, in the early 1960s, it became clear that termination as a policy was a failure. The only way for Tribal people to prosper in the modern world was to have their status as sovereign Indian nations restored by the U.S. government.

After years of gathering and raising funds to lobby Congress, the Siletz Tribe reached its goal of Restoration when then-President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 95-195 in 1977.

The Siletz Tribe became the first Tribe in Oregon and only the second Tribe in history to regain its federally recognized status.

Today, the Tribe is committed to improving the quality of life for its 4,600 members and there have been many significant accomplishments by the Tribal government in the last three decades.

Accomplishments

The Tribe opened a health clinic in Siletz in 1991 and just recently broke ground on a new facility also located in Siletz. The Tribe has built more than 100 homes and constructed multiple housing sites for members, including 20 units in the newly opened Neachesna Village in Lincoln City.

The Tribe opened a traditional dance house in 1996 and dedicated the Tenas Illahee Childcare Center and the Siletz Gas and Mini-Mart in 2003. The following year, the Tribe opened the Logan Road RV Park in Lincoln City and the Hee Hee Illahee RV Resort in Salem in 2006.

The Tribe purchased Imprints printing shop in Lincoln City in 2008 and also last year opened the Tillicum Fitness Center, a new gymnasium and a new USDA Food Warehouse in Siletz.

Tribal offices in Portland, Salem and Eugene are now housed wholly in buildings owned by the Tribe. The Portland office moved to its current location last year, the Salem office moved into its building in 2006 and the Eugene office has been located in its building since 2005.

The Tribe played a key role in funding the opening of Siletz Valley School in 2003 and Siletz Valley Early College Academy in 2006.

The Tribe has owned and operated Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City since 1995 and the Tribe purchased the adjacent Shilo Inn in June 2004 to add hotel accommodations to the casino. The Tribe completed the casino resort complex when it purchased the nearby Lake-side Golf Course and Fitness Center.

The Tribe is now the largest employer in Lincoln County and has distributed more than \$7.5 million in charitable contributions through the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund.

Wilkinson: Tribe is a Full-Service Government

University of Colorado Law School Professor Charles Wilkinson, an acknowledged expert on American Indian history and culture, feels that celebrating Restoration is important for the Tribe for many reasons. Wilkinson currently is working on a book about the history of the Siletz Tribe to be released next year.

Wilkinson said that at the time the Restoration bill was passed, no one imagined the Tribe as it is today.

"I don't think there were any of us at that time that thought the Tribe could be what it is today," said Wilkinson in a telephone interview from his home office in Colorado. "What you have now is remarkable. The Tribe is a full-service

government. A government that tries to meet the needs of its people that Anglo governments don't even try to meet."

Wilkinson said the Tribe's commitment to its people and its culture is beyond what he has seen in other Tribes.

"The Tribe supports students of all ages and encourages any one of its members to go to school whatever age they are," said Wilkinson. "Students are eligible for laptops and there is a terrific support staff there and they have great resources. The Tribe participates in Run to the Rogue, Nadosh and summer culture classes. Any fair-minded person would be able to step back and say 'I wish my government had accomplished this.'"

Wilkinson pointed to the Tribe's ability to create and maintain relationships as they key to its progress.

"Progress by Tribal government can't be denied," said Wilkinson. "In the case of the Siletz, they have anchors in mainstream society. They have relationships with the other Tribes and local and state government. They have made important relationships with banks and businesses. Tribes have never had those types of contacts and this Tribal government has done a very good job of doing the essential things."

Wilkinson said what it comes down to is the Tribe has a different world view than those folks in the dominant culture.

"What the Tribe is doing is preparing to take advantage of the majority society offerings, but hang on to the Siletz way – the important things are family, land, health."

Atiyeh: Tribes Now a Social and Political Force

When reached at his home office, former Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh was surprised that it had been 32 years since

Restoration. Atiyeh served Oregon as governor from Jan. 8, 1979, through Jan. 12, 1987.

Atiyeh served the State of Oregon as a senator during the time of Restoration and said he supported the Tribe's efforts from his position on the first Oregon Commission on Indian Services.

"My goodness," he said. "Time does fly. It is remarkable what the Tribe has done in 32 years. Becoming only the second Tribe to achieve Restoration was quite an accomplishment and I remember it gave a great feeling to the other Tribes in Oregon and in the nation. It gave them the heart to move forward with their own situations."

Atiyeh said he remembers a time in Oregon when Indians were viewed differently than they are now. He said he is happy for the change.

"I can remember a time when Native Americans were basically ignored," said Atiyeh. "State, county and city governments just didn't pay attention. Now that has changed. As I've watched, I've seen the respect has increased immeasurably. I think that will continue. The Tribes are now a social and political force."

Atiyeh said the way the Tribe does its business impresses him most.

"The Tribe is sensitive and balanced," said Atiyeh. "They quietly, consistently make significant contributions to the local community that surrounds them."

Atiyeh said he is especially proud of his close relationship with Tribal Council Chairman Delores "Dee" Pigsley.

"I'm really quite proud of the Tribe," said Atiyeh. "They are respected among their peers. Restoration was not easy. It took vision and hard work to get it done."

He repeated himself for emphasis. "I'm proud of what they have done."