

SILETZ NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
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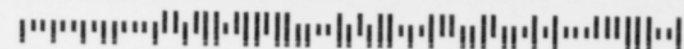


Photo by Brent Merrill

PERFORMANCE – The 32nd Annual Siletz Tribe's Restoration Pow-Wow Celebration was held at Chinook Wind's Casino Resort in Lincoln City on Nov. 14. Tribal members and American Indians from throughout the Northwest gathered for the celebration event and were treated to a rare performance by the Chemawa Indian School's Apache Crown Dancers. The dancers perform an ancient ceremonial rite that is rarely witnessed by the dominant culture. Please see our special section of photos from the celebration in this issue of Siletz News.

Culture Night Brings Generations Together for Fun and Fellowship

By Diane Rodriquez

It was a scene from almost anywhere – a picnic, say, or a family reunion – a multi-generational setting where everyone was involved in something.

The little kids so wanted to paint the pumpkins and get the eyes glued on. Some of the bigger kids (in their teens) helped the little ones, others sat together and talked, and still others made earrings of dentalium and beads.

The parents and Elders tried to keep everybody busy – and take a few minutes to catch up with each other. Dinner was available and everybody got fed, but nobody rushed to eat. They were too engrossed in what they were doing.

Although the scene could have been anywhere, it takes place monthly on the third Tuesday at Taft High 7-12 during Cultural Night.

"In the beginning, it was me, students and very few parents who came to help. The smallest event was 10 and we didn't even know how to make a pair of earrings. But we hung in there," said Juanita Whitebear, Indian education specialist and Native student advisor at Taft High 7-12. "We knew if we kept it going, families would begin coming home, back to their tradition. It's a beautiful sight to see people talking, laughing, sharing ideas, sharing their hurts and asking one another for help, whether it be a ride for their children from school or asking 'How did you make that dish?'"

Culture Night is open to anyone who chooses to stop by. What started three years ago drew more than 100 people at its largest event last June.

"I send out a monthly mailer to all the families that I have on my caseload, along with local community members, Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribal programs and all the North area teachers," said Whitebear. "This invitation is extended to their family members and to their friends. It is not a closed event at all. I believe this is everyone's

See Culture Night on page 9.

STBC to Launch Computer Tech Company in Lincoln City

Siletz Technology Will Employ 10 People in its First Year, Eventually Could Employ Up to 20

By Brent Merrill

The Tribe's Siletz Tribal Business Corporation (STBC) is set to launch a new computer technology business that will provide jobs related to software quality and development testing and then, ultimately, marketing these services to sustain the jobs the business could create.

The Tribe's new company could create 10 jobs in its first year of operation, with the number increasing to as many as 20 employees in 2012.

"Siletz Technologies is a new company that will provide skills training and employment for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and residents of rural Lincoln County," said STBC Economic Development Director Dave Tovey. "Siletz Technologies, supported by investments from the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation, the City of Lincoln City and private companies will train Tribal members and rural non-Tribal residents in

software quality assurance and development testing."

"Technology can be an intimidating thing to most, myself included," said Tovey about the reasons for the Tribe pursuing this business. "But when you break down the parts of how good software, websites and even games are developed – we have concluded that we can offer a

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