

SILETZ NEWS



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Executive order launches White House education initiative for Indian Country

WASHINGTON – President Obama concluded a week of newsworthy announcements by the federal government related to Indian Country in early December by announcing the new White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education.

The initiative is part of the Executive Order on American Indian and Alaska Native Education and Tribal Colleges and Universities that Obama signed Dec. 2.

“Secretary Duncan (and) Secretary Salazar, they’re going to work together on this effort to prepare Native American youth to compete for the high-skilled, good jobs of tomorrow,” said Obama. “We’re going to find ways to reduce the dropout rate. We’re going to help students who’ve already dropped out re-enter the education system. And we’re going to strengthen our Tribal colleges and universities. They are cornerstones of their community and they deserve our support.”

The announcement of the initiative and executive order focused on improving the educational situation of Native youth and came just a day after the White House hosted young leaders from Indian Country as part of the Champions of Change program.

“I want to give a shout-out to the young people who are here as part of the White House program called Champions for Change. Really remarkable young people. I had a chance to meet them backstage,” said Obama, motioning to the youth in the audience. “There’s Teresa Baldwin, who’s working to prevent teen suicide among Alaska Natives. LeVon Thomas, who’s bringing green jobs to the Navajo Nation. Dallas Duplessis, who started a gardening club to promote healthy eating in Tulalip, Washington. She wrote, ‘Our goal is not to be couch potatoes, but to grow some potatoes.’ I think Michelle would like that one.”



Photo by Diane Rodriguez

Louie Orona and Tre Jackson join other children in making gifts at the Siletz Tribal Community Center during the holiday break in December.

See Education on page 4.

Siletz Bay Buffet at Chinook Winds gets new look, menu, grand reopening



Courtesy photo by Chinook Winds Casino Resort staff

Members of the community and the Siletz Tribal Council help open the new Siletz Bay Buffet at Chinook Winds Casino Resort, including (l to r) Papa Harold Lloyd and Susan Wahlke of the Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors; General Manager Sar Richards; Facilities Director Lee Scantling (behind Richards); Sharon Edenfield, Tribal Council; Project Manager Sean Sheridan; Tribal Council members Jessie Davis, Lillie Butler, Loraine Butler and Tina Retasket; Executive Chef Jack Strong; Reggie Butler, Tribal Council; and Chuck McPherson, Food and Beverage director.

By Teresa Simmons, Community Relations Manager, Chinook Winds

Chinook Winds General Manager Sar Richards and members of the Siletz Tribal Council welcomed more than 60 guests to the grand re-opening and ribbon cutting of the newly remodeled Siletz Bay Buffet at Chinook Winds Casino Resort on Nov. 29.

Lincoln City Mayor Dick Anderson, representatives from the Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce, the Lincoln City VCB, Lincoln City Chamber Ambassadors and Lincoln County District Attorney Rob Bovett were among those present for the ceremony.

Lee Scantling, director of facilities for Chinook Winds, worked with I-5 Design to develop a design that would best meet Chinook Winds’ goals of striving to provide the best possible dining experience for casino guests.

The Chinook Winds facilities crew completed the renovation, working after the buffet had closed for the day – every day. The whole project took only 30 days to complete and was done with a minimum of inconvenience to casino guests.

With the exception of the murals depicting the history and culture of the Siletz Tribe, nearly everything else has been changed. The buffet has been expanded to seat 252 people with room to add more seating if necessary.

The new design allows for a more efficient flow of traffic with less congestion in the serving areas. A pleasant,

See Chinook Winds on page 4.