

SILETZ NEWS



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
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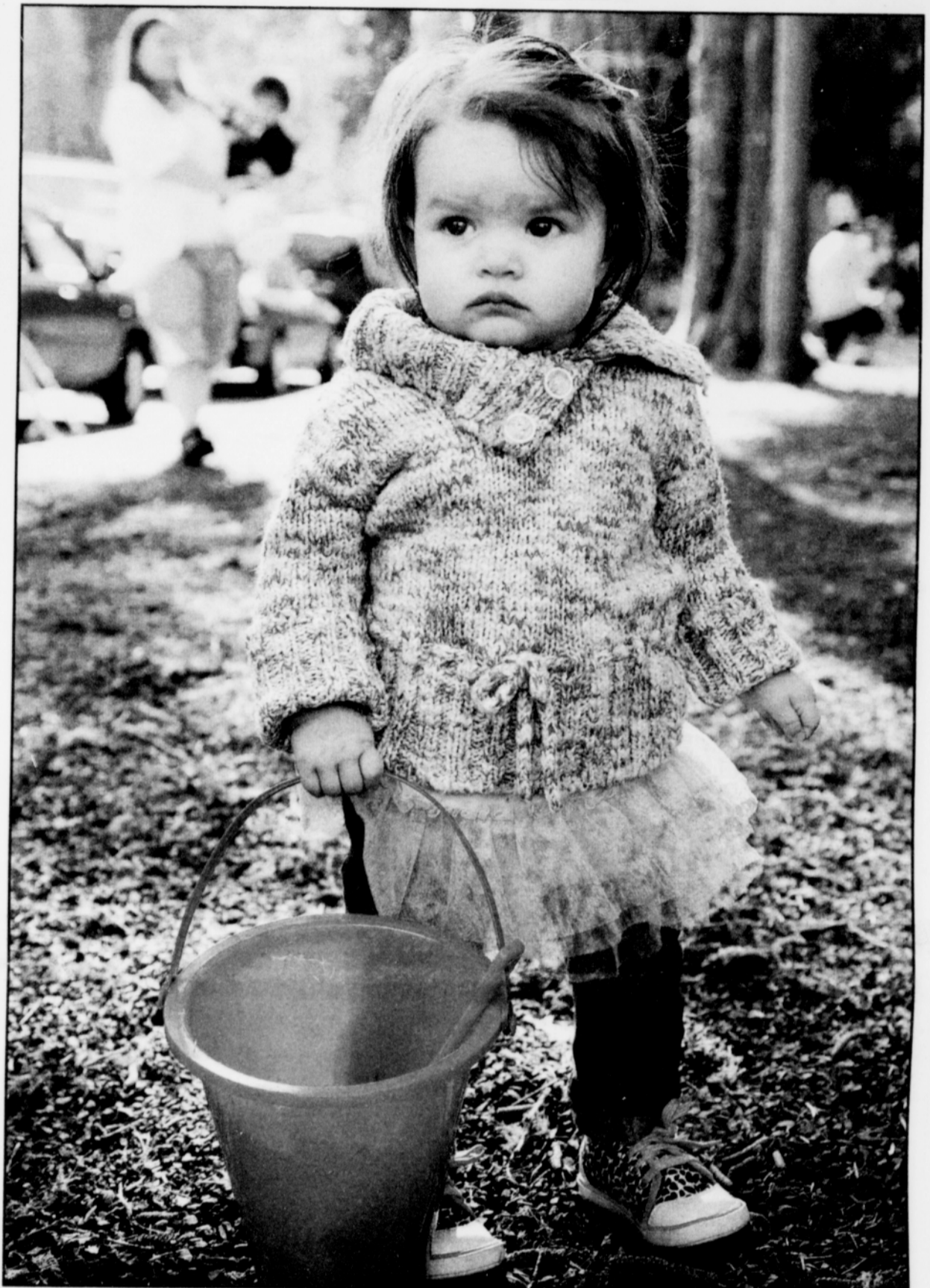
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Photos by Natasha Kavanaugh



Youth activities abound in April as Sahaylee Mason (top left) gets ready for the Easter egg hunt at the Tribal Community Center in Siletz on April 7 as Maya Harrison (right) doesn't seem to be sure of just what she's supposed to do at the Easter egg hunt. At the Elder Honor Day at Chinook Winds Casino Resort on April 3, the Sree-Xvsh Singers (above), including Kateri Whitehead, Jocelyn Hernandez, Jazmyn Metcalf, Allivea Hernandez, Clarinda Black, Shee-ne DePoe-Aspria and Tehya Woodruff, follow Cova St. Onge's lead in entertaining Elders from throughout the Pacific Northwest who attended the event.

Salazar, Holder announce settlement of trust accounting and management lawsuits filed by Tribes

\$1 billion will go to more than 40 Tribes, including Siletz

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Attorney General Eric Holder announced in April the settlement of lawsuits filed by 41 federally recognized Tribes against the United States, in which the Tribes alleged that the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Treasury had mismanaged monetary assets and natural resources held in trust by the U.S. for the benefit of the Tribes.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has been involved in this lawsuit, as have several Tribes in Washington state.

The announcement followed 22 months of negotiation between the Tribes and the U.S. that has culminated in settlements between the government and Tribes totaling approximately \$1.023 billion.

These settlements resolve claims dating back more than 100 years. Ending these long-running disputes about the United States' management of trust funds and non-monetary trust resources should help the U.S. and the Tribes move beyond the distrust exacerbated by years of litigation.

"These settlements fairly and honorably resolve historical grievances over the accounting and management of Tribal trust funds, trust lands and other

See Settlement on page 5.

Siletz Response Nez Perce v. Salazar Settlement

On April 12, 2012, the United States announced the settlement of 41 Tribal trust claims against the United States in a case entitled *Nez Perce v. Salazar* in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for a total settlement amount of \$1.023 billion. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon was one of the Tribes which were parties to this settlement agreement, agreeing to a settlement amount of \$9.14 million. The United States admitted no liability in the settlement. Payment of the settlement amount will be made to the Tribe within the next 30 days.

The *Nez Perce v. Salazar* litigation involved Tribal trust claims against the United States for mismanagement of Tribal land resources and Tribal

financial assets. Settlement amounts for each Tribe varied between \$25,000 and \$193 million, with the large land-based Tribes receiving the largest settlements. For the Siletz Tribe, the settlement figure was based mostly on alleged mismanagement of the Tribe's land and timber resources since the Tribe's restoration in 1977, and alleged failure to obtain the maximum return on Tribal financial assets held in trust, such as timber revenues and claims judgments. The Siletz Tribal Council is extremely pleased with the amount offered by the United States in settlement of its claim.

The Native American Rights Fund represented the Siletz Tribe and most of the other Tribes in this litigation.

See Response on page 5.