

SILETZ NEWS



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
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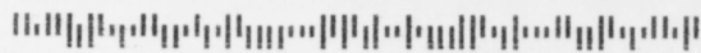


Photo by Mandi Smith

Deenie Rilatos flashes a smile as she makes her way around the dance arena during the Siletz Tribal Restoration Pow-Wow at Chinook Winds Casino Resort on Nov. 16.

See more photos from the 36th annual pow-wow on pages 9-14.

Tribal leaders meet with president, 13 Cabinet officials

WASHINGTON – President Obama and 13 members of his Cabinet joined more than 300 Tribal leaders at the fifth annual White House Tribal Nations Summit on Nov. 13.

Through speeches and listening sessions, the administration highlighted the improving partnership with Tribal nations and declared a commitment to elevating the relationship throughout the next three years.

The summit included a town hall portion during which Tribal leaders asked questions of several members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

In the town hall's opening statement, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Brian Cladoosby firmly asserted the need to establish a "trust relationship for the 21st century" and urged the council to regularly convene Cabinet officials and Tribal leaders at the White House and throughout Indian Country.

Other Tribal leaders emphasized the importance of addressing the Supreme Court decision on *Carcieri*, fully funding contract support costs and honoring the trust responsibility in the federal budget.

In afternoon remarks to Tribal leaders, President Obama committed to visiting Indian Country next year and echoed Cladoosby's call for close communication between the nations.

"The Iroquois called their network of alliances with other Tribes and European nations a 'covenant chain.' Each link represented a bond of peace and friendship," said Obama. "But that covenant chain didn't sustain itself. It needed constant care, so that it would stay strong. And that's what we're called to do, to keep the covenant between us for this generation and for future generations."

Attorney General Eric Holder also delivered poignant remarks as he recommitted to a close partnership with Tribal nations and spoke of the progress made since Robert Kennedy's address to NCAI in 1963.

Holder acknowledged the "injustice inflicted on Native peoples" in the past and committed to a relationship "not as a patron but a partner." NCAI welcomes Holder's proposed Statement of Principles that will guide the Department of Justice's dealings with Indian Country.

NCAI looks forward to working with the White House to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship and continuing the policy conversations begun during the summit.

The full list of Cabinet officials participating in the summit includes:

Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance to address immediate need to restore Native food systems

LONGMONT, Colo. – A new alliance has been formed that will address food security, hunger and nutrition in American Indian communities.

The Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA) is American Indian-driven and -controlled. It will be nationally active in addressing food security, health and cultural identity in American Indian communities at the national, Tribal and local levels.

Overall, NAFSA's goal is to develop a movement that gives voice to issues of Native food sovereignty, food-system control and policy development, and serves as a strong network for collaboration among various organizations engaged in Native food-system control.

NAFSA was initiated in 2012 by First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) in partnership with the Taos County Economic Development Corpo-

ration (TCEDC) of Taos, N.M., and supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich. TCEDC serves as the lead coordinator of the alliance.

"We are pleased to serve as a coordinator of NAFSA. Our goal is to work with the Founding Council to help organize and develop goals to be a voice that challenges barriers at all levels to Native food

See Food Sovereignty on page 18.

See Tribal Nations on page 16.