



### Young and old(er) see Santa during holiday season

Courtesy photo by Cecelia DeAnda

Liz John, Shelley Selsic and Kristi Martin-Bayya (above) visit with Santa (Darin Rilatos) during the Elders Christmas Gathering on Dec. 11.

Courtesy photo by Mandi Smith

Madison McMillan (right) tells her Christmas secret to Santa (Don Hamilton) during the Community Christmas Program on Dec. 10.

The Siletz Tribe wishes you  
a prosperous and safe New Year.



## Fisher represents Siletz as youth ambassador at Tribal Nations Conference

By Miss Siletz SuSun Fisher

This fall, I was chosen as one of the 36 young American Indian youth to attend the Sixth Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference as a youth ambassador. When I was selected, I couldn't believe it. It didn't feel real.

When I arrived, we had a meet-and-greet with the other 35 youth. We got to know each other during ice breakers and group talks where we addressed problems in our community.

We had a special visit from Nike N7's Sam McCracken, where he gave us a motivational speech and told us about job opportunities and internships. We also had visits from U.S. Department of Agriculture's Leslie Wheelock and an MTV Rebel Music film crew.

Within the next few days, we attended workshops, went on tours of national monuments, visited the White House and attended a screening for MTV's Rebel Music on Native America. There also

was a panel that discussed their personal stories about overcoming obstacles.

I met Frank Waln (cast member of *Rebel Music*), Simon Moya-Smith (*Indian Country Today*), Billy Luther (director of the movie *Miss Navajo*), Nusrat Durrani (general manager of MTV World), Melissa Leal and Bill Mendoza (executive director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education).

We attended the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between IHS (Indian Health Service) and Nike to collaborate in the promotion of healthy lifestyles for our Native people.

On Dec. 3, during the conference, President Obama announced the launch of Generation Indigenous (Gen I), a Native youth initiative focused on removing the barriers that stand between Native youth and their opportunity to succeed (see article on page 13).



Courtesy photo

Miss Siletz SuSun Fisher (right) stands with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and other youth ambassadors during the Tribal Nations Conference.

See Fisher on page 4