

Twenty-six years ago in June ...

Submitted by the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society; reprinted from the August 1996 issue of Siletz Newsletter

Siletz Tribe Hosted a Full House for Chinook Winds Grand Opening

It was a spectacular grand opening!

An estimated ten thousand awestruck guests streamed into and toured our gleaming new gaming and convention center. Here are a few of the comments: "Fantastic," "As impressive as anything in Las Vegas or Reno," "Classy – not gaudy," "Absolutely beautiful," "Wonderful," "Siletz did a great job," "WOW!"

Our own Tribal members echoed the same sentiments, adding words like, "And to think this is on our very own reservation," "This is our Tribe's ... OURS," "It makes you proud to be Siletz."

To the cheering crowd below, three skydivers with their chutes of blazing colors made pinpoint landings in the parking lot in front of Chinook Winds.

The ribbon was cut by members of the Tribal Council signaling the Grand Opening of Chinook Winds. Once inside the bingo hall/showroom, Chairman Dee Pigsley introduced and welcomed officials of other Tribes and honored guests.

Vice Chairman Jessie Davis recognized those who had an important part in making Chinook Winds a reality and presented to each a sterling commemorative Chinook Winds coin. Among the honored guests was Tom Acevido of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

To add to the festive mood, a Dixieland band jazzed it up in the foyer, a combo played in the lounge, another on the casino floor and throughout the day our guests feasted on hors d'oeuvres.

Tammy Wynette and Williams and Ree were the featured opening night entertainers but because of an injury, Tammy's performance was cut short and some tickets refunded. In the spirit of "the show must go on," Williams and Ree filled in with their hilarious comedy act.

Lou Rawls was a sensation the following weekend, performing to several standing ovations, and on July 12&13 Chinook Winds featured the spirited Nitty Gritty Dirt Band that brought the audience to life and to their feet.



Chinook Winds Casino Resort

Calling all Tribal member business owners

If you would like to be on the preferred Tribal members business list with Chinook Winds, please fax, mail, email or drop off your business card, brochures, or business information to:

Chinook Winds Casino Resort
Attn: Purchasing Dept.
1777 NW 44th St.
Lincoln City, OR 97367
Phone: 541-996-5853
Fax: 541-996-3847
erica@cwresort.com



If you want to be part of a great team and looking for a new career opportunity, Please call Human Resources at (541) 996-5800 or (541) 996-5806.

www.chinookwindscasino.com/careers

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8am-4:30pm



Courtesy photos from STAHS

Members of the community visit Chinook Winds during the grand opening of the permanent structure in 1996.

Boarding Schools, continued from page 1

As part of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and in response to recommendations from the report, Haaland has announced the launch of The Road to Healing. This year-long tour will include travel across the country to give American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian survivors of the federal Indian boarding school system the opportunity to share their stories, help connect communities with trauma-informed support and facilitate collection of a permanent oral history.

"The department's work thus far shows that an all-of-government approach is necessary to strengthen and rebuild the bonds within Native communities that federal Indian boarding school policies set out to break," added Haaland. "With the president's direction, we have begun working through the White House Council of Native American Affairs on the path ahead to preserve Tribal languages, invest in survivor-focused services and honor our obligations to Indigenous communities. We also appreciate the ongoing engagement and support for this effort from members of Congress and look forward to continued collaboration."

Volume 1 of the report highlights some of the conditions children endured at these schools and raises important questions about the short- and long-term consequences of the federal Indian boarding school system on American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities.

The investigation found that the federal Indian boarding school system deployed systematic militarized and identity-alteration methodologies in an attempt to assimilate American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children through education, including but not limited to renaming Indian children from Indian to English names; cutting the hair of Indian children; discouraging or preventing the use of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian languages, religions and cultural practices; and organizing Indian and Native Hawaiian children into units to perform military drills.

Despite assertions to the contrary, the investigation found that the school system largely focused on manual labor and vocational skills that left American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian graduates with employment options often irrelevant to the industrial U.S. economy, further disrupting Tribal economies.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting closures of federal facilities reflect the need for further investigation. The report identifies next steps that will be taken in a second volume, aided by a new \$7 million investment from Congress through fiscal year 2022.

Recommendations by Newland include producing a list of marked and unmarked burial sites at federal Indian boarding schools and an approximation of the total amount of federal funding used to support the federal Indian boarding school system, and further investigation to determine the legacy impacts of the school system on American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities today.