

Looking Back at December....

By: Teresa Miller

Well, here at the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, we've got through another December! What a month! The Elders had their annual Christmas bazaar at the end of November.... officially kicking off the Holiday Season. Attendance was good, and if you missed it, you missed some beautiful creations that were sold by the vendors, not to mention the home baked goodies the Elders had for sale....giving us an early start on those extra Christmas pounds we all needed to gain. Betty Whitehead, the Elders high pressure salesperson, kept saying it was all "no-calorie, low fat, no cholesterol, high fiber health food" but, I, for one, had my doubts.

The staff had their usual staff meeting and Christmas exchange this year at the Tribal Center during the day. Something new was the employee banquet held at the Newport Hilton the same evening with awards of appreciation being given and recognition of the many volunteers, tribal court, Tribal Council, and many others that keep Tribal operations running smoothly. Somehow many of these good people who contribute so much manage to keep a very low profile. It was good to see them recognized for their efforts. Assistant CEO Brenda Bremner was the MC and kept things running so smooth that we only ran over by ONE HOUR. That must be some kind of record!

The annual Community Christmas Party was short and sweet this year. Lisa Norton should be commended for the effort she put into it. Once again, it was dropped in her lap and she rose to the occasion. The Head Start Class and the Downey Family carried most of the show with their performances. Volunteers did a hilarious rendition of the 12 days of Christmas, and the staff choir did a mercifully short performance (we really needed help, just one person who could carry a tune would have been good). Santa, the guest of honor, saved the day when he made his appearance, listening intently to the Christmas wishes of the wee ones and passing out candy.



Betty Whitehead, Gladys Bolton, and Madge Mason at the Elders Bazaar.



Bob Tom at the Staff Christmas Party



Nancy Simmons was one of Santa's helpers



Leith St. Onge with Mom Sharon Ricketts at the Elder's Bazaar.



"Doc" was one of the Lord's a Leapin'



Tina Retasket and niece Margaret Norton cast members of the 12 days of Christmas.



The Community Christmas Party