

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Chairman Delores Pigsley

The boxing event recently held at Chinook Winds has received excellent reviews. It was billed as Lincoln County's biggest sporting event ever. Because it was broadcast by HBO, the casino got exposure in 27 countries and the U.S. The fight was televised in the U.S. at 11 p.m.

I have received numerous calls congratulating the tribe for promoting and putting the program together. Those who deserve the credit are the Chinook Winds staff, who did a great job, and our own Boxing Commission. We hope to have more boxing; the first one was a

truly memorable event. I hope those of you who were there will agree.

The Tribal Council spent a considerable amount of time reviewing budgets from all administrative departments and Chinook Winds during the last few months. Those budgets received final approval in December.

Tribal elections are upon us. Voter registration cards must be on file to vote absentee. Ballots can be cast in person, however, in Siletz on Election Day. Every tribal member age 18 and older has the opportunity to vote for their candidate. Please take the time to vote for the person you feel can do the very best job for the tribe.

Our 22nd Restoration Day celebration was saddened by the death and funeral of Chuck Lane. However, the buffet dinner, guest speakers and powwow for this year's event were excellent. The BIA's Northwest Regional Director, Stan Speaks, Robert Kentta, Ed Ben and Sister Francella Griggs all spoke eloquently about our tribal history and restoration. I would like to publicly acknowledge them for taking the time to share their experiences and for sharing the historical information.

To the editor:

A small letter to fill in a few gaps on what is happening within the tribal administration.

I would like you tribal members to closely examine the gross revenues Chinook Winds brought in this year and the net profit that came back to the tribe. If you are looking for another big per capita payment of \$100, forget it. The sitting Council made it a one-time payment.

I questioned Council about the hiring of over 200 additional employees at Chinook Winds to operate the four or five new games the state allowed the tribe. After sitting Council allowed the compact to be amended by the state, to add the new games, the governor and his staff walked away with the better end of the deal. Last year, the gaming center grossed around \$50,000,000. The net to the tribe was around \$2,000,000 and your share was \$100. The overhead to operate Chinook Winds will boggle your mind.

Also, the Council hired another attorney for \$7,000 per month. A Council person informed us this attorney worked seven hours in one month. This tells me he made \$1,000 per hour } your money again.

Finally, the Council fired highly qualified staff for little or no reason and replaced these individuals with, coincidentally, friends or family. The Council then hired three consultants. For what? If these employees are qualified, they do not need a high-paid babysitter for them. I want you to remember these consultants are not paid out of federal funds. Their compensation comes out of your share of money - either timber or gaming.

Obviously, there are a lot of questions that will not be answered by sitting Council. So, when it comes time to vote, do not let any propaganda letter snow you. Ask questions and demand answers and documentation to confirm and support these answers. Then vote with your conscience.

The tribe needs a change in leadership. Things will not get any better. This Council is like a runaway horse. The only way to slow or stop what is happening is the vote of the people. I am asking for your vote to try to change what is happening within our tribe.

Reg Butler, Sr.

To the editor:

A recent study concerning the thousands of Americans injured each year by medical mistakes is bringing welcome attention to this major problem. As the authors of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine study point out, a major obstacle to putting better systems in place is the culture of silence and secrecy that pervades the medical establishment.

Unfortunately, many doctors and their insurance companies are continuing to stand in the way of needed improvements in patient safety by insisting that doctors and hospitals should not be required to disclose their mistakes. With a straight face, the insurance companies complain that if medical providers were required to report their mistakes, this information might fall into the hands of their patients, who then might want the doctor to accept some responsibility for the harm to the patient.

If a driver hits a parked car while its owner is asleep in the house, does his auto insurance company advise leaving the scene and remaining silent? The overdue reforms under discussion should at least include a patient's right to be told the truth when he or she has been seriously harmed due to a medical error. The system now in place encourages medical hit-and-run.

Sincerely,

James G. Nelson