

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Chairman Delores Pigsley

Our tribal newsletter is a valuable communication tool that lets everyone express their ideas, concerns, and general information; it should continue to do so. I am concerned, however, when individuals go beyond giving their opinion and give blatant misinformation that can hurt the tribe. I am addressing those issues that are confidential in nature in a letter to the general membership. You will receive that letter before you read my report.

The Tribal Council had its December meeting interrupted by bad weather and road conditions. The bad road conditions actually started just before Thanksgiving. Siletz, Newport,

To the editor:

I attended the Candidates' Fair this past weekend in Siletz. It is the first one I ever went to. I thought it was well-organized and run very nicely.

I do, however, have some concerns. Clifford Case and Reggie Butler seemed to be more interested in slamming Dee Pigsley and the current Council rather than sharing their views on their candidacy. Why would anyone in their right mind vote for these two, who are obviously only concerned with their own agenda and not the good of the tribe? I mean vengeance, conflict and mean-spiritedness are not what I want brought to Council meetings. Clifford said he carries no animosity for people in one breath and degrades Dee Pigsley in the next.

Dee is but one person on the Council. **Hundreds** of people signed the

and Lincoln City were isolated for periods of time. Casino and tribal employees and customers could not get home until roads were repaired. When the tribal staff had their all-employee meeting and Christmas lunch, the roads again were impassable. The Tribal Council, scheduled to meet the following day, had to reschedule many agenda items to a later date in December.

Needless to say, the bad weather and road conditions raised havoc with the tribal and casino businesses. I am conveying all this to you because the tribe, local governments, and businesses have made an issue of the roads and highways that lead to and around the coast. We have sent letters to our congressional delegation and state representatives expressing our concern for highway improvements. Our casino has been blamed in the past for all the traffic on the coast highway; everyone knows that those conditions existed prior to the casino. We hope to see some major improvements in the coming year.

I was asked to explain how judges' vacancies are filled. The filling of these vacancies was by advertisement and interviews. Tribal Council and whomever they designate act as the interview committee. I was unable to sit in on the chief judge interviews. Judge Gantenbein was selected by the

recall petition, **hundreds** of people voted in the recall elections. **That** is why councilmembers were recalled, **not** because of Dee. And councilmembers can vote however they please [whether it be because they trust Dee's guidance or because they want what's best for the tribe. I think a Council that can stand in agreement on these issues instead of constantly bickering is something we should all be proud of.

The people took a stand in the last election and it will happen again this February. So to Clifford and Reggie, all I can say is **deal with it!** Don't give Dee the credit for getting rid of bad councilmembers - give the credit to us voters who took time to vote and elect an outstanding Council who we can trust will work for the good of the **entire** tribe!

Cindy Lane Hill-Jackson

interview committee. I met Judge Gantenbein for the first time after he was selected by the interview committee.

Two other interview panels selected the other judges. All judges for our court have law degrees. All of the positions have been filled and we have a full and active court system. Tribal Court is an integral part of our tribe. The Tribal Council's responsibility and role to the court system is to assure they have adequate funding and personnel to carry out their responsibilities.

Beginning in February, the tribe will start the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan for the future. In addition to seeking input on tribal programs and tribal goals, we also will seek input on the goals and priorities for this year's casino revenues. Meetings will be held in the four area offices (or possibly a larger facility) and a mailing will be developed for those of you who live outside the tribe's service area. Your input in both of these processes is extremely valuable; we do listen and act accordingly.

The new year already is producing its challenges. Some council members attended the National Indian Gaming Association meeting in Washington, D.C. It's clear that tribes will face the same challenges by anti-Indian congressmen with anti-Indian legislative agendas. It's too bad that we as a tribe cannot face those issues with the same amount of energy that is used negatively during Tribal Council elections. Our tribe would be overwhelmingly successful. We do the best job that we can to do our share in defeating legislation that is detrimental to tribes.

For those of you who live in states other than Oregon, please check out the Indian gaming web site of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), www.niga.org. Everyone can assist in the tribe's efforts by keeping themselves informed about issues in their state that affect tribes.

If you have any questions that I can answer for you, please give me a call at my home, 503-393-6516, or call and leave a message at 1-800-922-1399. I am in the process of getting my own e-mail address.