

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I recently attended the Minnesota/Great Plains Indian Gaming Association annual meeting in Minneapolis. Off-reservation gaming was an important topic of discussion at the tribal chairman's roundtable discussion.

Sen. John McCain has stated that he intends to reopen IGRA because the off-reservation language is not good enough. There is constant pressure on Indian gaming and the senator also stated that it's not properly regulated. Therefore, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) needs more authority.

Tribes have used the Harvard study to prove otherwise, but Sen. McCain is not listening. There are those who feel that he has his eyes on the presidency and is trying to distance himself from gaming.

Some tribes have enjoyed great success and that is why some in the non-Indian world attack it so vigorously. They forget that tribes had to give up their



Delores Pigsley

homelands and certain rights to live on reservations, that is, where the U.S. wanted tribes.

Now that tribes have found a way to be successful, people are trying to put restrictions on that success. Tribes did not

want IGRA because it did restrict, but it was imposed and everyone made the best out of it.

Tribes have been urged to write to Sen. McCain and express their concerns. If IGRA is re-opened for any reason, it will be unfairly used to add other provisions that will not be helpful to tribes. At the roundtable discussion of tribal chairmen, not one single tribe was in favor of re-opening IGRA.

Frank Ducheneaux, former tribal lobbyist, was the keynote speaker. He very eloquently expressed exactly how he felt about gaming regulations and re-opening IGRA.

He said that there was much discussion about the need to re-open IGRA because of the off-reservation issues that have been in the news. He says the process is clearly defined in the law; it couldn't possibly be defined better.

Frank used the term, "Where's the beef?" for those who claim that bad things are happening. No one has stepped up and said what bad things are happening or where.

Tribes also spend more money regulating than Nevada or New Jersey. The fallacy that tribal regulation is not satisfactory is just not true. He challenged NIGC to tell where the problem is, if there is one, which he believes there is not.

10th Anniversary

During the weekend of June 25, Chinook Winds celebrated its 10th anniversary. All of you remember the tense years prior to acquiring the property when our tribe actively sought a site for the casino.

We all can be proud of the opening of the tent and then the grand opening of the casino. I hope you visited the casino and helped celebrate 10 years of success.



To the editor:

I would like to congratulate Van Peters, teachers, support staff, and the Siletz Valley School Board on the wonderful article that ran in the *News-Times* on June 10. It's great to know that our students are well taken care of and learning up to their potential.

Keep up the good work. We, the community, are very proud of all that you have achieved.

Tracey Worman



To the editor:

It's good to hear that ICW is working hard or has the ability to work to their potential. What saddens me is what one has to do to receive this type of work or help.

The negative experiences that people have had with ICW are in fact real and have happened to **real** people. This is not a popularity contest.

To comply, to speak up for what is right, makes no difference to ICW if judgment has already been placed about the individual or their family. What happened to standing up for what is right for all people from **all** walks of life (without prejudicial judgment or conflict)?

Reunification starts from the family. No person can break that bond! To our people who feel lost, don't give up your young spirit to any man. Pray.

Don't give up, as we will all reunite again!

Sincerely,
Florieene Hutchinson (Flo)

To the editor:

Everything looks good from a distance. But somewhere there is a toxic poison that has seeped into our community and snatched the minds and bodies of the people we used to know and love.

Somebody out there has been hanging out with people who spend their time in a toxic kitchen pouring drain cleaner, rat poison and cold medicine together to make this poison to get high.

I live a simple life and try to maintain it. I work hard to help kids have a sense of identity so they don't need drugs or alcohol to feel like somebody. I try to get eight hours of sleep at night and I keep crank out of my life (crystal meth, speed, ice).

Yet as I try so hard to keep it out, how did it creep into my backyard, smash out my car window with an ax, and ride off into the full moon street on my wallet full of irreplaceable photos and prescription sunglasses, plus cash that I worked for?

If only drug addiction could be a personal choice – to each their own, but it's become an epidemic, with good people getting caught in the proverbial crossfire of passive violence. This is **not** a victim-

less crime. Drug use has immense consequences and horrific violence is involved – economically, spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially.

I feel like our community is quickly morphing into a science fiction horror full of pod people and shells of people who once were and now are taken over by a virus that must continuously feed itself this poison.

How beautiful are you when your soul is shattered into hollowness from a drug that will permanently alter your brain function into a state of irrevocable atrophy? How beautiful are you when you need to steal from other people to maintain your addiction, your disease?

I feel sad and from a distance I see this once genuine and beautiful tribal and hometown community disintegrating from law enforcement and legislation lacking the power to stop this epidemic.

This most recent incident that made me a victim (**again**) of this epidemic has upset me. If someone thought it would make me shy away – **you're wrong!** I'm committed much more now than I was before.

I'm talking to everyone, even people who are using this drug now! Please give my stuff back – and get help. The last time this happened, my camera got returned and the person is on a better path now.

Remember, by not taking action you give no resistance to the problem or the people who are the problem. Please become a part of the solution; call and see what you can do to help.

Respectfully, and with thanks to Kesa Emi Nomiya of Eugene, whose phrasing in a letter in *Eugene Weekly* helped inspire this letter.

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Most Often Requested Numbers

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	1-800-922-1399
Salem Area Office	503-390-9494
Salem Finance Office	1-888-870-9051
Portland Area Office	503-238-1512
Eugene Area Office	541-484-4234
Springfield Siletz Tribal Head Start	541-747-0161
Contract Health Services (CHS)	1-800-628-5720
Siletz Community Health Clinic	1-800-648-0449
Siletz Alcohol and Drug	1-800-600-5599
Chinook Winds Casino Resort	1-888-244-6665
Chemawa Health Clinic	1-800-452-7823
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1-800-323-8517
Web Site	www.ctsi.nsn.us

General Council Meeting

Aug. 6, 2005 – 1 p.m.

Siletz Tribal Community Center
Siletz, Oregon

Agenda

Call to Order
Invocation
Roll Call
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes
Program Reports:
Tribal Council Committee Reports
Tribal Member Concerns
Chairman's Report
Announcements
Adjournment