

Tribe, Lincoln County Reach Agreement on Local Services

Representatives from the Siletz Tribal Council and the Lincoln County Commissioners signed an agreement today whereby the tribe will provide \$85,000 annually to the county for services used by the tribe, tribal members, and clients of tribal businesses.

In return for the annual donation to the county's general fund, the county will not oppose fee-to-trust applications made by the tribe. This process places land under the sovereign authority of the tribe and removes it from county and state tax rolls.

"We've been meeting with the county commissioners for the past year and it's been a good process for all of us to go through. Each side has learned a lot more about how the other one operates,"

said Delores Pigsley, chairman of the Siletz Tribal Council. "We're pleased that we could reach an agreement that's beneficial to both sides."

The new agreement began July 1, 2005. The annual contribution will be adjusted based on the Portland Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 2.5 percent, whichever is less, on July 1 of each year. Tribal governing documents limit budget increases to 2.5 percent per year.

The agreement also states that every four years, the tribe and the county will re-examine and may adjust the contribution. This will take into account any properties that have been taken into trust or other contributions that have been made to the county.



Delores Pigsley, Siletz Tribal chairman, signs the agreement as Terry Thompson, county commissioner; Linda Pitzer, county treasurer; Rob Thomas, county assessor; and Don Lindly, county commissioner look on.

Oregon Women Veterans Conference 2006

**March 23, 2006
Linn County Expo Center
Albany, Oregon**

**For all women who served in the military
No cost for conference and lunch, but reservations are required.**

**Many women veterans do not know about all of their benefits.
Our last conference resulted in women veterans receiving
thousands of dollars in compensation or other benefits.**

Save the date!

Event-Filled Sun Mountain Gathering Returns to Santa Fe

SANTA FE, N.M. – The unique cultural celebration known as the Sun Mountain Gathering returns to the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture on Oct. 8-9.

An annual favorite filled with activities, the gathering features such popular events as Indian games, exhibitions, arrow making, spear throwing, and pottery making.

Geared to families and free to the public, the Sun Mountain Gathering is an exploration of Southwestern archaeology and celebrates more than 12,000 years of cultural heritage in the area. Events are held on the Museum Hill complex in Santa Fe.

Other festivities planned for the gathering include ancient craft demonstrations, archaeology talks, Native arts and crafts, and Indian music and dancing.

Demonstrations scheduled include flint-knapping, hide working, jewelry making, stone axe use, sandal making, hot rock cooking, and heirloom gardening. Pueblo field house construction will go on continuously throughout the day.

A prominent part of the Sun Mountain Gathering is when the World Atlatl Association (WAA) demonstrates the atlatl and instructs guests in throwing. Atlatl competitions in men, women, youth, and novice categories will take place throughout the Sun Mountain Gathering.

ering, and the holder of the world record will be present for the event.

The atlatl and dart were the first true and natural weapons system of the human race, invented thousands of years before the bow and arrow and used longer by humans than any other weapon system yet developed.

Located on Museum Hill, Santa Fe's newest cultural destination, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture shares the beautiful Milner Plaza with the Museum of International Folk Art. *Here, Now and Always*, a major permanent exhibition at the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture exhibit, combines the voices of living American Indians with ancient and contemporary artifacts and interactive multimedia to tell the complex stories of the Southwest.

The Buchsbaum Gallery displays works from the region's pueblos. Five changing galleries present exhibits on subjects ranging from archaeological excavations to contemporary art. In addition, an outdoor sculpture garden offers rotating exhibits of works by American Indian sculptors.

The Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

CMS Actions to Help Beneficiaries, Providers in Katrina-Stricken Areas

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has acted to assure that the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Programs will flex to accommodate the emergency health care needs of beneficiaries and medical providers in states devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Many of the programs' normal operating procedures have been relaxed to speed provision of health care services to the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities who depend upon them.

Because of hurricane damage to local health care facilities, many beneficiaries have been evacuated to neighboring states, where receiving hospitals and nursing homes have no health care records, information on current health status, or even verification of the person's status as a Medicare or Medicaid beneficiary.

CMS is assuring those facilities that in this circumstance, the normal burden of documentation will be waived and that the presumption of eligibility should be made.

Federal Medicaid officials also are working closely with state Medicaid agencies to coordinate resolution of interstate payment agreements for recipients who are served outside their home states.

The agency also offers the following relief immediately:

- Health care providers that furnish medical services in good faith, but who cannot comply with normal program requirements because of Hurricane Katrina, will be paid for services provided and will be exempt from sanctions for non-compliance, unless it's discovered that fraud or abuse occurred.
- Crisis services provided to Medicare and Medicaid patients who have been transferred to facilities not certified

to participate in the programs will be paid.

- Programs will reimburse facilities for providing dialysis to patients with kidney failure in alternative settings.
- Medicare contractors may pay the costs of ambulance transfers of patients being evacuated from one health care facility to another.
- Normal prior authorization and out-of-network requirements also are waived for enrollees of Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP managed care plans.
- Normal licensing requirements for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals who cross state lines to provide emergency care in stricken areas are waived as long as the provider is licensed in his/her home state.
- Certain HIPAA privacy requirements are waived so that health care providers can talk to family members about a patient's condition even if that patient is unable to grant that permission to the provider.
- Hospitals and other facilities can be flexible in billing for beds that have been dedicated to other uses, for example, if a psychiatric unit bed is used for an acute care patient admitted during the crisis.
- Hospital emergency rooms will not be held liable under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act for transferring patients to other facilities for assessment, if the original facility is in the area where a public health emergency has been declared.

More information about CMS emergency relief activities can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov. Frequently asked questions and their answers on the site are updated daily by 2 p.m.