

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Farewell to 2005, Happy New Year

In many parts of the world, including our own country, 2005 was a year of natural catastrophes and human tragedies. Except for what was available to us via the media, we in Oregon generally were not affected, not directly anyway.

We could not help but be deeply moved by these events. We expressed our compassion and understanding the only way we could, through our prayers and by our individual and tribal contributions to the victims of these catastrophes.

Especially during this Christmas season, as we reflect on the events of the past year, we are grateful for our blessings – the natural beauty of Oregon, our friends and families, and for our sovereign, restored and successful tribe that has brought us dignity and pride.

As we welcome 2006, we look forward to a year of prosperity and happiness. I would like to take this opportunity to personally wish you all – tribal members and friends of the tribe – a **Happy New Year!**

I now would like to touch on three issues of great concern to me: confidentiality, non-tribal ownership of casinos, and the serious health problem of methamphetamine.

Confidentiality – What It Means

Tribal Council members often are told of personal/personnel problems that may or may not be based on facts.



Delores Pigsley

Whether true or not, the issues often are brought to the council's attention.

For example, if it's a personnel issue of Chinook Winds or tribal administration brought to the Tribal Council's attention, the council is obligated to investigate it and under the principle of confidentiality, not to discuss the personnel matter outside of the council. We are committed not only to abide by tribal policies and procedures of confidentiality, but also by our own Ethics Code.

Confidentiality also applies when a complaint is brought up in General Council by, or on behalf of, a tribal member. The Tribal Council, whether it has or doesn't have knowledge of the issue, under its code of confidentiality, is forbidden to discuss the matter before the General Council.

Many times, the council has details that it cannot divulge before the general membership. For a number of very important reasons, such personnel issues are discussed in executive session behind closed doors.

Non-Tribal Casinos

Non-tribal, private ownership of a Portland-based casino was discussed at a meeting of the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance this month. At great expense, an initiative basically similar to the proposal to be discussed at the Oregon tribes meeting was defeated by the tribes in the state of Washington last year. Oregon tribes are not supportive of this proposal and have invited tribal representatives from Washington to share their views with us.

For Oregon tribes, opposition to this proposal may prove costly, just as it was for Washington tribes. The battle would be well worth the effort, however, because of the potential negative impact a non-tribal casino would have on tribal casinos in Oregon.

Methamphetamine

Another issue of importance to Oregon tribes is the serious proliferation of the making, sale, and use of methamphetamine (meth).

At an Oregon tribes meeting in Warm Springs, the issue was discussed and will be followed up with further discussion at the next meeting of the Oregon tribes. On the agenda will be a proposal for the adoption of an inter-tribal agreement to aggressively attack the sale and use of meth.

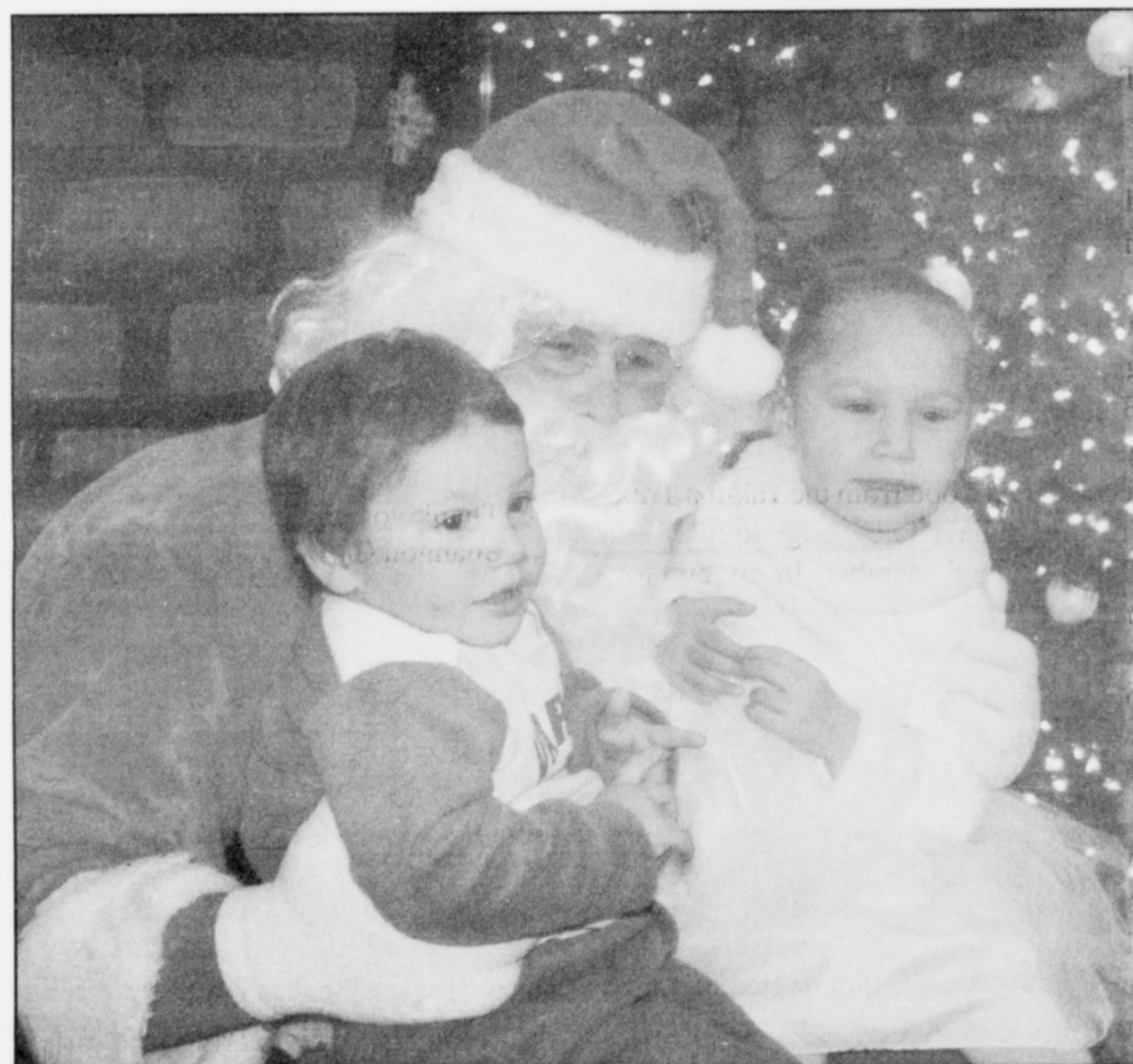
Meth is considered one of the worst epidemics that not only hit communities across the United States, but also is sweeping into Indian Country. Controlling meth is of special concern because it can be so easily made with over-the-counter drugs readily and legally available in local stores.

All of us concerned about this issue must do our part to stamp out meth and other illegal drugs that are doing tremendous harm to our tribe and our communities.

Some Siletz Tribal Children Need You!

The Indian Child Welfare Program needs good homes for temporary and long-term placement for some of our Siletz Tribal children. Foster homes and homes for relative placements are needed, both locally and within the 11-county service area.

If you are thinking of becoming a foster parent or relative placement, or just have questions, contact Sandra Simmons at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1275, or 541-444-8275. Packets on the certification process and information sessions are available upon request.



Jon Duarte, Santa, and Leeann Duarte at the Siletz community Christmas party

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

Nuu-wee-ya'

(our words)

Introduction to the Athabaskan Language

Open to tribal members of all ages

Siletz
Siletz Tribal Community Center
Jan. 3 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Feb. 7 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Salem
Salem Area Office
Jan. 10 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Feb. 13 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Portland
Portland Area Office
Jan. 17 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Feb. 14 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Eugene
Eugene Area Office
Jan. 9 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Feb. 6 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tribal members who need help on cultural projects should contact the Siletz Culture Department. We can assist you prior to the language classes.

For more information, contact Bud Lane at the Siletz Culture Department at 541-444-8320 or 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1320; or e-mail budl@ctsi.nsn.us.