

### Tribal Government Day at the Capitol

It's been 35 years since the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (CIS) was created by statute. The commission is composed at this time of 13 members – representatives of the state Legislature and the Oregon Tribes.

In 1975, then-Senator Victor Atiyeh recognized the need for an entity that dealt with the unique sovereign status of Indian Tribes within our state and for our governments to deal with each other based on special government-to-government relationships.

The legislative commission meets periodically to discuss current critical issues that our Tribes and the state of Oregon have in common.

According to information issued by the state, the commission:

"... monitors legislation affecting Indians, both while it is being considered by the Legislature and after it becomes law, and assists in presenting information to the Legislature on issues of importance to American Indians in Oregon.

"... serves as the primary forum in which Indian needs are considered, it serves as the conduit by which concerns are channeled through the appropriate network; it serves as the point of access for finding out about state government programs and policies, and it serves as a catalyst for bringing about change where it is needed."

At this, the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commission, former Governor Atiyeh was present to remind us of the time when the CIS was being organized. He expressed his fondness for those whom he worked with in the early years of the formation of CIS.

Gov. Atiyeh and subsequent governors understood how the commission should be constructed, an entity that has endured through all these years despite



Delores Pigsley

### Chairman's Report

changes in state and Tribal political administrations.

Since 1975, the commission has been served by an executive director. Karen Quigley is the present ED who has served ably in this capacity. She has the task of keeping the Tribes updated on current state issues that affect Indian Tribes. Karen is to be commended for leadership in this position.

### Keizer Community Gathering

I attended a prayer breakfast held at the Keizer Community Center. I was invited by Keizer Mayor Lore Christopher. Various participants offered inspirational, and appropriately, non-denominational prayers for America, for Keizer and for other governmental and community entities. Mine was for the State of Oregon.

This event brought together representatives from local churches and various community organizations. It was very thoughtful and kind of the mayor to invite

me to this event. It brought to mind the fact that it's functions like this that help build community spirit that we should have more of.

### STBC Retreat

The Board of Directors of the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation (STBC) held a retreat to assess and set direction for STBC. All economic development activities are handled by and through this organization. The retreat was a meaningful exchange of information.

### Clinic Grand Opening

The Siletz Community Health Clinic held a grand opening of the new clinic on May 12, along with a health fair for everyone in attendance. The clinic is a beautiful facility on Government Hill that will serve the Tribe and the community as well. It is spacious, with state-of-the-art equipment and, when necessary, allows for expansion of services for Tribal members as well as the community in general.

As reported by Mark Trahan in *Indian Country Today*, one change in the health care reform legislation that was signed by the president "... allows services to non-Indians so long as there is no diminution in services to eligible Indians ... This means that Tribes can decide, as many have, to serve their neighbors which could be employees or rural residents ... By

broadening the base of patients, smaller clinics could actually grow and have more resources to spend on every patient."

Trahan's comments could very well be applicable to the Siletz Tribe and our clinic.

I would like to commend the clinic staff for doing an outstanding job of establishing this new facility. They also accomplished the move from the original to the new facility while, at the same time, faithfully keeping patients' medical appointments and providing appropriate care.

### Vietnam Wall

The Tribe hosted the Vietnam Wall in Newport last month. Tony Molina organized the event on behalf of the Tribe. Not only did he assist in the preparation of The Wall, but he also organized the ceremony that recognized all veterans.

The task wasn't easy as he had to stand watch over the wall all night and assisted in properly placing the thousand flags.

Tony and the veterans who participated in the ceremony represented the Tribe admirably, as did the Tribal members who participated in this ceremony.

On behalf of the council, I would like to express our gratitude to all who participated in this important event in loving memory and in honor of all who served in the Armed Services of our country.

## Elders' Council Meeting

June 12 • 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Chinook Winds Casino Resort

For more information, please contact April Bender at 800-922-1399, ext. 1225; 541-444-8225; or [april@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:april@ctsi.nsn.us)

## Out-of-Area Funding Is Available

If you live outside of the 11-county Contract Health Service area, are an enrolled Siletz Tribal member and registered with CHS, then you may be eligible for out-of-area benefits.

Please call CHS as soon as possible at 800-628-5720. You will need to speak to a CHS worker to receive an authorization number.

These benefits are available only through June 30, 2010. You must have services completed and have claims in to CHS by June 30, 2010.

Available benefits include:

Vision - \$400  
Medical - \$1,000

Hearing - \$1,400  
Dental - \$1,200

## Tribal Children Need Foster Parents

Do you value Siletz Native culture and want to help preserve it? If so, please consider fostering for the Tribe. The Siletz Tribe needs loving, stable, nurturing homes in all areas. If you are interested, please contact Shawna Henarie, foster care certifier, at 541-444-8275 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1275; or visit [www.ctsi.nsn.us/icw.html](http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/icw.html).

### Nuu-wee-ya' (our words)

#### Introduction to the Athabaskan Language

Open to Tribal members of all ages

#### Siletz

Siletz Tribal Community Center  
June 8 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
July 7 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Salem

Salem Area Office  
June 15 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
July 27 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Portland

Portland Area Office  
June 14 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
July 26 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Eugene

Eugene Area Office  
June 7 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
July 6 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Come and join other members of your community and Tribe in learning to speak one of our ancient languages.

For more information, contact Bud Lane at the Siletz Cultural Department at 541-444-8320 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1320; or e-mail [budl@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:budl@ctsi.nsn.us).

Send letters to:

Siletz News  
P.O. Box 549  
Siletz, OR 97380-0549  
541-444-8291 or  
800-922-1399, ext. 1291  
Fax: 541-444-2307  
E-mail: [pias@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:pias@ctsi.nsn.us)

Deadline for the July issue is June 10. Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please see the Passages Policy on page 23 when submitting items for Passages.



Member of the Native American Journalists Association

Siletz News is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal members. For all others, a \$12 annual subscription fee applies. Please make checks payable to CTSI and mail to Siletz News.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Change of address: Tribal members – call the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1258; all others – call the newspaper office.