



Siletz News
Confederated Tribes of
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Tribe, AT&T to construct cell phone tower

By Diane Rodriguez

AT&T and the Siletz Tribe are proposing to construct a 250-foot-tall telecommunications tower on the eastern side of Silatchee Park in Siletz.

Currently, there is no reliable cellular coverage in the town of Siletz or the immediate surrounding area.

"The Tribe has been working for a number of years to bring a cell tower and cellular service to the Siletz community and we are excited and pleased to be working with AT&T in a concerted effort to have reliable cellular coverage in our community," said Brenda Bremner, general manager of the Siletz Tribe.

"Our recent community meetings brought positive public comments regarding the desire of our members and our community to further equalize our community with those around us. Having cellular service is a must in today's environment," she added. "And the fact that the tower will provide an opportunity for local emergency services to enhance their communications capabilities is an added benefit."

Benefits to the community from the proposed new coverage include:

- Mobility, with access to the entire national communication grid
- Reduced telephone costs, especially long-distance calling
- Ability to communicate more readily in emergency situations and during natural disasters
- 911 coverage for all cell phone users
- Text and e-mail communication for business users
- Access to the Internet for entertainment and education

Since the proposed tower site is on tribal trust land that will be leased to AT&T, the Bureau of Indian Affairs requires an environmental assessment that it will need to approve before the lease can be approved and the project can proceed.

A public comment period is included in the environmental assessment. Comments should be submitted to the superintendent of the BIA's Siletz Agency (P.O. Box 569, Siletz, OR 97380); 541-444-2679) by Feb. 7.

Additionally, a community information meeting was held Jan. 19 at the Siletz Public Library with representatives from the Tribe and AT&T.

The environmental assessment, along with a Finding of No Significant Impact and a Decision Notice, is expected to be issued



Courtesy photo by Dean Sawyer

More than five inches of rain fell on the Central Oregon Coast on Jan. 15-16, leaving this bull standing in water on property south of Siletz near Yasek Loop and Highway 229. The heavy rain caused landslides, sewer overflows and flooding at various places throughout the county. Tribal properties in the county survived the deluge with no damage.



Photo by Diane Rodriguez

Remember to Vote

2011 Tribal Council candidates include Frank Aspria, Tina Retasket, Kurtis Barker, Loraine Butler, Robert Kentta and Melinda Logan, all of whom appeared at the Candidates Fair at Chinook Winds Casino Resort on Jan. 8. Ballots are due by 4 p.m. on Feb. 5. You can vote in person at the Siletz Tribal Community Center on Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See cell tower on page 6.