

Legislation

I reported on the status of Senate Bill S908 in last month's issue of Siletz News. On Feb. 2, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee held a hearing on this important Siletz legislation. Bud Lane, Robert Kentta, Craig Dorsay and I attended the hearing. I testified on our behalf.

Senate Bill S356 is the Grand Ronde bill that mirrors our legislation to define reservation boundaries for the purpose of taking land into trust. The Senate hearing covered testimony on both bills.

The Grand Ronde chair, Cheryle Kennedy, testified in support of S356 and in opposition of S908. The chairman of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw, Bob Garcia, also testified in opposition to S908.

Both Tribes are opposed, citing some sort of claim to the Siletz Reservation. The Grand Ronde in particular has Senate bill S356 that defines their reservation boundaries and the Restoration Act that defines their membership. Grand Ronde's claims to our reservation in the past were all rejected; they have no legal basis or standing to make these assertions.

The Coos Tribe made many assertions on their claim to our Tribe that simply are not true. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes are part of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. They were recognized as Siletz Indians when we were terminated – termination roles prove this – and they were restored as Siletz when the Siletz Restoration Act was passed.

The Coos Restoration Act clearly states who their Tribal members are – those Indians who never resided on the Siletz Reservation or those who received settlement funds and those who currently are enrolled at Siletz. The current membership of the Coos Tribe today excludes these folks. Our Tribe continues to enroll today those members who meet our blood quantum and are eligible to be enrolled who are Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw.

Under the ratified treaties and Executive Order of President Buchanan, all Western Oregon Tribes were to be relocated to the Siletz Reservation. It is unfortunate that today we have to defend historic actions.

Our Tribes suffered through the worst Indian policies of any Tribe and have endured. We will continue to support and defend our treaties and our legislation to define our 1855 reservation boundary.

Chemawa Indian School

Our Tribe, along with seven other Oregon Tribes, has been successful in having legislation introduced by Congressman Kurt Schrader on Chemawa Indian School.

As I have reported in past articles, the Oregon Tribes want to preserve the Chemawa school and property from encroachment and loss of additional school land. Congressman Schrader, Bud and I toured the school a couple of months ago. He was impressed with the progress of the school and the school property. We thank our congressman for taking the time to tour and for introducing this important legislation. It is important that we have a similar Senate bill.

Interest in introducing a bill in the Senate has been hindered by the Confederated



Delores Pigsley

Tribes of Grand Ronde, which opposes the Oregon Tribes' efforts. Many issues have been raised, all have been responded to at various Oregon Tribes meetings.

We hope Sen. Jeff Merkley will soon support our efforts.

OIDJ offers summer journalism workshop for high school students

The Oklahoma Institute for Diversity in Journalism (OIDJ) offers an annual workshop for promising high school students, scheduled this year for June 3-10.

The program's goal is to expose youth to careers in the world of daily journalism. OIDJ's mission is to provide opportunities for students who would otherwise lack access to journalism training or who face other barriers to pursuing careers in journalism.

Fifteen to 20 high school students will be selected for the 2012 workshop. They will complete work in June on the ninth annual edition of the Red Dirt Journal, the OIDJ newspaper, and its companion news website. Students will acquire basic skills in new media during this in-residence program.

High school students can apply for the workshop by downloading the application form from the Gaylord website: ou.edu/content/gaylord/home/main/outreach/oidj.html. The deadline for submitting an application is April 27.

Selected students will be given free room and board in a residence hall on the University of Oklahoma campus. Supervision of their stay will be provided at all times by peer counselors and OU staff members.

SNRC internships for college students

The Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC) seeks three Tribally affiliated student interns for summer 2012. Interns will work at least 25 hours per week from June 1 through July 31 in the center doing basic archival and research work.

The goal of the American Indian Student Internship Program is to provide students with a learning environment that helps them understand the value of archives and the research potential of the collections, and to engage in academic research and practical database-building activities related to Tribal culture, society and issues. Interns then will prepare a summary report of work, finding aids for collections, reports of research or other written work.

The center will provide on-campus housing and \$2,000 to defray living expenses.

Students interested in applying should send applications or inquiries by e-mail to Daniel F. Littlefield at dflittlefiel@ualr.edu or Robert E. Sanderson at resanderson@ualr.edu; or by U.S. mail to SNRC, University Plaza, Suite 500, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2801 S University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204.

SNRC must receive applications by March 15. It will select three applicants and three alternates. Center staff will notify students of their decision by April 1.

For information on SNRC and its work, visit ualr.edu/sequoyah.

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 – contact the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258; 800-922-1399, ext. 1258; or angelam@ctsi.nsn.us. All others – call the newspaper office.

Send information 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

Deadline for the April issue is March 9. Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please see the Passages Policy on page 19 when submitting items for Passages.



Member of the Native American Journalists Association

Nuu-wee-ya' (our words)

Introduction to the Athabaskan language

Open to Tribal members of all ages

Eugene

Eugene Area Office

March 5 – 6-8 p.m.

April 2 – 6-8 p.m.

Portland

Portland Area Office

March 12 – 6-8 p.m.

April 9 – 6-8 p.m.

Siletz

Siletz Tribal Community Center

March 6 – 6-8 p.m.

April 3 – 6-8 p.m.

Salem

Salem Area Office

March 13 – 6-8 p.m.

April 10 – 6-8 p.m.

Classes begin with basic instruction and progress over the year. They also are a refresher course for more-advanced students. Come and join other members of your community and Tribe in learning to speak one of our ancient languages.

We also have equipment in the Cultural Department available for use in grinding and drilling shell or pine nuts or other applications. If you need to use the equipment, call the number below to set up an appointment.

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.