

Bud Lane, Robert Kentta, Sharon Edenfield, Craig Dorsay and I recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to follow up on the status of our Tribal legislation that recognizes our 1855 treaty boundary as well as to discuss other important issues with legislators.

I am happy to report that we are making great progress on the legislation to provide our Tribe with a better process for placing land into trust within our original 1855 reservation.

Both the Senate and the House versions of the bill have been passed by the Indian Affairs Committee. The next step is clearing the full chambers of Congress, which we hope will occur very soon.

Congress passes Indian child welfare bill

Congress passed S. 184, the Native American Children's Safety Act. The bill amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in Tribal court proceedings.

The bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and passed the full Senate on June 1, 2015. The bill passed the House of Representatives on May 23, 2016.

Specifically, it requires background checks for potential foster care parents of Indian children and ensures that Indian children living on reservations have all of the same protections when assigned to foster care that children living off the reservation have.



Sharon Edenfield, Delores Pigsley and Bud Lane in Washington, D.C.

Courtesy photo

FY17 Interior appropriations bill

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up its draft of the FY17 appropriations bill, which covers BIA and IHS as well as the entire Interior Department and the U.S. Forest Service. While specific funding details won't be

available until after the mark-up, the committee has publicly stated that in its bill:

- Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Education are funded at \$2.9 billion – an increase of \$72 million above fiscal year 2016. This includes necessary



Delores Pigsley

increases for schools, law enforcement, road maintenance and economic development.

- The Indian Health Service is funded at \$5.1 billion – an increase of \$271 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. This includes operating costs for staffing at new facilities and increases for rising contract support costs, medical inflation and a growing and aging population.

Also included in the bill is language blocking the Obama administration's revised rules on Tribal acknowledgement. The bill states: "None of the funds made available by this or any other act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to implement, administer or enforce the final rule entitled 'Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes' published by the Department of the Interior in the Federal Register on July 1, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 37862 et seq.)."

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Deadline for the August issue is July 11.

Submission of articles and photos is encouraged.

Please see the Passages Policy on page 20 when submitting items for Passages.



Member of the Native American Journalists Association

Elders Council Meeting

July 16 • 1-4 p.m. • Chinook Winds Casino Resort

Siletz Elder potlucks are held monthly at 6 p.m. on the Monday before the regularly scheduled Elders meeting. Please bring a potluck dish you would like to share.

For more information, contact the Elders Program at 800-922-1399, ext. 1261, or 541-444-8261.

Nuu-wee-ya' (our words)

Introduction to the Athabaskan language

Open to Tribal members of all ages

Siletz
 Tribal Community Center
 Aug. 8 – 6-8 p.m.

Portland
 Portland Area Office
 Aug. 15 – 6-8 p.m.

July classes will be held at Culture Camp.

Eugene
 Eugene Area Office
 Aug. 9 – 6-8 p.m.

Salem
 Salem Area Office
 Aug. 16 – 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 email budl@ctsi.nsn.us.