

Chinook Winds opens with safety protocols during phase 1

LINCOLN CITY, Ore. – On March 17, 2020, the Siletz Tribal Council made the unprecedented decision to shut down Chinook Winds Casino Resort due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure was for the safety of our community, students, staff and guests.

As the state began to reopen in mid-May, the Siletz Tribal Council made the decision to reopen Chinook Winds, in phases, to ensure the safety of team members, guests and Tribal members. Chinook Winds opened to the public May 21.

“We want to thank everyone in the community, our team members and Tribal members for their patience in waiting to hear about our plans for reopening. We are ready to welcome all those who feel safe to visit,” said Michael S. Fisher, general manager.

We continue to stay informed by local and state health authorities and have implemented necessary protocols for safety throughout the resort. During the closure, we have taken advantage of this time to fully disinfect all guest and team member areas.

The casino has modified hours in phase one to allow for daily cleaning and disinfecting of the property. The Executive Management Team regularly reviews local coronavirus data and trends to provide recommendations to the Tribal Council as the situation changes.

As part of a 13-page phased process, below are protocols that have been implemented in phase one of our reopening:

- Non-smoking across the property
- Modified hours: 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily
- Limited to 1,000 guests occupancy, with procedures for excess guest populations
- Facemasks or face shields are required of team members and guests.
- Non-invasive temperature checks utilizing no-contact infrared thermometers for team members and guests
- Guests and team members who demonstrate signs of illness will be immediately removed from the building to seek health care.
- Markers will be visible to guests to ensure physical distancing.
- Use of mobile queuing to avoid lines
- Increased health and hygiene reminders throughout the property, including the proper way to wear, handle and dispose of masks
- Hand sanitizer dispensers located at key guest and team member contact areas

Phase one will reopen with limited capacity throughout the property:

- Slots – 50% of machines available
- Bingo – 200-seat sessions
- Keno – kiosks only
- Sports Wagering – based on available sporting events
- Deli, Rogue River Steakhouse and Chinook’s Seafood Grill – modified menus
- Lodging – open with no in-room daily stayover service and limited hotel lobby occupancy

Chinook Winds is fully committed to following recommended health and safety protocols to protect its team members and guests. We will continue to re-evaluate and make adjustments in the coming weeks and months to slowly open the remaining venues and amenities when it is safe to do so.

Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Siletz News* and other Tribal issues.

All letters must include the author’s signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

Editor-in-Chief: Tina Retasket
Editor: Diane Rodriguez
Assistant: Andy Taylor

To the editor:

April 16, 2020, was not a happy day for me. I was informed of the passing of a respected friend and relative, Chuck Ricks. He was the loving husband of Pauline Ricks and father of Randy Ricks.

Many of us who know him can remember his many contributions to the success of the Siletz Tribe. His support of the Tribe can be traced clear back to the termination years. The value of his participation in our Restoration cannot be measured.

I am comforted in knowing that when he reached the other side, he was welcomed by the drum songs of our departed relatives.

Edmond A. Ben

To the editor:

So correct me if I’m wrong here, but isn’t the reason our people fought for restoration and the driving force that caused the Supreme Court of the United States of America to rule in our favor the fact that we were losing generations of our people and no one was helping them? Isn’t that why we have a Tribe? To take care of own, to help those who struggle with people who understand that struggle?

My mother and all her siblings were orphaned when she was a little girl. There was no Tribe, no ICW, no one to step in or help. She had a hard life and as a direct result of that I too fell through the cracks.

All my life I was on the outside looking in, I never quite fit in. I was always apologizing for being myself because I was just too much for people.

I never knew any of you, I never so much as met my own mother until I was 10 years old. Not one thing was ever done to help me. I’m not here to blame anyone or cry for it, the simple fact is that my life, my mother’s life, the children and grandchildren being left to the state today are the direct progression and result of the things done to us. And most specifically of the legislation that took our recognition from us altogether.

So when I read in the Nesika Illahee that it is happening again to my cousin Levi’s grandchildren, when I read the words of my two aunties who sit on Tribal Council that there is nothing they can do, I am sick inside and beyond furious.

Our greatest resource is our children, we are caretakers only – unto seven generations – am I lying?! Why do we have a Tribe? Why are we paying \$300,000 in wages and reimbursement to Tribal Council this year if we cannot even nurture and raise our own families?

Do you have any idea what it feels like to be one of those kids? Because I am one. The first time in my life I ever felt connected or accepted was in the penitentiary when my Native brothers pulled me in. I don’t care whose fault it is – it is every one of our responsibility to see that it doesn’t happen again.

Randall Hartwell

CTSI Youth Community Art Challenge

HELP UPLIFT OUR TRIBAL COMMUNITY BY CREATING A WORK OF ART

The past few months have been hard on so many in our community. Beginning in May, the CTSI Youth Services Team invites you to help raise community spirits by creating a piece of artwork that encourages those around you.

You can submit any type of art
{ drawing poster painting essay collage video }
{ song weaving poem beadwork story animation }

that you feel will help uplift our tribal community.

If you need some inspiration, you can use your artwork to answer the question “*Siletz is strong because...*” but submission can be up to your artistic interpretation.

Submit all entries via email to Jacobr@ctsi.nsn.us. With your submission, include the youth’s age, name, and any description about the art that you’d like to share.

Age Categories

0-5 (with family help)	6-10	11-14	14-17	18-24
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Prize

All submissions will receive raffle entry with a chance at winning a digital Amazon gift card.

Deadline for submission is June 30th, 2020

All art will be displayed on the CTSI Youth Facebook Page.