

Tribal Council has had an eventful month. We watched the Insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and eventually the approval of the electoral vote, culminating with the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. The new administration is in place and we look forward to working with some old friends and meeting some new folks.

We are pleased that Rep. Deb Haaland (D-NM), the first Native woman to serve in this capacity, has been asked to serve as Secretary of the Interior. Her experience, knowledge and background serve her well. She must still be confirmed by the U.S. Senate and we look forward to her confirmation.

Memorandum of Understanding – City of Salem

On the Jan. 19, Bud Lane and I met with Mayor Robert Bennett of Salem to sign an MOU with the City of Salem. The purpose of the MOU is to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between the City of Salem and the Siletz Tribe. The city recognizes the historic and active connection the Tribe has in Salem and the surrounding area.

Oregon State University

On Jan. 21, the Tribal Council hosted a meeting with F King Alexander, the new president of Oregon State University. He came from Louisiana State University and has been in Corvallis for about six months.

We were pleased to have OSU reach out to the Tribe for this meeting. The council and staff discussed many issues that relate to recruiting and retention of students at OSU. The school is very interested in visiting the Tribe and students to assist in planning for their future.

COVID-19

We are still in the midst of fighting this pandemic. I am pleased to report the clinic has administered all the vaccines it has received so far. We expect more shipments and will continue to provide vaccines as long as our supply lasts. We've received assurance that the supply is adequate. Appointments are currently being scheduled at the clinic.

The governor and her staff continue to meet with the Tribes to keep us informed on the latest COVID information.

Gov. Kate Brown

The governor hosted a meeting with Oregon's nine Tribes to discuss the state's, or the governor's, gaming policy.

I have to say there has never been an express policy on gaming in the state of Oregon. All nine Tribes have entered into compacts with the state in order to operate Class III gaming in their casinos. Each Tribe's compact is different.

As sovereigns, each Tribe has the ability to exercise the right to follow the law, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, to establish a casino. It is our belief there is a legal process to follow that includes consultations on many levels with the state and local governments. If the process is approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Indian Gaming Commission, it then goes to the governor for concurrence, approval or not.

Our Tribe is currently in that process and we are counting on following this process through to the final determination on our application for a casino in Salem.

Tribes were called upon to discuss with the governor their positions. Not all Tribes agree with the proposed policy of one casino per Tribe as a couple of Tribes already have two casinos. The governor said she would rethink her proposed position.



Delores Pigsley

Tribes discussed the lottery and the effect the lottery has on Tribal casinos. The lottery is the Tribal casino's biggest competitor. We agreed that we need to find a way to work together and have more frequent meetings with this kind of discussion. We are thankful Gov. Brown makes the time in her busy schedule to meet and talk with Tribes on very important issues.

I miss seeing and visiting with you all in person and hope we can do that in the near future.



Elders Council Meeting
 The Elders Council will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, at 1 p.m. If you are interested in participating in the virtual meeting from your phone, computer or smart phone, please contact Brian Crump in the Elders Program at 541-444-8233 by Feb. 10, 2021.

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 enrollment@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
 Email: pias@ctsi.nsn.us

Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 10.

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

CTSI JOM Program Youth February Sculpture Activity

Sign up to receive a 3-D Puzzle/Sculpture Activity Shipped Directly to Your Door

Work on the Project at Home with Your Family and then Drop by a Zoom Meeting on February 26, 2021 at 4:00 pm to Share Your Sculpture with Other Tribal Youth

Sign Up by February 16, 2021 Contact Your Local Education Specialist

Siletz: Alissa Lane-Keene (alissal@ctsi.nsn.us)
 Salem: Sonya Moody-Jurado (sonyamj@ctsi.nsn.us)
 Portland: Katy Holland (katyh@ctsi.nsn.us)
 Eugene: Nick Viles (nickv@ctsi.nsn.us)