

Chairman's Report

COVID update

We have seen a staggering increase in COVID-19 positive cases since last month. At least 129 Tribal members have had or currently have COVID-19. The new cases in Lincoln County are folks who are unvaccinated, younger folks. Cases are also surging throughout Oregon.

Because we had an outbreak of eight staff at Chinook Winds, the Tribal Council felt it was necessary to shut down for two weeks to deep clean and do more testing.

In order to more fully protect the health of Tribal members, employees, visitors and the community at large, the Tribal Council passed a resolution on Aug. 24 that requires all staff to be vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID testing. The policy is based on guidance from the CDC, Tribal, state and local health authorities. More information about the policy will be provided in the October issue of *Siletz News*.

Although the Tribe was in phase II of our emergency plan dealing with COVID-19, it was necessary because of the rise in cases to revert back to phase I. All staff are required to work, essential staff in the office on shifts and others to work from home.

It is necessary to call and make an appointment for services if you want to meet with someone in the office. Please call if you have questions about any services.

Salem casino

Our application at the BIA is close to getting a decision on the environmental issue.

Public Relations: A firm is sending out mailers that are anti-casino. We will have our own firm and lobby group work toward getting positive information out into the area. Someone is spending a lot of money to prevent us from building a casino.

CARES Act funds

December 2021 is the magic date to have the money we received in 2020 be allocated or spent, or returned to the government. We are in the last stages of budgeting that money; any expenditure must be related to COVID prevention.

American Rescue Plan funds

This is similar to the Cares Act but not quite as restrictive. We are currently budgeting and coming up with ideas for the use of these funds.

Gaming

Chinook Winds has been doing very well even though we are not currently open. The hot summer has been good for business.

When the casino is open, emergency restrictions are still in place to keep customers safe. Other Oregon casinos have differing requirements.

Clinic

We recently purchased the old bank property in Siletz with a plan to operate the Siletz pharmacy out of that building. There is an ATM on the property currently and some remodeling will occur.

In addition, we have purchased property in Lincoln City to operate a small clinic.

Meetings

We have had recent meetings with the Lincoln County Commissioners as well as the Lincoln City Council. Agenda items included housing, emergency preparedness, transportation and law enforcement.

These annual meetings have been important to share ideas, issues and concerns.



Delores Pigsley

FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is still very much present in Lincoln County. The threat of wildfires is very high and we are fortunate so far this year that we have not experienced a fire.

This month, it will be a year since Lincoln City was threatened by the Echo Mountain Complex fire and many people from the Otis area are still displaced from their homes. FEMA has been great to work with.

Elders Council Meeting

The Elders Council will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Saturday, Sept. 18, 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 Wednesday, Sept. 15, 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

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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 October issue is Sept. 9.

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

Be safe. Wear a mask. Get vaccinated. Stay well.

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**SUMMER SESSION CONTINUES THRU MID-SEPTEMBER
THURSDAYS AT 5:00 PM-INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION
THURSDAYS AT 5:45 PM- BEGINNING CONVERSATION**

**Please contact Nick Viles (nickv@ctsi.nsn.us)
with questions and to sign up**