

Tribal Restoration

Congratulations to every Siletz Tribal member on Nov. 18, 2021. It was the Tribe's 44th year of Restoration!

The Tribe has come a long way since Tribal member Joe Lane began the restoration process back in 1972. Many people involved in the early effort have since passed, but we need to be very grateful for their effort that led to Tribal restoration in 1977.

Art Bensell continued the effort in 1975 as Tribal chairman. The Tribal Council testified before Congress in March 1976; I was happy to be part of that delegation.

On Nov. 18, 1977, our Tribe was restored to federal recognition and as we celebrated at our pow-wow in Newport, Ore., President Jimmy Carter called to congratulate the Tribe.

Much work was required after restoration. The Tribe, working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, negotiated for funds to provide services. The state of Oregon and our congressman insisted on the Tribe settling any hunting and fishing rights the Tribe might have before any discussion on establishing reservation lands.

An agreement was reached (called the Consent Decree) that required legislation and a court action, then the Reservation Act was finally passed giving the Tribe small acreages of timber parcels to assist in funding Tribal programs.

Tribal Council has worked diligently to be rid of the Consent Decree that was tied to Restoration for Siletz and for the

Grand Ronde Tribe. We are the only restored Tribes that had to make this concession. I am happy to announce that our Sen. Jeff Merkley introduced a Senate bill (see page 12) to right the wrong and to abolish the Consent Decree. Considerable work must still be done to pass the legislation and to then have the U.S. District Court take the same action.

We've come a long way since 1972 and since Restoration in 1977. We still have a ways to go. Please remember and appreciate those early leaders who have given us what we have today.

Facebook

Lots of information gets posted to Facebook by many people. Some of the information is correct, some is misleading and some is incorrect. If you have questions or want to clarify information, you can call any Tribal Council member. Our phone numbers are posted and you can get answers.

Salem casino

The Tribal Council recently hired a public relations firm to assist with getting good information out to the general public about our efforts to build a casino in Salem. The results have been good as we continue to move forward on the project.

Consultations

Many requests for consultations have been made to Tribes on issues that affect our Tribe, both state and federal. Today I have to say there are more consultations requested than can be met.

Our congressional folks recently called a meeting with Tribal leaders in Bend, Ore. The meeting included Department of Interior officials and BIA officials who were interested in briefing them on Tribal issues and requests. Eight tribes had representatives attend. Deb Haaland, the new Secretary of Interior, was to be there but was called away because of a family emergency.

Gov. Kate Brown has also consulted with Tribes on gaming issues recently. The ongoing issue has been the Oregon Racing Commission's (ORC) plan to allow machines similar to video lottery machines in a designated facility in Grants Pass, Ore.

The ORC has applied for a license to operate the machines; it's not clear at this time if the license will be approved. If so, it will open a new gaming venue in Oregon that Tribes oppose.

Housing

The new Mamook Tokatee housing units in Portland, Ore., will be open and occupied this month. This is a collaborative project with the Tribe and the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland. It will provide housing to low- and middle-income Tribal members.



Delores Pigsley

COVID-19

The Tribe and the county still have a ways to go to rid folks of the virus. The Tribe is still in phase one of our emergency plan. It's hard to predict what may happen next.

The clinic has been active in providing vaccinations throughout our service area. Unvaccinated people continue to get and spread the virus.

Be safe. Stay home. Get vaccinated. Stay well.

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Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 10.

Submission of articles and photos is encouraged.

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



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