

New Year

We welcome 2022 as a year of change and challenging times. Elections will be held in early February. I will be pleased if I am re-elected; if not, I have to say being on the council for the past many years has been extremely rewarding. Since Restoration in 1977, the Tribe has been amazingly progressive.

On Jan. 19, I listened to Tribal elder Ed Ben talk on a webinar hosted by Ecotrust in Portland, Ore. He spoke of termination and the effect of termination back in 1953. Then council member Bud Lane spoke about progress, culture and current Tribal issues.

The presentations should remind all of us of the terrible policies that affected our membership since the signing of the first treaty.

I have been asked to be a guest speaker at the Native American Rights

Fund's (NARF) 50th Anniversary Celebration in Boulder, Colo., in April. I accepted the honor, assuming travel is approved at that time.

NARF lawyers worked tirelessly early on, assisting the Tribe in gaining Restoration back in the 1970s. We owe NARF our deepest gratitude for the dedication and the effort that was put forth for us to gain Restoration in November 1977.

COVID

The Tribe is still operating under our emergency plan, phase one. The COVID counts in Oregon and in Lincoln County have surged. It is now more important than ever to follow the protocols put forth to stay healthy.

Programs are serving Tribal members via phone, email and postal mail. Employees are encouraged to work from home and all employees must be vaccinated.

Chinook Winds Casino is still open with reduced hours and is having difficulty hiring help even with the bonuses in effect.

As of Jan. 19, we have had the highest number of COVID cases processed by the clinic, where 94 positives have been identified. In December 2021, our highest count was 38 positives.

Salem casino

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) released the environmental assessment in January. Notification was published and the BIA will hold a public hearing. It's really the first stage of a long process, but progress is being made.

Siletz Tribal general manager

The Tribal Council selected Tribal member Kurtis Barker as the Tribe's new general manager (see page 1). Barker has managed our 477 SSP program and been an employee of the Tribe for the past 16 years. Congratulations to Kurtis!

We thank our Natural Resources manager, Mike Kennedy, for filling in as the GM for the past year.



Delores Pigsley

Acting casino general manager

John Wheeler, director of Finance, has been named the acting general manager for Chinook Winds Casino Resort. This action was effective Jan. 1, 2022. The Tribe will be actively recruiting for a new general manager.

For more information about the Siletz Tribe, visit ctsi.nsn.us.

Need Rental Housing?

The Siletz Tribal Housing Department encourages you to apply for the Low-Income Rental Program waiting list in Siletz (1-4 bedrooms) and Lincoln City (2-3 bedrooms – Neachesna Village).

Applications can be obtained at any Tribal area office (Eugene, Salem, Portland, Siletz) or online from the Tribal website – ctsi.nsn.us; follow links – Tribal Services-Housing-Low Rent Apartments & Home Ownership.

For any questions, call 800-922-1399, ext. 1322, or 541-444-8322
Fax: 541-444- 8313

Elders Council Meeting

The Elders Council will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at 1 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the virtual meeting from your phone, computer or smart phone, please contact the Elders Program at 541-444-8233 by Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022.

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.



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TUESDAYS JANUARY 11-MARCH 15

5:00 PM-BEGINNING CONVERSATION 1

5:45 PM- BEGINNING CONVERSATION 2

THURSDAYS JANUARY 13-MARCH 17

5:00 PM-ONGOING CONVERSATION

SATURDAYS 2/5, 2/26, 3/12

NOON-IMMERSION CONVERSATION HOUR

TO SIGN UP CONTACT NICK VILES AT NICKV@CTSI.NSN.US OR X1757