

Tribal Council election

Our Tribal election took place last month. Bonnie Peterson, Alfred (Bud) Lane and I were elected. Council officer elections followed and the same officers were re-elected.

The Election Board live-streamed the counting of ballots; they did a great job.

The council has been extremely busy with consultations with various organizations, meeting with the Oregon Tribes and working/moving forward with our pending legislation on the Tribe's Consent Decree.

A meeting was held recently with Sen. Jeff Merkley regarding the Consent Decree legislation. He informed us that the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee would hold a hearing, which was then scheduled for Feb. 16. I testified virtually. Our hope is that it will pass in this Congress.

Chinook Winds

Council will be advertising to fill the general manager position at Chinook Winds. Mike Fisher's last day as GM was Dec. 31, 2021. John Wheeler, director of finance, currently serves as the interim general manager.

Both the Tribe and the casino are experiencing a very high number of vacant positions. As a member of the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance, we learned that several Tribes have many vacant positions as well and most are offering a bonus as we are. One Tribe reported as many as 250 vacancies.

We hope COVID cases have spiked and that opening the child care facility at the casino will give us more workers.

Siletz Community Clinic

The clinic reported that a garden project manager has been hired, so we will start seeing improvements on that property. Additionally, the planning for the pharmacy expansion in Siletz and the development of a clinic in Lincoln City is moving along.

We have opened a comfort station to provide services to the homeless population in Siletz. It will provide showers and the ability to wash clothes, get warm and receive necessary or needed services.

COVID

We continue to operate under phase 1 emergency policy. We had an extremely high rate of COVID cases in January, 198. Of those cases, 56 were unvaccinated.

Oregon Racing Commission

Of major concern has been the Oregon Racing Commission's (ORC) development of a casino in Grants Pass. Tribes oppose the development and have asked the governor to intervene.

The state attorney general, however, has reviewed the legality of the machines and determined they are illegal. This is very good news to the Tribes

Chemawa Station

Chemawa Station has finally seen the 7-11 gas station opening. Currently the site is being prepared to build a Chick-fil-A. The LLC is planning for a water feature at the entrance of the site that will

be representative of both the Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes.

Salem casino

The draft Environmental Assessment was released (see page 1) and a hearing called for the development of the Salem casino. Many Grand Ronders testified in opposition as we expected they would.

The BIA extended the comment period for 60 days; we will refute the negative comments. Any Tribal member has the opportunity to provide comments.

The Tribal Council has worked virtually for nearly the past two years. We look forward to 2022 being a productive year.

Stay well!



Delores Pigsley

Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Oregon Law Center, civil legal service providers for low-income Oregonians, operate a **public benefits hotline** where low-income Oregonians can talk to lawyers and paralegals to get advice on public benefits, including unemployment benefits:

800-520-5292 or Oregonlawhelp.org.

Elders Council Meeting

The Elders Council will hold a virtual Zoom meeting on **Saturday, March 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, March 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.

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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:

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Deadline for the April issue is March 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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THURSDAYS JANUARY 13-MARCH 17
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SATURDAYS 2/5, 2/26, 3/12
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TO SIGN UP CONTACT NICK VILES AT NICKV@CTSI.NSN.US OR X1757