

Gov. Kate Brown

Our Tribe has been fortunate to work with Gov. Brown for the past several years. The council recently attended the Governor's Summit in Florence, Ore., at Three Rivers Casino. All Oregon Tribes were present and took part in the discussions, made presentations and interacted with many Oregon state agencies. Important Tribal issues were brought forward by the Tribes' chairmen regarding culture, resources, education and Tribal sovereignty.

These are the final days of Gov. Brown's official time in office. She came to Siletz to make a final visit as governor. The Tribe hosted a lunch and we then toured the Collections Building to review the collections that will eventually be placed in our Tribal museum.

We showed our appreciation as we visited the Dance House and presented her with a treaty blanket as our appreciation for her work not only with Siletz but all other Tribes. We will miss the relationship.

NCAI's 79th Annual Convention and Marketplace

Lorraine Butler and I attended the NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) convention in Sacramento, Calif., in November. It was a huge gathering with many important subjects up for discussion.

The Sovereignty Run ended in Sacramento as well as the tour of the totem that began in Bellingham, Wash., toured the entire United States and ended in Sacramento. The carved totem was done by Jewell James and family (House of Tears) of the Lummi Tribe.

Protection of sovereignty and getting the vote out in Indian Country were the prime messages of this Congress. Demonstrators were in attendance to protest against disenrollment that was occurring in some Tribes. NCAI had no discussion on the protest.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Our negotiation with ODFW has been completed on the Tribe's hunting and fishing agreement (the Consent Decree). I reported at General Council that the next step in the process is for the ODFW Commission to approve/disapprove of our agreement at its Dec. 16 meeting.

We had government-to-government meetings with other Tribes concerning our agreement; we still face opposition from the Grand Ronde Tribe even though they are asking for the same approvals as we are. Hopefully we can work out the conditions they are opposing.

Restoration

We so enjoyed this year's Restoration Celebration! Charles Wilkinson, author of *The People Are Dancing Again*, was our guest speaker. Charles was very active in the Tribe's effort to gain federal recognition. It was good to see and visit with everyone who attended.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer

Rep. Blumenauer held a forum for Oregon Tribes to talk about Tribal issues in Oregon. He holds a forum once a year to be informed so he can assist Tribes

wherever he can. We appreciate his interest, it is always good to see him and visit with him.

Chemawa Indian School

At the recent NCAI convention in Sacramento, Indian schools and issues around cemeteries and burial sites were discussed. The Secretary of Interior is very involved in those discussions and is working toward identifying any and all sites. The Chemawa Cemetery is referred to many times.

I visit the cemetery and have for many years. There are markers for most of the graves, a few have been lost and need to be replaced. The discussion involved having more information on the markers, such as date of birth, date of death and where the person was from. Discussion has taken place on moving some of the remains back to their home location, but that has not occurred at Chemawa.

Visit to Pine Ridge

I was on a short vacation to South Dakota in October. When visiting and saying hello to the chairman at Pine Ridge, it was an unexpected pleasure to meet Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.



Delores Pigsley

She was there to meet with the Tribe on a variety of issues, including the Red Cloud School in Pine Ridge. This had been a boarding school in the past; it currently is a day school operated by the Catholic Church. The school has a great gift shop of artwork from the local members.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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