

Siletz Tribal hunting, fishing and gathering

As reported in *Siletz News*, our legislation to restore treaty rights has been passed and signed by President Joe Biden. It was great news to end 2023.

The next action that must be taken is to have the lawsuit that passed in federal court in 1980 vacated. Council and Legal are working toward that end.

Our Natural Resource Department will add a couple of new staff positions to enhance the department with regards to fishing, gathering and enhancement of our obligations under the agreement with the state of Oregon.

Chemawa Indian School

I was recently appointed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs/Education to serve on the Chemawa School Board. I do have a special interest in the school and the students who attend. I live a mile from Chemawa so it is convenient for me to serve in that capacity.

The Tribe's interest in the school goes back for many years. The state of the campus is a concern; with the upkeep of the grounds there is much to be cleaned up. I have shared pictures of the trash that is thrown along Indian School Road and in front of the Chemawa Cemetery.

It's clear to me that the old abandoned campus should be developed in a way that supports the school. Hopefully a plan can be developed that will be supported by other Tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Committee appointments

I will be making recommendations to the Tribal Council to fill committee appointments that are vacant. There is always an attempt to appoint members to their preferred committees and also to assure that members who want to serve get on a committee.

We are thankful to all those who have served on committees in the past; it's a great help to the Tribal Council.

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Council members recently attended the ATNI winter session in Portland, Ore. It was one of the best-attended meetings by Northwest Tribes.

Gov. Tina Kotek welcomed everyone to Portland and addressed the attendees on issues that are her priority. The Tribal chairmen had dinner with her; we had the opportunity to bring up issues, make suggestions and just have a pleasant time with her.

Shana Radford was recently hired as the governor's Tribal liaison; she is a member of the Umatilla Tribe. The governor is committed to working with Tribes and told us she will be visiting each reservation this year.

Chemawa Station

Bonnie Peterson, Loraine Butler and I currently serve on the Chemawa Station LLC with three members of the Grand Ronde Tribe. Currently a 7-11 Fueling and Convenience Store and a Chick-fil-A are in business on the property.

Infrastructure development is now going on as we expect to welcome a hotel, restaurant, tire center and other businesses.

Salem casino

We are still awaiting approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to have the land in Salem taken in trust for gaming. Everyone will be kept informed as we continue to plan for the development.

Judge Boldt decision

Tribes celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Boldt fish decision that was made in favor of Oregon and Washington Tribes. The celebration was hosted by the Muckleshoot Tribe in Auburn, Wash. Bud Lane and I attended on behalf of our Tribe.

Many of the Tribe's members who fought the fish wars were remembered as well as the legacy they left to be carried forward.

Charles Wilkinson's book, *Treaty Justice: The Northwest Tribes, the Boldt Decision, and the Recognition of Fishing Rights*, was his last work before he passed last June. His son, Seth, gave a presentation on behalf of Charles that was very well-received.

Billy Frank, past chairman of the Nisqually Tribe, was also remembered for his great work. A statue of Billy Frank will



Delores Pigsley

be erected in Washington, D.C., with other notables in the Capitol.

2024 Election

Congratulations to Robert Kentta, Gerald Ben and Judy Muschamp on the recent Tribal election. Officers elected were Bud Lane, vice chairman; Robert Kentta, treasurer; Judy Muschamp, secretary; and myself as chairman.

I will do my best to continue the work on Tribal priorities. I very much appreciate the council's confidence in me.

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