

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for excellent care at Siletz clinic

I want to write a letter to all of you to let you know what a great doctor and physical therapist we all have at the Clinic.

Dr. Bradford and Gene Moe are two very great people. I want to tell all of you how grateful I am that we tribal members have such good people on staff at our clinic.

I was hurt on the job and could not hardly stand or sit on the job. Dr. Bradford took me off work and sent me to Gene. This was clear back in July that this started. I have just now gotten my release for full-time work. Dr. Bradford made SAIF fix my work station so I could come back to work full time. He took all kinds of calls and faxes from my company, and SAIF people. He stood his ground with them all. Even when they made him angry.

Gene kept working and working on me until most of my constant pain was gone. This was a condition that I have had off and on for about six years.

Also, we have a good doctor in Dr. Burns for our children. I have a very special grandson with numerous problems that Dr. Burns has been seeing and treating for the last couple of years. He has helped him a lot.

We are very lucky to have these fine people there for us. I just wanted to say THANKS. I hope they stay with us and don't end up leaving like some of our other fine doctors and dentists have.

Thanks again.

*Juanita Smart and Family
Roll #377*

Healing the addiction of alcohol and drugs

"Grandfather, it is I, Spiritfeather. Help me, Grandfather. I am lost from my addiction of alcohol and drugs. My life hurts from this, as do the ones around me. I can't see, touch, or smell. Soon my life will die from this disease of addiction."

"Spiritfeather, this disease can blow away in the wind as the water flows and trees grow. Only you can take this addiction from your body and blow it into the wind. Your body will then take on Good Medicine to see, touch, and smell as this young warrior did. His name is Sun-in-my-eyes."

"Sun-in-my-eyes lived away from his people because of his bad ways of being. Everyone knew that he had the Crazy Spirit of Bad Medicine in him. During a time when the leaves touch the ground, Sun-in-my-eyes went to the Medicine Man for help. 'Sus-uk, you must help me. I went to the other side of the river and picked the bad leaves for life,'

"At that instant, Sus-uk, the Medicine Man, started to sing to the spirits. He then said, 'I see that you have picked a bad leaf and put it in with the good ones. You must not pick the bad leaves for too many of them will kill us. It is alright for in time we will heal from these leaves.' I then started to remember the teaching of the elders picking leaves; that if I pick too many I am to take out most of, but not all, and to cover them up with good medicine leaves and the bad medicine leaves begin to heal. The more I picked, the more I began to see and I threw them all over and around me.

"I felt good and was happy running back toward my people.

They knew I was healed. As I touched everyone on the elders on down, the drum again beat to the heart as Sus-uk, the Medicine Man, began to sing an honor song as others followed. Thank you, Grandfather, for healing this man. Can you feel him, can you see him calling your name, not crying your name.' Swallows-toward-the-sky spoke to me and said, 'My brother, Sun-in-my-eyes, I had waited many seasons for your sickness to go away. You are like me now, old and wise. Look, Sun-in-my-eyes, another has crossed the river, you

must stop him and show him how to pick the right leaves and may the sun show on your eyes forever my brother, A-Ho."

Thank you, Grandfather, for showing me how to pick the right way to teach and show our younger ones to pick the good over the bad and keep on picking the good for the addiction of alcohol and drugs will heal.

A-Ho.

*Clifford W. Case
"Spiritfeather"*

Veterans health care article proves to be hoax

Many organizations and agencies across the country which provide benefits and health care to veterans have recently been the victims of a serious information error, including the Siletz Tribe. In the last issue of *Siletz News*, we ran a story that had been provided to us from two different sources entitled "Public Announcements to all Veterans," which stated that if a U.S. veteran has not registered at a Veterans Affairs Hospital for medical care between October 1, 1996 and October 1, 1998, he or she will lose all medical benefits for life. **This information is not true.**

This information was circulated on the Internet, through the mail, and was posted on bulletin boards in communities and cities everywhere. Consequently, many veterans and their families have become concerned about this misinformation, and have been calling services agencies. The

following is the correct information regarding veterans benefits:

VA health care eligibility reform was authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in October, 1996. The new law requires using a system of enrollment priorities. There are seven enrollment priority groups, and the VA will enroll veterans from as many of those groups as possible. Veterans can apply for enrollment at any time they come to a VA medical facility for care, even after the trial enrollment period, which ends October 1, 1998.

So, if you or someone in your family is a veteran who receives health benefits - don't panic!

For more details, call the Portland Veterans Administration office at 1-800-827-1000, or your local VA hospital.

Letters to the Editor:

All letters received will be printed except those which are known to be slanderous or racist. Please type or write legibly, no profane language will be printed. The *Siletz News* and Tribal Government accept no responsibility for statements made in the Letters to the Editor. The opinions expressed are those of the individual writing in. Letters that exceed 450 words will be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142. All letters must include your name, address, and signature.

Send your letters to:



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PLEASE NOTE: The General Manager of the Siletz Tribe is the Chief Editor of the *Siletz News*.

Siletz News Deadline

If you wish to submit articles or photos to be printed in the *Siletz News*, please submit them on or before the 15th of each month.

Articles or photos received after the 15th of any month will be printed in the next month's issue. Mail to: *Siletz News*, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380. Tel: 1-800-922-1399, ext. 291. FAX directly to: 1-541-444-8391.

Email: newspaper@ctsi.nsn.us.