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Deadline for articles for the March newsletter is March 10th. Send all articles, photos, letters, etc., to:

Newsletter Editor
Siletz Tribe
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

Please *sign* all letters, and include your address and phone number (in case we have any questions.)

Photos are encouraged. Everyone loves to see photos of events, tribal members, and especially babies.

Don't forget those birthday or anniversary wishes for your loved ones.

The newsletter is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal Members. For all others, there is a \$12.00/annual subscription fee. For more information, leave your name and phone number at 444-8291, and the editor will return your call.

For a change of address on your newsletter: Tribal Members call Lisa Norton, Enrollment Clerk at 444-8258; all others, call the newsletter office at 444-8291 and leave your new address on the voice mail.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Delores Pigsley

The month of January was extremely busy for the Tribal Council. At a Council retreat in Siletz, we began the process of reviewing the Tribal Court Ordinance to make some necessary changes. The process, as it is today, is cumbersome and complex. Tribal members have complained that the court system itself is not user friendly. That there should be prescribed forms that laymen could use to present a case without the need for hiring a lawyer or spokesperson. There are ambiguities in the ordinance that should be corrected. There is a need to develop an alternative dispute resolution process. There must be a way to fund the court system that allows for expansion as we develop additional codes and enforcement mechanisms. The tribal attorney, staff and chief judge will be providing recommendations and historical data for Council to act on.

The Council is also considering combining the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) with the Housing Authority to provide more complete and better services to the membership. There are several sources of funding for a wide range of services. Our concern is that everyone needing services needs to be able to access information easily. These programs both provide valuable services, combining them will allow for easy access and assistance. Either the Housing Authority can be brought under tribal administration, or the HIP program can function with the Housing Authority. Staff have been assigned to assist the Council in finding the best solution.

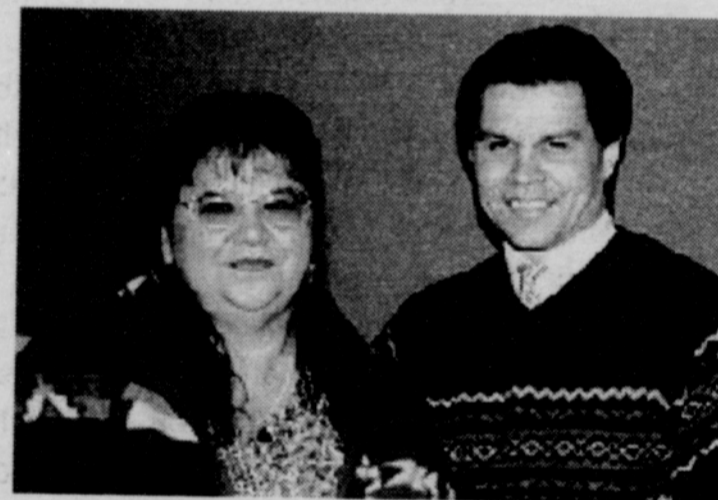
I attended a meeting in Seattle, a "Listening Conference," that provided tribes the opportunity to discuss concerns/issues with regard to programs offered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). I provided testimony, not only about Indian Health Service but all of the other programs that are funded by DHHS. I spoke of the increased need for funds for the Elders program; increased need for Headstart funding and administrative funds related to Headstart, increased funding needs of health facilities and for primary health care. I also spoke in favor of elevating the Indian Health Service Director, Dr. Michael Trujillo, to the Assistant Secretary level in DHHS. There were

numerous issues brought forward by Northwest, Alaskan and California tribes.

The evening before the DHHS meeting, I attended a dinner honoring Doni Wilder's outstanding contribution to tribal health issues and success as Director of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. For those of you who remember, Doni worked for our tribe for several years before going to work for the Health Board. Doni is now the Area Director for the Indian Health Service. She received many nice gifts and accolades for her outstanding performance. We wish her success in her new job.

Congratulations to Jessie Davis, Rosemary Landis and Jane John for winning three-year terms on the Tribal Council. The General Council meeting was well attended. For the first time, the Council meeting was video taped. By resolution, Council adopted a procedure for allowing the video procedure. There is a \$10.00 cost for obtaining a copy of the meeting tape. The resolution will be published in this newsletter issue. Anyone wishing a copy of the 2/99 General Council meeting may contact Kelley or Laura at 1-800-922-1399.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR FOR 1998



Lou Carey, 1998 Employee of the Year, and Kent Rilatos, General Manager
by Tina Retasket

Congratulations goes to tribal member/employee Lou Carey, who was nominated and selected as "Employee of the Year" for 1998. There are over 150 tribal employees who work for the Tribal Programs & Administration, and a selection is hard to narrow down. However, Lou received several nominations.

Lou has worked for several years with the Tribe in the Springfield, Salem and currently, Eugene, offices. Lou is the Tribal Services Specialist/Area Supervisor in Eugene. Previously she served as a JOM Coordinator, JTPA Counselor, and Education Specialist.

In addition to her employment with the Tribe, Lou has donated countless hours to the parent committees for both Title IX and JOM, attending and assisting with Elders Luncheons and numerous Area Office hosted events.

Congratulations, Lou, on a well-deserved award.