

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters received will be printed except those that 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. The opinions expressed are those of the individuals writing them. Letters that are excessive in length may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142. **All letters must include your name, address, and signature.**

Send letters to:

**Siletz News
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380
(541) 444-8291
800-922-1399, ext. 291
Fax: 541-444-2307
e-mail: newspaper@ctsi.nsn.us**

Please note: The General Manager of the Siletz Tribe is the Editor-in-Chief of the Siletz News.

To the Editor:

This letter is to convey thanks to Connie Hoffman and SIHA from the Fred Meyer Little League Major Team in Siletz. Due to funds allotted, each team is given six new baseballs to begin the season. This is not nearly enough for practices scheduled. Since the 14-member team has nine Native American players on it, seven being Tribal members, Connie saw fit to buy two dozen new baseballs for the team.

This was very much appreciated, Connie, and you and SIHA have our profound thanks.

C.W. Case Sr. - Coach
Reggie Butler Jr. - Coach
Lee Butler - Coach
The Fred Meyer 11- and 12-year-old Major Team from Siletz

Chairman's, continued from page 1

make some form of payment to the county in which the tribe is located.

It is important to keep in mind that, while there has been serious backlash against Indian tribes and increasing threats to tribal programs and sovereignty, the Siletz Tribe's relationship with Lincoln County has been based on mutual cooperation and respect.

To the Editor:

The message from within the belly of the beast (prisons) is loud but not so clear. We as a people must be concerned for the welfare and development of our native nations. The coarse reality is that many of our adolescents and adults are and have been shuffled through the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC). This should be a concern for the whole native community as it is our communities that will be affected by the transition that shall occur.

It's logical to offer acknowledgment to the incarcerated to help gain their confidence and consciousness once they are back in the community. There is dire need for support groups in these prisons that would strive to enhance and develop cultural awareness. People could come to share stories for one hour a week/month, share in prayer circle, pow-wows, feast. A person can't imagine the healing powers from such events. As those of our people who enter the belly of the beast in support of cultural awareness are the breath of fresh air that gives strength to carry on in the mental and emotional struggle our people face each waking day while incarcerated.

Be it announced the tribulation of our native women and children who are held captive within the belly of the beast. Our hearts have been wounded again with the suicides that occurred in the past 24 full moons. The need to commune with our own people is at an all-time high and it's going to take you - the people - to get involved. Teachers and storytellers of our grandmothers, go to our sisters and share your woman's beauty with them.

We shall continue to put out letters to the editors of Oregon tribal papers. We shall express process and procedure to gain entrance into an ODOC facility. We are sincere to this endeavor of creating much-needed cultural awareness for our native women and children who are locked away. They do not stand alone.

With beauty of earth and sky,
Robert (caboose) VanPelt

The payment of 5 percent of net timber revenues has helped, and other factors also have been responsible for building bridges between the Tribe and Lincoln County. It is for our own tribal self-interest that we maintain this relationship.

To the Editor:

The March jury trial verdict in Oregon against Big Tobacco reveals a fundamental truth, that everyday people serving on juries have had it with the tobacco industry's record of deception and cover-up.

The problem is the tobacco companies don't get it. Philip Morris tried to use an eight-year limit in Oregon law as a loophole during the March trial. The tobacco company said it was only responsible for cancer caused by cigarettes purchased and smoked in the last eight years.

Big Tobacco's strategy is clear. It will use any loophole it can to escape responsibility for the thousands of people killed each year by cigarettes. The Oregon Legislature has before it a bill (HB3430) to close this loophole for tobacco products. We should all urge our legislators to support this change.

James G. Nelson

SILETZ NEWS DEADLINES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Deadline for the June newsletter is June 10. Send articles, photos, and letters to:

Newsletter Editor
Siletz Tribe
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380
800-922-1399, ext. 291
(541) 444-8291

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 loved ones.

The newsletter is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal members. For all others, there is a \$12 annual subscription fee. Fill out this form and mail it with \$12 (make check payable to Confederated Tribes of Siletz) to the Newsletter Editor.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

For a change of address on your newsletter: Tribal members call Lisa Norton, Enrollment Clerk, at 541-444-8258; all others, call the newsletter office at 541-444-8291 and leave your new address with the editor or on the voice mail.