

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

This is on my mind since the gathering at the Big Bend, Rogue River.

In a roundabout way, I found out the reason why only seven runners came with our tribal staff to the Big Bend.

The reason? Because **those** people are seeking federal recognition as an Indian tribe - Confederated Tribes of Lower Rogue.

I think by denying **those** people, our Tribal Council has lost a lot of class, or **whoever** didn't want to go there.

The people we call our ancestors fought and died to hold onto that beautiful country. Big Bend is the site of the last battle in our aboriginal homelands. How could we **not** take the time and effort to honor those dead? How could we **not** honor the ones who died on the long march to Siletz? We have gotten too used to living the soft life and attending to our own selfish agenda.

Every time you decide to put on your regalia, it is not for your own satisfaction that someone will look at you. When you dance or sing, it is medicine for our old people. Self comes last.

When you run that tribal staff up the Rogue River, you are honoring the spirit of our old people. And when you come into the Big Bend area, the spirit of our warriors and women are there, greeting you with tears in their eyes, happy that you are there.

I honor the seven people highly for the extra effort that they gave.

I pray that our people would shuck off whatever negative thoughts they have - and be there, **in force**, next year.

Gilbert Towner
ENSALSUN

To the editor:

I would like to take a few minutes of your time and express my feelings on events that took place on the Run to the Rogue this year on Sept. 16-18.

I participated in the run this year as I have in the past. Several other people and I were at a meeting the night before the run was supposed to begin so we could review the route. The run organizers informed us that the route had been changed this year.

The explanation was because the tribal elders at an elders meeting had 40 votes not to support the run if the runners ended at the pow-wow that is hosted by the Fry family. The reason that was given was that the elders did not want to support the Fry family, who are trying to become a federally recognized tribe known as the Lower Rogue River Tribes.

We were taught to respect and honor our elders, so the route was changed to end at Oak Flats instead of the pow-wow. We had two or three elders run with us and about 10 elders attended the meal that was served at Oak Flats. A few of the runners **did** run to the pow-wow, but with open hearts and not political motivation.

We have been making the trek down to the Rogue River for five years and this is the first year that the run has been made into a political issue. The run is supposed to be a healing process for our people and a reminder of the hardships our ancestors endured.

With respect,
Darcy M. Jones

LETTERS, DEADLINES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of Siletz News.

Editor-in-Chief: Brenda Bremner
Editor: Diane Rodriquez

Deadline for the December newsletter is Nov. 10. 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, a \$12 annual subscription fee applies. Fill out this form and mail it with \$12 (make check payable to Confederated Tribes of Siletz) to Siletz News.

Name: _____

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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.

To the editor:

I would like to thank you for sending me the latest copy of the Siletz News. I was wondering if it would be possible if you could send me the paper every month. It would be greatly appreciated.

I was also wondering if there was a way I could place an ad for pen pals or if you could put a note on the bulletin board where I could maybe get some

correspondence with someone to help the time go by a little better. Any help would be appreciated.

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