

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I would like to thank you so much for the timely way we are getting our newsletter now. It used to be we never got it until everything was already past. I know it is a big job.

I also would like to comment on the people griping about the small amount of money we received – only \$100! I don't know about you, but \$100 is more than I had before. Also the \$100 at Christmas for the elders. I think it is great - \$100 I don't have in my budget so can do what I want with it.

I don't know about the other tribes but other tribes don't have the investments like we do which will pay off later. We have top of the line in the medical, dental, etc. Also we are just getting out of the hole the last council had us in and are back on track.

Sincerely,
Wanda Milton

To the editor:

I was just wondering how the HIP Program can keep operating the way it is. To me, if you hire a contractor to do the job, he should do the job all the way and then have the work checked out. This is federal money and no one should ever be paid before the job is done. If payment is made before the work is done, that should be breaking federal law. All contractors that they are using now should be let go, and they should start with new contractors. Indian-owned should be given a chance and if they do not do the work right, never use them again.

I know of a couple of homes that were never done right. (Example 1) Maxine Rilatos is an elder of our tribe. How could a contractor get paid when the job was not done or was a sloppy job? Maxine's home should be done right and you should charge the HIP person.

(Example 2) Wilma Strong is an elder of our tribe. Her home was never done right. Even the tribal finance personnel did the painting of the home. The work was real sloppy and to this day still needs repairs. Still the contractor was paid. Now that should have never happened. These contractors were paid. Now I think about this mess and I hope

To the editor:

I would like to share some information with you in regards to how Siletz Tribal elections are conducted, or at least have been in the recent past.

Last year after mailing in my absentee ballot, I decided to call the election director, Dave Bartels (retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs), to ask him where the absentee ballots were placed once the signatures were verified. He stated that "The ballots are kept in a safe in my office." When I questioned him further as to where the actual ballot box was, he replied "I don't have the ballot box yet; the Election Board has the ballot box."

According to the Siletz Tribe's election ordinance at the time, Section 2.45 (e) Returns, "The Election Director shall compare signatures on the outer envelope with the signature on the signature card. If the signatures match, the outer envelope shall be opened and the inner envelope shall be deposited in the **locked ballot box**."

I immediately wrote a letter to Dave Bartels informing him of the abovementioned election ordinance violation and notified him that every time he handled an absentee ballot (in the manner he related to me), he was violating Siletz election laws. In other words, he was committing election fraud.

If you plan to vote by absentee ballot, you might want to ask the election director or the Election Board whether or not these violations will be occurring in the upcoming election.

If they are, then you cannot be assured that your vote or the votes of any other members are handled in such a manner to ensure a proper and legal election.

Sincerely,
Denise Peterson

that in the near future there will be some penalty clause in the contracts for the contractors.

This is like me going to a fast food place and flipping hamburgers for about a week and coming back with a chef's hat. How could I be a chef when I do not really know anything about it? These homes should be done right and have the HIP Program really looked at.

Royce R. Strong

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 Rodriguez

Deadline for the January newsletter is Dec. 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: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

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.