

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last month, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Siletz Tribe's restoration. We remembered the tragic 20-year period during which we were "terminated," the long and difficult struggle to be "restored," and our many accomplishments since then.

Now, we look forward to the next quarter century – and beyond. Although we look forward to even greater accomplishments, the road may not always be smooth and easy.

As in the past, we will encounter new challenges. But as we have demonstrated in the past, we will confront these challenges, whatever they are, with courage and determination. After all, we have a solid foundation within our tribal institutions and within ourselves to deal successfully with whatever challenges confront us.

On a national level, we will face many difficult issues. Last month, I attended the National Congress of American Indians meeting in San Diego, Calif. On the agenda was the still



Chairman Delores Pigsley

unresolved issue of trust reform. The administration, we are told, will come to some resolution on this by Jan. 6.

I'll have more information to pass on to you in the next issue of *Siletz News* on this and other such matters as the BIA budget and the status of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The Interior appropriations affecting Indian

programs basically will be the same as last year.

For all critical Indian issues that come before the U.S. Congress that affect tribal programs and sovereignty, we are counting on the bipartisan House and Senate Indian Affairs caucuses to advocate on behalf of Indian tribes just as the House caucus did during this past year.

How important it is for Indians to vote in national and state elections was demonstrated by the results of the recent elections in South Dakota, Oklahoma, Minnesota, and Washington.

If you haven't already heard, John McCoy of the Tulalip Tribe was recently elected to the Washington state legislature. For John to have taken the initiative to run for, and win, a state political office is of major importance. Here is an Indian who can work on behalf of tribes in the state of Washington from inside the system.

And here in Oregon, Ted Kulongoski will be our new governor. We are hopeful he will continue the

tribal sovereignty policy expressed by outgoing governor John Kitzhaber in his executive order.

It was Kitzhaber's executive order that activated the government-to-government relationship between the state and tribal governments. And hopefully, Kulongoski will understand and take an enlightened view of Indian gaming, favorable to Oregon tribes.

As for the Siletz Tribe, we are once again gearing up for another general election. Because no tribal member applied to serve on the Election Board or as director of the board, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has agreed to serve in this capacity.

Finally, I would like to say how pleased I am that the Siletz Tribe was host to the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10 conference at Chinook Winds last month. Tribal officials attended from throughout the Northwest, including Alaska. The Siletz Tribe has thus far hosted a number of important regional and national conferences at Chinook Winds.



To the editor:

My name is Shaun Meyer. I am writing to you in response to the letter that was sent by Andrea Case about one of our sisters in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility who is very sick and has no outside support.

When I read that article, I shared it with all the brothers here at the Santiam Correctional Facility and I want Andrea to know, Michelle to know, and everyone else out there to know that not only does Michelle Everett have all her brothers' support here at Santiam, but she also has the support of some Klamath brothers and sisters and the support of some brothers and sisters from the Cherokee Nation.

I believe that everyone who is reading this needs to write to Ms. Palmateer, the warden, or call the director's office here in Salem at 503-945-9090. Here is the address and SID number again of Michelle Everett:

Michelle Everett, #12148924, CCCF, P.O. Box 9000, Wilsonville, OR 97070.

Thank you.
Shaun Meyer



To the editor:

Thanksgiving thoughts ...

I'd like to express how thankful I am for the community members in the Siletz area and my family members here and afar. This year has been a difficult one with the loss of my son and with family and friends there to comfort me and be there when I needed to cry, talk, or just remember his spirit.

Most of all, thank you to my husband, Reggie Butler Jr., for being the man that you are and the loving dad to our kids. You have been there for me in many ways and have shown me much love. I'm so grateful for all that you do, mister. I pray that the Lord continues to use you the way he has and pray that you continue to keep your walk with the Lord.

To my family and friends, I pray that the Lord blesses each and every one and continues to provide you with all that you deserve.

Shelly Butler



To the editor:

To the Tribal Council – I am writing to you to show my family's thanks and gratitude for our new Gateway computer/printer that you purchased for us. I know that the money didn't come out of your pockets, but you did make the decision to purchase them with tribal money, which is of the best decisions you have made!

I would like you to know that it was definitely a needed item. I look for permanent work a lot and have had to do a lot of résumés and applications. I have gotten a lot done with the computer. I have also been able to go on the Internet to look up information that was very much needed.

Another excellent use is my son's education. He is only 5, but I have been able to find really neat projects on the Net that improve learning skills for children. He also enjoys it when I download songs from his favorite TV shows! ☺

It also helps me keep in touch with family far away; it's a lot cheaper than a large phone bill. I could go on and on about the advantages of our new computer. So, I just want you to know that my family is very appreciative of your giving.

Thank you for helping our family and other tribal families to better themselves and the children of the future.

Sincerely,
Trish Carey and family



To the editor:

My name is Reggie Butler, Sr. I am running for Tribal Council and am asking for your vote. I am married to Lillie Logan Butler. I have three sons and one daughter. I am blessed with four beautiful granddaughters and six handsome grandsons, whom I love very much.

My term on Tribal Council is up this February and I would like to continue serving you, the tribal members, for another term. Under the circumstances of the quorum of the Tribal Council, I am doing the best job I can do.

I will have more information in the voter's pamphlet.
Sincerely,
Reggie Butler, Sr.