

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

On May 2, 2004, the Ben family hosted a memorial dinner and giveaway at the Siletz Tribal Community Center honoring the life of Rod Ben.

We want to express our gratitude to all who attended to assist us in making the transition from mourning to moving forward with our lives. We are blessed to have those friends and relatives who assisted us and those who offered their help. Special thanks to Bob Tom for speaking for the family. Thank you Reg, Lee, Roy, and Bud for the special songs.

We know that Rod rests in peace, proud of the number of lives he touched in a positive way.

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Ed and Delores Ben and family



To the editor:

Greetings from the Chako-Kumtux Native American Club, located at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Ore. The club is designed to address concerns of diversity on/off campus for students involved with the club. It is a new club and has a Constitution that calls for direct contact with Native media and tribal entities. The club's focus is on higher education and urges students' involvement in activities while attending MHCC.

The name derives from the Chinook Jargon "chako-kumtux" (becoming to

To the editor:

A special thank you! On March 5 of this year, I went in for a triple-bypass operation. I just wanted to say thanks to a special bunch of people who called and stopped by to see how I was doing!

But first of all, I'd like to start with the people who came by the hospital that I didn't get to see. Rusty, Paul, and Tonya, sorry I missed you guys! Everetta and Shelly, I got your card, thanks! Arlen Kentta, even though you went to the wrong hospital! Thanks, it's the thought that counts.

The people whom I got to visit with were Wazzy Case and Buster Lane. Thanks to you and the crew I work with at G.P. for the flowers and phone calls!

Brett and Bud Lane, it was good to see you guys! Also, Wendy and B.J., thanks for coming. A very big thanks to Shine and Ruby (my best friends),



understand) and is a manifesto of Native American consciousness. Native American students must obtain higher education to compete in the economic structure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in order to secure tribal autonomy.

Native Americans must focus on economic empowerment, which brings the meaning of "becoming to understand" into deeper focus. MHCC has a lot to offer in media outreach as it is home to both a television and a radio station. With proper effort, those could be useful tools for the Native commu-

nity; there now exists a Native American program in the television station.

Chako-Kumtux Native American Club encourages anyone with interest in the club to contact Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 SE Stark, Gresham, OR 97030; phone 503-491-7642, or visit [www.mhcc.edu](http://www.mhcc.edu).


This letter is an invitation for participation to any and all people, and is extended from the Chako-Kumtux Native American Club, MHCC.

Sincerely,  
Robert VanPelt  
Club President

Send letters to:  
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**Deadline for the July issue is June 10.** Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please read the Passages Policy on page 32 when submitting items for Passages.

  
Member of the Native American Journalists Association

**Change of address:** Tribal members – call the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258 or 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1258; all others – call the newsletter office.

To the editor:

I was saddened this week to hear that Craig Whitehead had passed away. The Siletz Tribal community will have to look far and wide to ever come close to finding anyone to fill his moccasins. His efforts as pow-wow coordinator cannot be surpassed.

In addition, Craig was always an exemplary citizen in the Siletz community as well as the tribal community. I am not aware that he ever had a "bad day." As a former Siletz Tribal employee, I enjoyed associating with him and working with him. I could appreciate his success at functioning in the tribal organization and yet keeping out of the turmoil of "tribal politics."

Craig was a great representative of and for the Siletz Tribe. My condolences to the Whitehead family and the tribal community. Craig will be missed tremendously.

Respectfully,  
Norman Counts  
Warm Springs, Ore.

**See more  
letters to the editor  
on pages  
4, 5, and 6.**

## **Siletz News Letters Policy**

*Siletz News*, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Siletz News* and other tribal issues.

All letters **must include** the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks, or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

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**  
**Assistant: Natasha Kavanaugh**