

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

It's with extreme grief that I remember the recent tragedy that ended with the loss of two tribal members. Tyrone is gone, and Aaron is locked up and gone also.

I hope that our community, and tribal leaders, will help facilitate some kind of programming for this condition before our people suffer more pain and loss. It's easy. Quit being "nasty and cruel." You don't like it when people treat you that way, so why do this to others? When are we going to learn to quit hurting one another?

When I speak of transitional programming, I'm advocating structured and mandatory education for offenders returning to our communities, **and** their family members, as well as opening this up to community members.

Our people cannot undo the anger and pain they've been afflicted with, **and** struggle to cope with the endless obstacles and tasks (addictions/violence/job search/family dysfunction) they need to do when they return home, not without someone to speak clearly to them about harm reduction.

It's not good to speak bad about another human being. We should be taught to sit in a circle with elders we respect and work these things out. I hope someone out there feels this way – and if you do that you're willing to show it!

Sign up to become a Gwe-Shvt-Naga (Peacemaker). You don't have to agree with everyone, just some of the people.

We're hurting one another and our children see the way we act and as they grow up, it will make their lives difficult.

I leave you with this story: **Sand and Stone** – A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand, "**Today my best friend slapped me in the face.**"

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning. He wrote on a stone, "**Today my best friend saved my life.**"

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone. Why?" The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.

Respectfully,

Lisa Brown

541-444-1290

nadosh2@yahoo.com

To the editor:

Thank you to those of you who voted for me. Losing an election hurts, but I was more hurt by the way I was treated by Sylvia Butler at the General Council meeting.

In response to Sylvia, for those who were at the meeting, I have been frustrated when people call me Jane or Jessie, especially on Election Day. However, to be accused of smirking (I'm not known for smirking, smiling yes) when I have a physical disability that partially paralyzed half of my face is totally unfair and rude.

I should be judged upon my words, deeds, or character and not upon my perceived physical appearance. The only person at the General Council meeting who tried to defend me against Sylvia's verbal abuse was Rose Bremner and I want to thank her.

The tribe will deal with the education issue that was brought up. I want everyone to know that things aren't always as stated at General Council meetings. The issues will be looked at and all of the facts addressed by staff. Tribal Council has made it a priority to at least provide tuition and books for all eligible students whose paperwork is complete.

Once again, thank you for the privilege to have served my tribe as your Tribal Council representative.

Rosemary Breon Landis

To the editor:

First I want to thank all of you who voted for me in this election. I will do my best to live up to your expectations.

I also want to thank my family members Elaine Smith, Gloria Ingle, Lani Cordova, and Sherry Rilatos, who worked so hard getting people to vote. I know their phone bills really suffered during this election.

I would like to give a special thank you to Rose Bremner for all of her pre-election hard work. I know I could not have won my seat on the Tribal Council without all of her help and support.

I recently had a carotid artery surgery, which I am happy to say went very well. I want to thank my family and friends who were at the hospital and waited until I was out of surgery and doing OK. I know how those waits in the hospital can be. Thank you and I love you.

I also want to thank the Tribal Elders for their gift and beautiful card. That was very nice and very thoughtful and I assure you it means a lot to me to know you cared.

To all of you, again I will say thank you and God bless you for your support, thoughtfulness, and kindness.

Phil Rilatos Sr.



Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, 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

Send letters to:

Siletz News
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380-0549

541-444-8291 or
1-800-922-1399, ext. 1291
Fax: 541-444-2307
E-mail: pias@ctsi.nsn.us

Deadline for the April issue is March 10. Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please read the Passages Policy on page 24 when submitting items for Passages.



Member of the Native American
Journalists Association

Siletz News is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal members. For all others, a \$12 annual subscription fee applies. Please make checks payable to CTSI and mail to *Siletz News*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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.