

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I would like to recognize some of our young people for their accomplishments:

Shyanne Jimenez – for a “voice to be heard” and her many awards she received

Lena Jimenez – for her “mean court skills” and awards

Melissa Clawson – for “staying strong” and continuing to receive her education

RaeLoni Clawson – for being a “smart young lady” and continuing to receive her education

Girls, Grandma (the late Geraldine “Geri” Strong-Belgarde) was valedictorian of her class in that little, tiny school in Siletz. She was very proud of that and I know she would be very proud of all you girls. I know I sure am!

Grandma would tell you to “walk tall, but light.” Be very proud, but always conduct yourself in a ladylike, respectful manner. Continue to represent, girls!

Love, your aunt and mother,

Jolynne Clawson



To the editor:

Tribal Council Candidate

To get an early start this year, I am announcing that this coming election, I will be a candidate for our Tribal Council. I truly believe that in some instances, I can make a difference.

I will continue to inform you of my planks and platform. Please take the time to talk to me and ask me questions. I am committed to be a representative for all of our people.

Thank you so much for your support.

Frank D. Simmons

541-557-1695

To the editor:

I am writing to call attention to the inequity of denying health benefits to out-of-area tribal members. As a medical issue, proper dental care is a necessity because neglect is known to promote heart disease.

Out-of-area members hoping to receive services are required to call in on a first-come, first-served basis. It is degrading to have to beg like a dog for table scraps while locals feast on benefits that should be available to all.

The equitable allocation of resources for essential health care is an issue of basic fairness. Denial of medical services to out-of-area members creates a tribal underclass. This is not a decent way for the tribe to conduct its business. I am certain that we can do better.

Frank Bensell Fisher, M.D.

(Still Toothless in California)



To the editor:

As Miss Haskell 2005-2006, I recently attended the Pi-Ume-Sha Pow-Wow in Warm Springs, Ore., and the Annual Veteran’s Pow-Wow in Grand Ronde, Ore.

I would like to thank my Aunt Selene Rilatos for paving the way to Warm Springs. Also thanks to Susan Guerin for letting us stay at her home. I am so glad I was able to meet Susan’s family. They showed love and kindness to my family during our stay.

During Pi-Ume-Sha (June 24-26), I had fun watching the hand games, the re-enactment of their treaty, and spending time with my cousins. I met royalty from all over the state of Oregon, danced many intertribals, and enjoyed owl dancing.

Thanks to my cousins Tasha Rilatos and Lynette Hibdon for being my photographers for the weekend. Thanks to Stanely “Buck” Smith, Warm Springs Council vice-chairman, for letting me use your vehicle for the parade.

There were over 250 veterans at the Saturday afternoon session of the

To the editor:

I’ve been working at Chinook Winds Casino for over 2½ years now. I thank Jesse Davis for supporting me in this job, for I had a real hard time getting my license. Not all Tribal Council members like to get involved and I thank you, Jesse.

Working at the casino has really been an eye-opener. When I first started, people stared at me and did not really talk to me. I’ve heard downgrading of the Indians and of all things, the Siletz shuttle bus was called (by some employees) the M.R. bus.

I’ve been told to my face that since I was a tribal member, I would soon be taking over someone’s supervisor position since the tribal members always get their way. I’ve been told that I am not to give my opinion.

The first two weeks I wanted to quit, but I stuck in there. I am thankful for my job and being given a chance to prove that I am a good worker.

In the beginning, one of the jobs I applied for was a Winners Circle position.



Veteran’s Pow-Wow in Grand Ronde. This pow-wow was unique and I really enjoyed my time there. Stories were told, the game “Sweep Your Teepee” was played, and special performances took place.

I would like to thank my cousin Lynette Hibdon for driving me to Grande Ronde. Also thanks to my cousin Tasha Rilatos for being my photographer for the day.

The person who interviewed me did not give me a chance. As far as I know, this person does not like giving tribal members a chance.

I’ve heard so many negative things about this person and hearing just lately that this person got promoted really irks me. I am very disappointed in some of the management here. Hopefully in the future, this person will be held accountable if no tribal members are given a chance.

In closing, my mom always told me never praise anyone when they are gone, praise them when they are alive. So I want to thank Walt Klamath for always being there for tribal members; Douglas and Ivan Brown and Bo Case for helping out on the Strong plot during Memorial Day; my four awesome children who always stood by me; and a special thanks for a great praying mom who has always been there for all of us.

Respectfully,
Joella Strong



Above: Norris Merrill and Gene LaBonte of the Northwest Indian Veterans Assoc.

Left: Miss Haskell rides in the Pi-Ume-Sha parade

May God bless everyone tenfold who has helped me so far in my journey as Miss Haskell. Hum’Chi-

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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.

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

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