

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

To tribal members,

Thank you to all the members who supported my campaign for re-election to the Tribal Council and thank you to the 400 tribal members who voted for me. I will work as diligently as I can for the tribe and for all tribal members.

Again, thank you.
Reggie Butler, Sr.



To the editor:

Dear tribal members,

I would like to thank each and every one who took the time to vote this year. We had the largest turnout – over 900 votes! It is a real honor and a privilege to be voted onto the Tribal Council. I will do my best to meet your expectations.

I shall be working hard for all tribal members' best interest. This year I have been appointed to the following subcommittees: Health, Housing, and Economic Development. However, I shall be just as concerned for the rest of the areas as well.

If anyone has a question or concern, or just wants to chat, feel free to call me at 503-390-5009 or you may e-mail me at jl_davis41@msn.com.

Thanks again for your support.
Sincerely,
Jessie Davis

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation Board for its support of the Siletz Tribal Action Network (S.T.A.N.).

The program, which provides basic skills development workshops for Siletz Tribal members and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Chinook Winds Casino Resort employees, has been very well received and continues to grow.

It is very rewarding to see workshop participants learn new things and feel a sense of pride in their accomplishments.

Without the ongoing support of the STBC Board, the development of the S.T.A.N. program would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank Rene' Deras, STBC CPA, who currently teaches several of the S.T.A.N. workshops. Without his enthusiasm and expertise, the programs we could offer would be very limited.

I hope Siletz Tribal members, CTSI, and Chinook Winds Casino Resort employees will continue to participate in the S.T.A.N. program and gain new skills that will help them to reach their fullest potential and become successful leaders.

Sincerely,
Rosie Sufficool
Business Information Counselor
S.T.A.N. Coordinator

To the editor:

Fellow tribal members:

I find myself searching for words to express my gratitude to you. Your support and encouragement have strengthened me. You've helped me through my healing process and I've tried to find opportunities to give back to my tribe.

Many have worked selflessly for our rights and our future. I've watched the story from the Bible unfold before my eyes, how the widow had just enough meal left to eat, and die. But what she had she offered up for others to survive.

Our ancestors did that for us. They didn't have per capita, programs, or benefits to rely on. They wanted to make sure their children and grandchildren would someday see the fruits of their self-sacrifice.

Was it for us to be ruled by the almighty dollar? Was it for the big "I"? To criticize and tear each other apart? Or for those in power to turn a deaf ear, sit back, and say, "We can't do anything about that, we can't get involved?" Yes, there probably are laws we have sold our rights out for.

Our Restoration has proven there are ways to work around laws, with laws, and we can change laws for the

betterment of **our people**. Are we going to watch the slaying of our people again or even assist in the destruction of our own? Let's rise up and support each other. How about some tribal loyalty, not just Royalty.

In my run for Tribal Council, some families stated, "Oh we never vote, we don't matter, our votes don't count. They just get the same people in there again and again." To think you would finally take the time to vote for me is humbling.

I feel honored. I have gained because of **you**. You're feeling like you do matter. Voting is one right you can exercise without anyone stopping you. With people utilizing their rights, they can someday see change.

Your children can talk about your courage to secure their future. Your opinion needs to be voiced and heard.

We need to take pride and respect what our forefathers did for "**all**" of **us**. We can ask, "What can I do for My People?" How can I help and encourage them?

In returning to the casino for employment, it wasn't just a job for me. I'm working for you. Seeing your faces and the words we share in passing encourage me to try to represent our tribe and work for our future.

The most humbling and honored moments have been the elders, their words, showing confidence in me by voting for me, thank you. Your approval means more than I can say. You're my teachers, my mentors.

The training and education I've received have come about from tribal funding. I've always determined to repay the tribe by working for them, giving back to **our people**.

Keep in your heart that someone fought for your rights. It's not about me, it's about you! I've not lost anything, I've gained!

My sincerest and deepest appreciation,
All my relation, Nvm' Chi,
Cheryl Staggs-Ben

To the editor:

JALLA CIC DENE

Hello my people, good to see Reggie re-elected and congrats to Frank and Jess. I know their hearts will be for our people

I would like to request, of the council and membership, my desire to teach a 419-word list in Tututni that Miller Collins, Ada Collins, and Daisy Fuller recorded in 1953 at the home of Grandma Ada, lower farm area.

I originally heard this recording at my uncle Eddie Collins' apartment in Portland some 10-15 years ago. To hear Grandma speak and Auntie Daisy

laugh made us cry and laugh at the same time. I decided I would **try** to translate Miller's words as closely as I could and perhaps teach from it.

I know I have been criticized for teaching non-Indians this language. But I remember Bill Kentta could speak as a Native and he was a non-Native – and there were many others who could speak and understand just as well. If a person is willing to learn – who am I to say yes or no?

The classes would have to be held on Government Hill during the summer months. Other details could be worked out.

The Simmons family, starting with Hoxie, were excellent speakers of Chinook Jargon.

I give much credit to Bud Lane for his efforts in teaching Tolowa.

The lower farm people were known for speaking Tututni, as well as townspeople and other locations.

Our Tututni language is from the lower Rogue River and is from the Athabaskan language stock.

My requirements for a week's work – \$500 and \$300 for travel.

HI AUW WISHA –
Gilbert Towner, Jr.

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.

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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.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

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