

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I need to follow up my last letter with some serious apologies as I've done a good job of making a big mess. I'm very ashamed of my April letter to the editor.

To my tribe, family, relatives, and the people who care about me – I'm very sorry and I apologize for the letter that I wrote. It was unnecessary and uncalled for. I'm honestly a better person than that.

Frank Simmons, I'm sorry and I apologize for the way I handled my concern with you. It was as wrong as wrong can be. I simply can't agree with you on raising the age requirements to the Elders Council.

I've always thought that a good show of numbers meant strength and unity. I'll leave it at that and congratulate you on your election and hope your Tribal Council duties are rewarding and fulfilling.

Jessie and Phil, I'm sorry for making suggestions on how to do your job. That was very rude and thoughtless of me. Jessie, when I said I was glad to see you back on Tribal Council, I meant every word of it.

Dee, with every apology here I've been positive and sincere. I'm even more so with your apology. My statement to you was out of line, out of character, and very out of control. For that I'm very sorry and I apologize.

I've never had any issues with your leadership. There are things that I agree with and things that I don't agree with. It's that simple.

Robert, Bud, Loraine, Lillie, and Reg – I'm sorry and I apologize for the distraction. It won't happen again.

When I say Jimmy, I mean no disrespect. I met David K. a year or so ago and during our chat, he stressed that Jim preferred Jimmy.

I can't and won't apologize to Jimmy. When he took over our casino, we had beautiful outdoor lighting. Now we don't.

He has a background and experience in the gaming industry and should definitely know better. How and why does he get away with it? Does he

know that the casino has a birthday coming up?

Benny Brown, I need to start passing on these meetings for personal reasons. That doesn't need to mess up our meeting day schedule, though.

I'll pick you up the usual time and rather than head east (Government Hill), we'll head west and have lunch at the Chalet. We'll polish lunch off with some of their delicious pie (sugar-free, of course). It'll be my treat. I'll be in touch.

I've been very serious and sincere with these apologies and I hope it helps with clearing up the mess I've made.

As I've said before, **"It won't happen again."**

Sincerely,  
Woody Muschamp

To the editor:

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness when our Mother/Gram/Sister/Friend, Mary "Dolly" Fisher, passed away. Numerous people brought food by the house and expressed their sympathy in many thoughtful ways.

We would also like to thank the Tribal Council and Tribal Administration for the honor they bestowed our Mother/Gram/Sister/Friend by closing the administrative offices the day of her funeral.

Thanks to Randy Austin for giving her a "traditional" ceremony, to Tribal

To the editor:

Hello, my name is Steven Ashley. I'm currently in a Florida state prison. I would really like someone to help me with learning the old ways. I really want to learn about the tribe. I would also really like to have a pen pal, someone to correspond with. Thank you.

To the editor:

Gela' Tribal Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who turned out and voted for me in this year's election. I would like to wish the newly elected council members my best, congratulations, and I felt many of the candidates brought forth discussions, issues that matter the most to the membership.

I have had many concerns brought to me as a fellow tribal member and have always had an open door. I have had and still have many concerns that I continue to bring to the table at the council meeting and still am very involved in tribal matters.



Council members for their kind words at her service, and to Lee and Reggie Butler for drumming and singing.

Thanks also to everyone who expressed their fond memories of Mom/Gram/Sister/Friend at the service.

Many thanks for the hard work of those who prepared the meal and toiled in the kitchen the day of the funeral. Finally, the flowers were beautiful and we thank you for making her funeral a special day.

Sincerely,  
The Children, Grandchildren, Sisters, and Brother of Dolly Fisher



My address:

Steven Ashley DC#125690 (B1-123W)  
J.C.I.  
1050 Big Joe Road  
Monticello, FL 32344

Steven Ashley

I continue my work at the Cultural Program and am here serving the people at this level. I enjoy my work very much and feel that I bring many of the teachings of many individuals before me and feel honored in this work. I enjoy our cultural education staff and feel that they are very dedicated to the success of the tribe in their respective area and efforts.

I have been often criticized for the concerns that I bring up and they are not just my concerns but of others as well. It's about the voices of many individuals where names wanted to be kept confidential. So I honor that and will voice a concern to hope for change and to offer and seek solutions.

Most recently I went before Tribal Council and was treated very unprofessionally by a tribal staff person. I feel that any individual who comes before council ought to be treated with integrity, especially when my actions as well as my support people in attendance were as such. This kind of behavior should not be tolerated and isn't the way a Native is taught to be.

I appreciate the council members who voiced their concern and stood up against this action of this person. I will not name names, but you know who you are.

A refresher of the Tribal Constitution tells us how to live, if one hasn't learned about our traditions. I have dealt with this individual at another level afforded us as a tribal member. If elected, I would be one to stand up against fellow tribal members being this crude to one another.

I am here for you and appreciate all the support that I have had this year and the encouragement to run in the next election. I am about fairness, equality, and about upholding our Tribal Constitution that our leaders before us framed so eloquently for us.

I continue to pray and want the best for our great nation!

Ta gah huska sho na schis ly  
Selene Rilatos

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*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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**Deadline for the June issue is May 10.** Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please read the Passages Policy on page 20 when submitting items for Passages.



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