

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

At last, someone has expressed my sentiments regarding the "elders payment" starting at age 70.

I believe Rose Kentta (*Siletz News*, June 2006) has spoken for all of the elders not yet 70.

I agree with her suggestion of compromise and that the council should seriously rethink the age on distribution of elders payment.

An elder is an elder is an elder.

Years ago, our government told us we weren't Indians anymore. Now our

own tribe is trying to tell us we aren't elders until we're 70.

There has to be a way to treat all elders fairly regarding this revenue distribution.

You have no idea what a little extra income would mean to this "old soul."

Thank you for your time and hopefully other elders will respond as I have and a compromise can be reached that will benefit **all** of our tribal elders.

Sincerely,  
Virgene F. Blair



To the editor:

Relatives of the Ancestors,

With summer approaching, we have a number of very special opportunities just around the corner. Our Culture Department sponsors the "Nadosh," world renewal feather dance ceremony. This is a very special time, when persons are encouraged to "set aside negative feelings" so we can conduct ourselves in a good way.

As a tribal member and certified prevention specialist (CPS), I can truly understand the struggle that our Native people face to exist in the world today. It is my traditional knowledge gained through the generosity of numerous elders and spiritual teachings that helps me to strive for the balance that is necessary at this time.

I believe that it is crucial that we realize as individuals, to share and respect, plus trying to be honest and kind. It is with this intention that I plan to run (again) for a seat on our 2007 Tribal Council.

I continue to spend much of my time acquiring the knowledge, skills, and education to provide services to assist tribal members to eliminate barriers, share about ideas that can create plans for financial sufficiency, and concepts to assure emotional, physical, and spiritual wellness.

I realize how much time and effort it takes to represent our interests and

be accessible to the tribal membership. It is for this reason that I am so strongly in opposition of our council members who are also employed full time.

Representation as a council member prevents our employees from being present and accessible on a regular (M-F, 8-5) basis at the jobs for which they were hired. It is not an equitable practice and something should be done.

I appreciate our council members who speak up for the unmet needs and ask questions that are difficult. I still ask. Where are the minutes that were posted to the Web site? Where is the public online forum for membership to ask questions and receive a timely response?

What are we afraid of sharing? Grand Ronde puts their minutes openly posted on the Internet. So let's step up to the plate and do the same!

Please make certain you are registered to vote. If you did not receive a ballot, contact me and I'll make certain that does not occur this time!

It is time to speak about the needs of our people and to identify solutions and resources. We are our greatest resource; open and honest communication will be the key to our success. I look forward to hearing from you and receiving your vote in the 2007 election.

Respectfully,  
Lisa L. Brown, CPS  
Gwe-Shvt-Naga

To the editor:

Hi, everybody! Just wanted to say thanks to the guys at Housing Maintenance for the super good job they did at my apartment here at Tolowa Court. They did a real good job.

Keep up the good work. My family and I appreciate the nice apartment the Siletz Tribe provides for us.

Kenneth J. Hall



To the editor:

On Oct. 11, 2004, 13 International Indigenous Grandmothers came together at Phoencia, N.Y., the first time in the history of the world, praying for peace and taking better care of our Mother Earth.

At that time, I was elected as their chairperson. What a humbling experience.

We were brought together through the Center for Sacred Studies in Sonora, Calif. As I am the only grandmother from the state of Oregon, I'm asking for funds to help out.

Any amount is welcome as I need \$5,000 before Oct. 5, 2006, as we are all to go to India as we have a personal audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The Center for Sacred Studies is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining indigenous ways of life through cross-cultural spiritual practices, ministry and education, and a commitment to peace and unity for all people.

The 501(c)3 number is 77-0572410; P.O. Box 745, Sonora, CA 95370. Or you can send funds to me - Agnes Baker-Pilgrim, 1036 SW K St., Grants Pass, OR 97526 and I could mail you a tax write-off copy.

Thank you.  
Agnes Baker-Pilgrim

To the editor:

My name is Christopher Dale Elliott. I am a descendant of Chief Tommy Thompson, grandson of Coquelle Thompson, and proud son of my mother, Tina Marie Thompson. If this family is part of you, then you are a part of me.

If these people meant something to you, then you know they are all deceased as well as Gina Marrie \_\_\_\_ Thompson and Tamie \_\_\_\_ Thompson, who were the last people I knew as family. I'm in need of a support group, pen pals, etc., from my Siletz Tribal roots.

You can help by coming forward if you are family or if you just want to lend a helpful word. It is much wanted and needed.

I'm a 26-year-old man who is at this time in his life lost without family or true friends. Thanks for your time and concern.

Write to Christopher Dale Elliott, FDC# 69148-065, Sheridan, OR 97378.

Christopher Dale Elliott



Agnes Baker-Pilgrim

## 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.

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