

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I attended the honoring memorial for the ones who are buried at Chemawa Cemetery, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. I feel the need to honor the two warriors of our confederacy for what they did – Darelle Butler and Robert Van Pelt.

For as long as I have kept myself informed of the doings around Chemawa, this is the first and only time anything has been done to memorialize the people buried there. And my memory goes back to 1934. Maybe something was done before that year, I don't know.

I am also thankful that our chairperson and her husband were there throughout the ceremony, as well as our elder, Aggie Pilgrim, and many other notables. Many beautiful songs were rendered, with many veterans to bless the earth.

I know that Dino and Robert were not and would not seek recognition for what they did, but I'm giving them honor whether they like it or not. Keep an eye on these two warriors – they do good work – and all in the background.

H-Hii Chii Tisne – Dené Tisne.

Thank you for your time.

Enselsun

Gilbert Towner Sr.



To the editor:

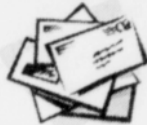
I would like to mention the service of our tribal clinic employee, Maxine Rilatos.

I have been living out of the area for over a year now and have required medical transports. On several occasions, I have found her to be prompt, reliable, and friendly each and every time I've ridden with her. She routinely exceeds the normal expectations associated with the transporting service.

I am grateful for the program and Maxine's involvement.

Respectfully,

Angela Husberg



To the editor:

My name is Shari Logan and I've learned my daughter, Angela, is recognizing the outstanding service of Maxine Rilatos. I am also appreciative of the friendly service she provides.

It's always nice to be in her company because she always has a friendly smile and good conversation. Maxine regularly demonstrates a great tribal spirit.

Thankfully,

Shari Logan



To the editor:

## Thank You

I would like to say thank you to Lennie Simmons, Sam Bayya, and Eugene "Papa" Williams for the beautiful job they did at the Siletz Cemetery.

I don't know how many of you folks realize that Mother Nature left a big mess with the limbs, leaves, and debris. There were trees actually down across some of the graves. It had to take a lot of sweat and tears to rake, cut, and remove.

I would say they cleaned a 3+ acre area by hand. This took great effort and I would like you to know how much I appreciate your hard work.

Tribal members, if you have a few minutes, drive through the cemetery and see how nice and beautiful it looks and take time to say thank you.

Lennie, Papa, and Sam – you did a beautiful job!

I really appreciate you guys!

Maxine Rilatos



As the Tribal Council looks at the health and well-being of our tribal people, we must look into our past to see what our ancestors endured. We need to recognize the fact that tribal members were placed on the roll by Bible records, sworn affidavits, and other forms of identity. I feel very sad for the families who are forgetting the past and trying to destroy the future of some of our tribal members and future members.

I was happy to hear a decision was made by the courts to discontinue the failed effort of the group of individuals who are continuing to take up precious time and effort of our Tribal Council and our lawyer.

May is the month for remembrance. Please take the time to remember and give thanks for all we have as a result from those who have worked hard for us.

Respectfully,

Valerie Hibdon

To the editor:

I want to publicly say thank you to the Siletz Pharmacy.

When we were first told we needed to get our meds through Siletz rather than Pequot, I was not happy. But the Pharmacy staff has given excellent service and I am always amazed at how quickly they get my meds out here to me.

I have only dealt with them in person a few times, but they are always very nice and helpful.

Cindy Jackson



To the editor:

It is not too early to remind everyone that the Lincoln County Fair will be held from July 19-22 this year. The theme is "Salute to Heroes" and the colors are silver and blue.

I wanted to tell people about a new class that we have added in the Textile and Needlework Division for 2007. It is class 15, Native American Theme.

We have gotten some entries with this theme in past years, and this will add a special category for them if the exhibitor wants to compete with other items of similar subjects. Or it would give an exhibitor another place in which to place entries should they have several.

The Youth Textiles and Needlework Division has been somewhat expanded also, so look for this when the exhibitor's guide comes out no later than May. This guide tells you what the various classes and lots are, and explains how to enter, which is easy.

Whether your specialty is quilting, crocheting, knitting, weaving, embroidery, sewing, rug hooking, or needlepoint, there are classes just waiting for you to come enter. There are classes for elders age 65 or better, and there is a class for the fair theme. More prizes than ever this year, too.

So, hopefully you are working on fair entries now or you will start thinking about what you can do. I look forward to exhibiting your entries.

Sincerely,

Anne Hendrickson

Textile and Needlework Superintendent  
Lincoln County Fair

To the editor:

On March 26, 2007, I went to Washington, D.C., for a training for an upcoming program that the tribe will be offering. This was my first trip to D.C. and it was very enlightening.

On the 27<sup>th</sup>, 31 years after my dad, Robert Rilatos Sr.'s trip to D.C., I saw our nation's Capitol for the first time. This brought on an array of emotions.

I thought about my dad and our other tribal members and family who sat and fought for our tribal rights, the right to be recognized as Indian people.

I thought about the community meetings that led up to our request for Restoration. Although it was a failed effort the first few times, this fine group of individuals was able to enlist our nation's leaders to take a better look at our request and we were granted Restoration. President Carter signed off on Nov. 18, 1977, allowing our most recent tribal roll to be set in place.

As I look at the picture of the nine council who represented us in Washington, D.C. – Delores Pigsley, Joe Lane, my dad Robert Rilatos, Art Bensell, Katherine Harrison, Bob Tom, Pauline Ricks, Alta Courville, and Sister Francella Griggs – I find great honor that they were there fighting for the integrity of our people.

I remember the time put into this effort to help our tribal membership gain identity in our communities, identity that was lost when the government was working for assimilation, a failed effort for Indian people.

Our tribal goal was to "Help our members to achieve their highest potential in education, physical & mental health, and economic development" as well as "Insure that our people shall live in peace and harmony among themselves and with all other people." (Reference: Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians: Purposes)

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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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