

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Happy and Healthy New Year to All!

2007 had its good points, but it's now time to look forward to 2008 and beyond. Election time will be upon us before we know it. It is hard to believe that my first 3-year term of serving our tribe as an elected official has nearly passed. I have learned a lot about the challenges and opposition that tribes face and I am glad to have been a part of the team that has faced these issues and challenges for the past 3 years. I hope that I have proven to you my qualification to serve you again for the Feb. 2008 – Feb. 2011 term.

The 30th anniversary of the Siletz Restoration Act has just been celebrated. We have made so many great strides in those 30 years, but as I always say, Restoration is more of a process than an event. We have to work together to create the opportunities for our tribe and its members to succeed and reach even greater goals. So many wrongs were suffered by our ancestors and our people live under the effects created by those wrongs today – politically, economically and in all facets. I have been an advocate on behalf of our people on these issues for many years and I believe I have added a lot of substance to the discussions on those issues. We cannot afford to let such issues remain silent and must as-

sert our rights as descendants of treaty negotiators who gave up so much to retain the rights that we now seek to have acknowledged.

There is not space here to go into great detail regarding ideas and identifying specific issues. I hope to be able to speak to a greater range of subjects in the voter's pamphlet and look forward to the discussions that will lead up to the people making their choice of our leadership in February. I think that I have shown my ability to listen, ask questions, study a subject, and make an informed decision that is unbiased and serves the greater interests of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and its members. I have also brought proposals forward to address issues that needed attention whenever possible and not been afraid to face particularly sensitive issues or vote the only way my conscience would allow on difficult questions.

In short, I hope that you can agree that I have served you well for the past 3 years and that I have your support to continue serving our tribe for the next 3 years. Please vote in February and have your voice heard.

Sincerely,
Robert Kentta
Candidate for the Siletz Tribal Council



To the editor:

I think Brenda Bremner and Nick Sixkiller should be commended and applauded for the outstanding job they did with the '07 All Staff meeting. Just how bad does a PA system have to get before something's done? In my book?

They were both above and beyond. I'll end it there. Thank you CTSI for the hooded jacket. Mine's a perfect fit and looks great. Gooo Beavs – Happy New Year to all.

Respectfully,
Woody Muschamp



To the editor:

My name is Earl R. Woods Jr. and I have been a lawyer for 34 years, serving 26 of those years as a prosecutor. I have been the elected District Attorney for Coos and Morrow counties, and a Deputy District Attorney in Lane, Coos, Umatilla, Curry and Lincoln counties.

I was a deputy for Bernice Barnett for a period of close to four years between 2001 and 2004 and enjoyed working in Lincoln County a lot. Bernice Barnett has tried cases from murder to stop-sign violations and has done so very effectively for many years. She is an excellent trial lawyer and an exceptional person.

Rob Bovett, who is running against her, is a nice guy but to my knowledge has never prosecuted a jury trial. If Rob wants to be a prosecutor he should get some experience before running for the elected office.

Vote for experience and an exceptional person. Vote for Bernice Barnett.
Earl R. Woods Jr.

To the editor:

We are who we are and we must build from there. Depending on our ambitions this can be distressing, but there are examples of self-made successes, people who began with less than we have. Hard work, perseverance, and sheer will can work miracles. Remember too that we are part of a collective enterprise. Even if we do not go as far as we would like, those who follow me by standing on my shoulders will have a shorter climb to make. On this day, I pledge to myself to do at least one thing that advances me toward one of my goals that I've got and want out of my life.

I want to bring in 2008 a new woman with a new life. I want to live a clean and sober life on this day. I will be a better woman than I was yesterday and tomorrow a better woman than I am today.

Aimee Lucas

Planning Department Public Meetings Just Around the Corner

The Tribal Planning Department is reminding everyone of a series of public meetings for tribal members to provide ideas regarding what programs, facilities and services should be explored for grant opportunities. Pam Lind, tribal planner, wants to remind everyone that those meetings will be coming up this month.

There will be one meeting each in Siletz, Eugene, Salem and Portland, with the following schedule:

Siletz, Jan. 10
Eugene, Jan. 17
Salem, Jan. 24
Portland, Jan. 31

Each meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. with a light meal and discussion will follow.

"We are able to provide a lot of services and facilities through grants from several federal agencies," noted

Naomi Shadwick, the grant writer on the Planning staff. "But we always wonder if there are other things we should be looking for" in terms of grant opportunities, she said.

Lind agrees. "We don't want to miss out on an opportunity to fulfill a need of the tribal community when there are grant funds available. We want to hear from the community – let us know if you see a need and we can explore what grants might be available to fill that need," she said.

The Siletz meeting will be held at the Tribal Community Center. The Eugene, Salem and Portland meetings will be at the area offices. All tribal members are encouraged to attend one or more meetings, as able.

For more details, call Cova St. Onge at 541-444-8257 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1257; or Claire Wood at 541-444-8276 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1276.



The new USDA building starts to take shape just east of the city of Siletz.
(photo by Diane Rodriguez)

January USDA Distribution Dates

Siletz		Salem	
Monday, Jan. 7	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 21	Holiday
Tuesday, Jan. 8	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 22	1:30 – 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 9	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 23	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 10	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 24	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy new year!

A reminder to our clients: If you are receiving GA or TANF, this is considered unearned income. Be sure to report this to USDA staff and bring verification, such as a copy of the check or the benefit letter.

Also, when you receive a per capita or timber revenue disbursement from your tribe, you must report the amount to USDA staff. If you fail to report any monies received and we find out that you received some, it's considered fraud and you may have to pay back



the money amount of the foods received. The average amount per household member for a box of food is \$130.

If you need assistance, call Joyce Retherford at the toll-free number, 800-922-1399, ext. 1393, or call direct at 541-444-8393.

Have a great month. Happy Meals!