

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

Congratulations to Robert Kentta, Loraine Y. Butler and Tina M. Retasket, who were elected by our members to serve on Tribal Council for the next three years!

I would also like to give my heartfelt thank you to all those who gave me their words of encouragement and support by voting for me in this election.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Farlow



To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the tribal members who had supported me during this last election in my bid for tribal council. I appreciate those tribal members who voted for me and also those members who gave me encouragement during this time.

I would like to congratulate those tribal members who succeeded in making council and also acknowledge the existing council members in their continued success in building a better future for the tribe. I would like to say at this time that it is my intention to submit my name next year in my bid to run for council.

I would like to address another important matter that recently came to my attention which I feel needs to be addressed. In a support letter for other candidates, my name was included in this letter indicating that I was participating in block voting. I would like to say that I did not authorize the use of my name in promoting any other candidate and if I were to I would be the person to ask to be included in this particular activity.

Once again, I thank those of you for your support and hope that you will continue to support me in my future efforts to represent you.

Sincerely yours,
Elaine Thomas

To the editor:

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share about their needs and opinions in regards to our Tribal operations and goals for the future. I have so much appreciation for all the folks who made what is a reality for our Tribe possible. It is all these efforts, positive or negative, that can lead us to make the choices we need to for the future.

I offer best wishes for our Council members Loraine Butler and Robert Kentta, who were re-elected. Welcome to Tina Retasket, who had some very good ideas, which I look forward to seeing implemented.

Thank you everyone who voted, it is such a powerful way to be a part of the solutions! I feel honored that I was able to share with some folks about how that one vote is so important. I'm still interested in hearing from Tribal members and folks who have an interest in our Tribal enterprise and future generations.

I'm grateful to our organization for the knowledge I have about our Housing program from the time I served on that committee and now to be able to add Health is something I feel is important. Housing and health care are very crucial services and we need all the input that can be provided. The way we will be able to identify solutions is mostly dependent on members voicing their opinions on how services are (or not) provided or received.

As a member of the Health Committee I advocated for a lottery type of drawing for out-of-service-area benefits, please contact me if you have comments or concerns. There were other suggestions that included keeping an ongoing list to identify needs and folks who missed approval for services.

If you have questions, contact me at 541-444-1290 or 541-351-0003 (cell), or by e-mail at nadosh2@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you. I welcome your feedback, and can assure you I will do my best to call you back as soon as possible, on my dime.

Yours truly,
Lisa Brown

To the editor:

A few years back, I was on an ad-hoc committee to revise our Constitution and by-laws.

My suggestion was this: To have a resolutions committee separate from Tribal Council. Tribal Council makes their own resolutions and we members of the tribe read about it after it becomes law. Which gives Tribal Council free rein. Heck of a deal! Our membership should have a say in the laws that govern them. However, we do not.

We used to have a General Council that had the power to give our Tribal Council direction. It would consist of a chairperson, secretary and sergeant-of-arms. The resolutions committee would visit with all our areas - Portland, Salem, Eugene, Siletz, and hear the desires of the people, bringing these desires and needs of the people to the General Council. The membership then would have a chance to approve or disapprove these resolutions by vote. Whereupon the General Council would direct Tribal Council to act on the wishes of the people.

When I presented this idea at a General Council meeting, someone on the Tribal Council accused me of copying the structure of the Nez Perce Tribe. I wanted to say, "How about copying the structure of the government of the United States?" Does just one entity decide the laws of the U.S.? No! The voice of the people is heard. Can someone tell me how a bill is made into law? I wanted to argue my point, but said nothing. No point in arguing.

Today, at our General Council meetings, how many people are satisfied that their needs or requests are met - or are going to even be acted on, by Tribal Council?

Something for you people to think about.

Gilbert, Jr. Towner
3/4 Tututni
1/4 Hoopa (Hupa)

To the editor:

I'm encouraged and grateful for the support from the tribal members who voted for me last month. Thank you all very much. I'm optimistic about the upcoming year and the efforts to encourage communication among tribal members and to make tribal government more accountable.

It's disturbing, however, that over the past six months, two of my letters to *Siletz News* have been rejected. The rejected portions are political analysis, but were characterized by the editorial staff as personal attacks. I strongly disagree with this characterization.

The rejection of my letters is especially troubling because I was a candidate for Tribal Council. Tribal Council Chairman Dee Pigsley has said that if tribal members are dissatisfied with the performance of the Tribal Council they can elect new representatives. If *Siletz News* will not publish opposing candidates when they criticize tribal government then how can tribal members fairly evaluate the performance of their representatives?

Tribal members need to be free to criticize the performance of Tribal Council members and other tribal officials. They need to be free to offer that criticism in this newspaper, the only tribal publication that reaches all members every month. We have to learn to be able to evaluate the good news with the bad news when it comes to tribal government. It is unacceptable for us to have a tribal newspaper that only publishes half the story.

Sincerely,
Lynette Warren

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.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

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 April issue is March 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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Restoration CD

The CD of tribal history and old photos that was shown at the Restoration Celebration still is available to tribal members at no cost.

Fill out a request form (available at www.ctsi.nsn.us) and send it to Diane Rodriquez, c/o Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549.

Siletz News is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal members. For all others, a \$12 annual subscription fee applies. Please make checks payable to CTSI and mail to *Siletz News*.

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