

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

There is a young girl in SVS. Her name is Kateri Whitehead that sent me a Valentine's card she made while in school.

I would like to "thank" her for thinking of us Elders in the Salem area. I appreciate it very much.

My home is close to Woodburn, not Salem.

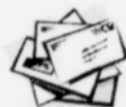
Sincerely,
June R. Austin



To the editor:

I'd like to thank the Siletz Clinic for all the services they provide to me on a regular basis. They are friendly, helpful and often go out of their way to make my visit a pleasant experience. I am very thankful for every service they are able to provide me.

Keep up the good work and thank you!
Clark John



To the editor:

Hidden Americans

In recent weeks I have listened to both the Republicans running for President and the Democrats running for President. In all of the hours and hours of watching, I have heard of Indian people mentioned only twice. Once was to point out that McCain served on a committee for Indians and once by Obama listing the races of people.

Why is this? We are invisible to the politicians. They believe we do not register and we do not vote. In addition we are not visible in political circles and we do not make contributions to their campaigns.

Why is this important? Entitlement monies are being drastically cut for health programs, economic development, environmental issues on reservations, educational dollars and the list goes on and on. If we do not take the responsibility as a people to become active in the political process, we will not only hurt ourselves but our next generation.

Get registered and vote in the upcoming election. The number of employees of the Tribe and the Tribal members could determine several County and State elections.

Humbly,
Mike Darcy

To the editor:

It came to my attention just a few days ago that there is a problem with the mail-in balloting process. I'm currently away from home and my mail is forwarded so there is a lag in the time my mail is sent and when I receive it.

In January I sent my ballot off fully two weeks before the election, but my ballot was returned with no note or explanation. At first I thought it might have been received in Siletz and returned, but that doesn't seem likely since there were no markings on the envelope to suggest that. I saw that my signature was never in question for this election and I know that my ballot was in plenty of time to make it to Siletz before the election.

The circumstances in this case strongly suggest that my ballot was returned due to the practice of having voters' names and addresses printed prominently on the back of the envelope, resembling a destination address. I sent my ballot from California, where I'm currently visiting, but my home address is in Nevada which was printed on the back of the envelope. It was obviously taken to be the destination address because that's where the ballot ended up. I suspect that the post office here in California read my Nevada home address as the destination and simply sent it to that address instead of the Siletz PO Box. That's the simplest and the best explanation for what happened.

We should not have voters' addresses printed on the back of the outer envelopes because it leads to such mistakes.

I understand that a voter's name and roll number may be needed on the outer envelope, but the address should be in the front upper left of the outer envelope, where the Post Office is accustomed to seeing return addresses. Putting the voter's address on the back of the envelope is likely to lead to confusion during mail sorting and would lead to some ballots being sent back to the voter, instead of to Siletz. I see no reason to continue to put voters' addresses on the back of the envelope, where they can be mistaken for a destination address.

The greater concern here is that if this has happened to me, it most likely has happened to other voters. This is an issue that must be corrected before the next election.

If any other tribal members have had their ballots returned to them under similar circumstances, please call me at 775-901-2256.

Lynette Warren



To the editor:

I would like to thank all those who supported me in our last tribal council election. Becoming involved is a positive solution.

Congratulations Robert, Loraine and Tina. Our tribal council contribution is one I have great respect for.

Our tribal New Year is well on its way and it is time to center and move on with the business of meeting the needs of the people as a whole.

I believe each of us as tribal members have a responsibility of becoming an informed participant. This empowers in two ways:

1. The people to better understand the process.
2. The tribe to better meet service expectations.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva E. Clayton



To the editor:

My name is Steven Ashley. I'm now close to thirty years old and did not grow up with the Native ways. Through time I've learned a lot from other Native Americans in other tribes. I've found myself but not completely. I'm missing the knowledge of my own tribe. I'm looking for a person to teach me about the past and to teach me about the old ways. This is very important for me to learn and know. My grandmother was Marry Ashley. Unfortunately, I did not get to learn anything

To the editor:

My name is Eddie Collins and I would like to have my say on a few things. Many of the names stated in Gilbert Towner's letter to the editor were wrong. Tututin was the language of my Grandfather Pete Collins and spoken by my Grandmother Ada Collins. I grew up speaking the language and remember who in Siletz spoke it.

Tolowa, just as Tututin, is our people's language. In my opinion the similarities are greater than the differences. If you speak to a person from Boston and then to a person from Oregon, we sound very different, but aren't we both speaking English?

Learn Tolowa, learn Tututin, just take the time to learn our language. I will never take money for passing on our language and culture. I believe it is to be passed down, not to be profited by.

Those that I remember growing up in Siletz speaking Tututin or Macanuttin are: my grandparents, Daisy Collins Fuller, Ethel Logan Case, Abe Logan, Jane and Ed Bensell, Lucy Dan Smith, Hank and Martha Johnson, Miller Collins, Jim and Ida Bensell, and Gladys Muschamp.

I plan on attending Bud Lane's classes in Siletz and Salem. I hope that many tribal members attend. I hope to see many of you there.

Best regards,
Eddie Collins



from her. I have faint memories of pow-wows, but that's about it. I believe that the more I know, the stronger I will be in who I am. Then I could pass it on to my children and other Native people in other tribes. If anyone would like to help me, my address is below. Thank you.

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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.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

Editor-in-Chief: **Brenda Bremner**
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Deadline for the May issue is April 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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