

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

It has been a pleasure to be able to travel to the elders' gatherings throughout the years. I am thankful that our elected leaders support funding for the elders. I have some suggestions and observations about the program and services.

I've been to a few concerts at our casino, most I've paid for myself or received tickets because I am a player. I did call a couple of times to get "elders" tickets and was told there were none left. This was frustrating because I've seen so many folks sitting in "those" seats that were not elders.

I do know we discuss our elders' budget at the meetings and we pay \$100,000 for those tickets. For elders to request these tickets and then give them to friends/relatives who are not elders is not right. If an elder gets two tickets and wants someone to accompany them who is not an elder, that is okay. But if they want to give both of them away, they should pay for them and reimburse our elders' budget.

Speaking of show tickets, I am appalled that Tribal Council members each get eight tickets and they give them to friends and family over and over again! This is ethically wrong. The Tribal Council at Grand Ronde used to do this, but they quit because it is fraud.

Those tickets are worth money. If Tribal Council members want to give

tickets to friends/family, then they should pay for them. Grand Ronde policy states that the person (Tribal Council member) who gives the ticket will receive a 1099 for the value of the item (this includes buffet tickets, VIP events or any complimentary item). I want folks to know it's my opinion that Lisa Brown had the right idea about this subject (and many others) from the very beginning.

The dollar figure that would be replaced into the Tribal Council budget or the elders' budget would be a considerable amount and could result in an increase in per capita for Tribal members. This money could also be used as a stipend for elders to take a special trip or something else. For the record, this process is not fair to elders who live out of the area. This needs to be talked about.

I am thankful there are Tribal members who voice their opinions about things. I just want to mention my brother, Clifford Case; he was one of those folks. None of us are perfect, but we deserve to be heard. Our questions deserve answers. Our chairman should answer these questions on our new top secret website. I'll be waiting.

Yours truly,
Wayne L. Case
Siletz Tribal Elder



To the editor:

We are writing you regarding our Guardian Management community. Pinewood Manor Apartments offers well-maintained grounds in a convenient location. New residents are greeted by clean, well-appointed apartment homes and friendly staff.

Affordable units may be available for low-income households. If rental assistance is available, rent is calculated based on 30% of household income. If affordable units are not available at this time, qualified applicants will be placed on a waiting list.

Pinewood Manor Apartments for Seniors or Persons with Disabilities

Spacious studios, 1 and 2 bedrooms • Close to essential shopping
Excellent access to transportation • Laundry facilities on site
Beautiful community rooms • Community activities
Close to the beach in central Newport • Near Nye Beach district
Large windows and fresh air • Smoke-free property since Sept. 1, 2007
Professional management • A friendly place to live

Income restrictions apply. For more information and application, please contact:

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Sue Christenson, Community Manager
225 NW 6th St., Newport, OR 97365
541-265-8376

pinewood@guardian-mgmt.com
www.guardianapartments.com
TTY: 1-800-735-2900
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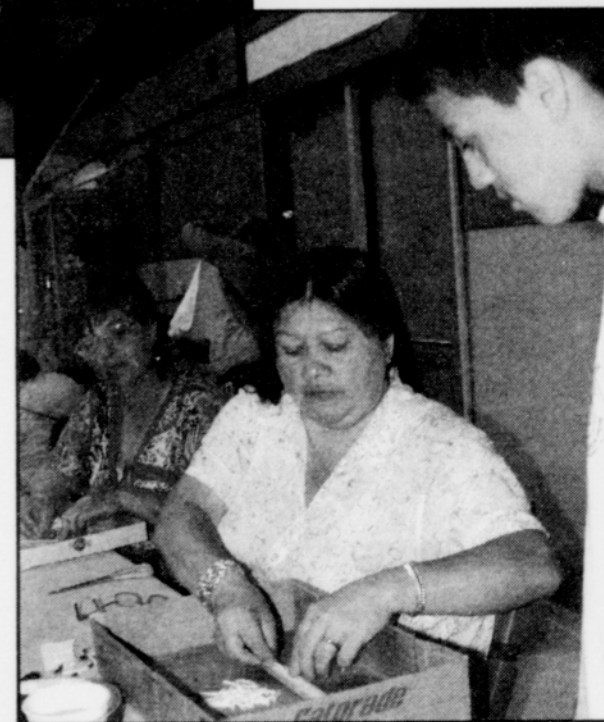
Left: Leonda Villegas paints pictures during the first day of camp.

Photos by Natasha Kavanaugh and Diane Rodriguez

Culture Camp July 15-17, 2008

Right: Marlene Stuart shows Polly (left) and Paul Simmons-Espinoza (r) how to file dentalium.

Below: Bonnie Petersen, Amber Yarbrough and Glenn Yarbrough bead bracelets.



To the editor:

Once again one of my letters has been turned down for publication by this newspaper. That's four in less than a year.

In my July submission, I compared the Oregon State governor's salary with the Siletz Tribal assistant general manager's starting salary. The two salaries are very similar.

Apparently it didn't violate any published guideline, but it was rejected by the editors because it contained the starting annual salary of the assistant general manager of our Tribe. Even though the assistant general manager's starting hourly wage was published by the Tribal government, itself, on the Internet early this year. I was informed by the editors that they wouldn't publish the annual salary in *Siletz News*. It's puzzling to me why the entire Internet reading world is allowed to see this information, while it's withheld from Tribal members in our own newspaper.

I've asked the editors, Tribal management and the Tribal Chairman un-

der what guidelines my July letter was rejected. I haven't received a response from any of them regarding that question.

It's deeply troubling that the newspaper is censoring information that is already widely available to the general public. I understand that the Tribe has a valid interest in keeping certain information private, but once the Tribal government, itself, has made the information public, members should certainly be able to discuss the information in their Tribal newspaper.

Sincerely,
Lynette Warren

Editor's note: Letters are not published when they attack individuals by name. In this case, an incorrect salary figure was attached to someone specifically named by the writer. Letters to the editor that are determined to be personal attacks will not be published in the Tribal newspaper.