

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Important Notice!

From: Ken Smith
Governor Vic Atiyeh
(1979-1987)

Shortly you will cast some very critical votes. By this notice we are urgently recommending that you cast one of those votes for your U.S. Senator Gordon Smith. He knows about us, he cares about us and he has proven his loyalty. His opponent is an unknown.

We have too many serious ongoing issues that will affect our future to leave it in the hands of a newcomer who knows very little about our history, culture, traditions and needs for our future.

You may remember that some months ago all nine reservation Tribes openly supported Senator Gordon Smith. Now you have a chance to individually cast your vote to support that announcement. This is a very close race. Do not wake up on the morning after the election and ask yourself: "Why didn't I vote for Gordon!" For your own interest cast your precious vote for Senator Gordon Smith.

(Approved by Ken Smith and Governor Atiyeh)

To the editor:

Hello everyone, my name is Eva Clayton and I will be running for a Tribal Council position in 2009.

Fact: We are heading into a national recession affecting all Americans at all levels.

I believe we (our Tribal economy) need to realign what we think we need and what we need. We owe this to all our Tribal families.

Our Tribal affairs must remain sensible, financially balanced. My 30-plus years in the business world owning my own construction company, where there is minimal margin for error or uninformed judgment. I am sensible, my business skills are well-balanced.

We cannot afford to underestimate effective efficiency.

I am professionally prepared, independently minded to work with our Tribal Council members on reaching goals that represent our people's thinking as a whole.

My record stands on solid business with honest integrity.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva E. Clayton

To the editor:

I'm sure many members are torn in regards to the upcoming national election. We're faced with formidable images of a troubled financial district as well as the families who struggle to endure, paycheck to paycheck.

The sentiments of Anthony Faiola (10/10/2008, *Washington Post*) resonate with everyone from Wall Street brokers to folks in line to claim unemployment benefits, "The worst financial crisis since the Great Depression is claiming another casualty: American-style capitalism."

We must look to our national and Tribal leaders for sound/clear direction and communication regarding the state of our economy. President Bush in 2007 stated that circumstances will "require difficult choices and additional sacrifices" from the American people.

There are numerous statements that come to mind in regards to President Bush ... "patriotic duty to shop" (www.newsweek.com/id/163451) ... "keeping our economy growing" (12/2006) ... that resonate in my mind while I ponder our Tribe and our economic sustainability.

I know there are folks who've been "hit hard" and they're struggling to "get back on track." What do these members/citizens do when their "track" has been wiped out by an economic tsunami? It's difficult to realize how many feel like they've lost the American dream/life they worked so hard to make a reality.

In this essence, I feel I must convey my concern regarding the vision of our elected representatives, who've approved construction of a new health clinic - estimated cost almost \$10 million! I serve on the Health Committee and I have concerns about this immense financial decision to secure a loan, in addition to using third-party billing revenues plus the \$2.2 million grant to fund this project.

It's my opinion that the third-party billing revenue could be allocated for more pressing needs at this time. It's not up to me to determine this criteria or the priority - but it should be up to the membership.

"Community" meetings do not give equitable/accurate feedback on this process. I've come to my own personal opinion that the information about this project hasn't been conveyed to members in a concise/timely manner. I've asked for a detailed/specific timeline regarding this project and requested this info be available to members also.

I'm saddened by the action of the *Siletz News* editor/staff to censor letters submitted by Tribal members. For an uncensored/true rendition of letters not printed, sentences/paragraphs removed, please call 444-1290/visit www.siletz.net. I thank you for your interest and feedback. When wrong I'm most grateful to receive the correct info. So I thank the editor for the correction of the amount in my previous letter. (If I'd received a budget, I'd have known this figure to be less than initially anticipated).

Lisa Brown

To the editor:

I just received my *Nesika Illahee*. Our leaders have been very busy planning how to spend our gaming revenue/secure loans/grants to fund the plans outlined in the 12+ pages.

I'd like to know specific details about how much property Tribal leaders have actually purchased and what was paid for the property. Another very important detail I'd like to hear is: How much of the property purchased is actually in "trust?"

I've been reading articles/info related to the law (25 C.F.R. Part 151) outlining the process to put land into "trust," which modifies some legal obligations and can remove the liability of paying taxes on property purchased by the Tribe.

A couple of interesting statements I've read: "When land goes into trust, title goes to the federal government and some American Indians don't favor that approach." (Ruling could mean transformation for region, 05/22/2008, *Observer-Dispatch, The*).

In another publication: "Last week, the Department of Interior rejected fee-to-trust applications for 11 Tribes ... new standards essentially confer a veto-power to state and local governments over Tribal fee-to-trust applications." (<http://turtle-talk.wordpress.com>, 1/8/2008)

These statements and the current frenzy of emotional turmoil that surrounds land/assets purchased using credit concerns me. I'm in a state of extreme agitation because I've sat in council meetings time and time again, hearing discussion about financial expenditures to purchase land/get a loan to fund economic endeavors - and the vote by council members to "waive our sovereign immunity."

In the first place, I'd hope we'd have financial assets sufficient to not have to ask for loans! I'm not alone, there are a lot of Elders concerned about waiving rights or "sovereign immunity," which I think makes our economic gaming/assets vulnerable to be responsible to pay out for damages in event of financial crisis.

This sovereign immunity/ancient legal doctrine protects governments from being sued by citizens. Our federal government, as well as every state and local government in the United States, has substantially abolished sovereign immunity so that people who are wronged by government can have their day in court.

It troubles me when our elected leaders waive this right to secure a loan but they hold tight to that right when faced by Tribal members who seek their day to have issues heard in Tribal Court. The issue at hand is accountability on the part of Indian Tribes in general. (www.access-montana.com/morris/page19.html)

It's a thin line to walk if we're to truly seek restoration of constitutional process advocating for rights of both Indians and non-Indians involved in Tribal business. I welcome your comments, 541-444-2096. As I've read our Constitution, I think council misses the point, which is to ensure that our justice system works for all citizens.

David Tyee John
Tribal Elder

It's Better at the Beach!

Chinook Winds CASINO RESORT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2008						
1pm 5:30pm Birthday Bingo	1pm 6pm \$42 Ocean Package Day	1pm FREE Square \$500	1pm 6pm	1pm 3 Free 6-Ons	CLOSED	1pm 5:30pm
CLOSED	1pm 6pm \$42 Ocean Package Day	1pm	1pm Dauber Session 6pm	1pm 3 Free 6-Ons	1pm Birthday Bingo SENIOR BINGO!	1pm Indian Star Pays \$500 Matinee Session 5:30pm
1pm 5:30pm Birthday Bingo	1pm 6pm \$42 Ocean Package Day FREE Square \$500	1pm	1pm 6pm	6pm 3 Free 6-Ons Thanksgiving Day Special Free Pie	CLOSED Three Dog Night	CLOSED Three Dog Night
1pm Manager's Special 2-\$500 5:30pm Birthday Bingo	1pm 6pm \$42 Ocean Package Day	1pm	1pm 6pm	1pm 3 Free 6-Ons	1pm Birthday Bingo	1pm 5:30pm

FREE SQUARE pays \$500 November 4th Matinee Session & November 17th Evening Sessions!

SENIOR BINGO-For November, Senior Bingo will be on Friday the 14th during the 1pm session. If you are 55 years or older and a single winner on one of our ten main session games you will have the choice of adding \$1 to your payout for every year of your life or choosing to win a glass float and one pull tab for every year of your life.

DAUBER SESSION-During the 1pm session on November 12th all guests that win a bingo (alone or split) will receive a free Chinook Winds dauber with their payout.

MANAGER'S SPECIAL-November 23rd will be the Manager's Special. Indian Star and Bonanza will pay \$500 during the 1pm session.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL-On November 20th we will only have a 6 pm session. All guests that buy-in will receive free pie and a special dauber.

MONDAYS ARE OCEAN PACKAGE DAY • ONLY \$42! THAT'S A \$30 SAVINGS

ON THE BEACH IN LINCOLN CITY 1-888-CHINOOK