

To the editor:

The recent national election shall go down in history as a time when people really stepped forward to participate in the political process. It was an example of our democratic process in action! It wasn't censorship that moved people, it was access to info and chances to create meaningful dialogue/reveal details.

I'm thankful to our Tribe to see ideas that have been implemented, like the CTSI website info now available for members: *Nesika Illahee*, Tribal Council minutes/meeting agendas, resolutions, *Siletz News* and maps detailing land we presently own.

I'm pleased to receive DVDs for free of General Council meetings. I urge all Tribal members to request these! Each meeting presents info/details from a program and answers to questions about services/funding.

I'd like to see detailed reports for conferences that staff/council attend. These training materials should be made available to members to check out or view when visiting offices. This resource could be utilized more fully. The cost was paid from monies received by counting each member to receive funding, so let's make access equal!

I encourage people of talent to step up/engage in our political process. Public affairs require the brightest/best to generate/bring back knowledge that is so crucial in decision making for future members. Members should be inspired to think less of the personal/professional success that is sacrificed by entering politics and see it as the honor to be chosen to serve. Our Tribe deserves wise/ethical governance by unselfish men/women who intend to make a good difference for future generations.

The alternative is too frightening to contemplate. Politicians of substance matter! These individuals shouldn't be afraid to step up/voice intentions/viewpoints. Strong discussion can bring forth a change of views or the action of agreeing to disagree.

I see our members suffering while some folks have little struggle/discontent. A Tribal Elder, Eugene Dodd, related his impression: "Sometimes it's like us being the children when a train goes by. The wealthy people throw us candy. Doesn't do us much good, but it makes them feel good!"

As I reflected on his sentiments, I sought other guidance. "For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." I Timothy 6:10

I believe people can become misdirected/occupied and lose sight of those who aren't visible or vocal. It's my intention to look at what is here, to ask questions and seek solutions.

I hope you'll contact me and I might be able to listen to what your concerns and dreams are for the future of our people. I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,
Lisa Brown

To the editor:

Another election is upon us.

The individuals you vote for must be knowledgeable in the fields of finance, real estate, investments and negotiation.

Your Tribal Council members serve on the STBC and Gaming Boards.

While attending General Council, one of the dominant member concerns is the lack of avenues of protection for our employees.

I supported a TERO office 20 years ago. TERO is an acronym for Tribal Employment Rights Office. A TERO office would negotiate all complaints/grievances. Also with all the new construction, guarantee a percentage of Tribal members' employment – normally 30 percent or higher.

In a few years our timber harvest will be reduced to 1 million board feet. Tribal Council's accelerated timber harvests have jeopardized all Elder stipend payments. If gaming monies are used, Elders must pay taxes.

The Wall Street collapse should have made it crystal clear that "no one polices themselves." New leadership and regulations allow us to track every dollar. And they don't worry about what gets into the newspapers because there's nothing to hide.

My priorities have been health and education. I also advocate equal access.

The Grand Rondes have an open forum to initiate their business ventures; please note how successful and powerful that Tribe has become. Their new construction at the casino cost \$45 million and paid for in cash! They do not risk their sovereign immunity to anyone for any price.

All across Native America hangs a dark cloud of corruption, denial of rights and unaccountability. Congress and the White House are fed up with Tribal America. The federal and state governments are in the process of levying taxes against us.

We must be a dominant presence in negotiations; if we fail, the term sovereign immunity will become a White House joke.

Look what happens to us in Lincoln City; every meeting they laugh all the way to the bank. Lincoln City has successfully extorted almost \$1 million a year from us.

I don't want that team going to Washington, D.C.!

I've been married 30 years – we have four children and nine grandchildren. During Vietnam, I served in the USAF.

My two sons serve in the military as well. This family puts our lives at risk to protect our country. I promise to do no less to protect your rights and sovereign immunity and propel this Tribe to a dignified, respectful and prosperous lifestyle.

Thank you for your vote of confidence.
Monte Wayne Kentta

To the editor:

My perception: In view of the fact that the Tribal Council efforts to continue other spending as opposed to health care of the membership implies that the Tribal Council has little concern for the membership, i.e., cutback in meds, transportation, access to health care services has become seriously limited and access at Chemawa has always been a problem, now transports are also.

Two weeks ago I asked to see Dr. Applegate and the earliest date is Feb. 23, 2009. It's just not practical. I have a vision problem that has puzzled the two optometrists at Chemawa and their suggestion was to get the doctor's opinion and in the meantime they will seek consultations to solve my problem.

Will Tribal Council continue to overlook health care issues for other spending agenda?

Thank you,
Concerned Elder
Dennis Lane



Happy Birthday, Lonnie/Gramma Lonnie. We love you and hope you have a great birthday on Dec. 5.

Love, The Brats across the street

Christmas wishes to our family in Wrangell, Alaska. We all love you and miss you and hope you make a trip down soon.

Love – Selina, Cameron, Mateas, Shannon, Steve, Cheney, Ella, Carrie, Scott, Emily, Rachel and Sara

Happy Birthday to sister Carrie Mason in Hood River. We love you.
Selina and Shannon

Happy Birthday, Auntie Carrie. We love you lots.

Cheney, Cameron, Mateas and Ella

See more Passages on Page 24.

Passages Policy

Submissions to Passages are limited to two 25-word items per person, plus one photo if desired.

All birthday, anniversary and holiday wishes will appear in the Passages section. Items containing information on births, graduations, the Armed Services, weddings, engagements and deaths will appear in the Tribal Member News section.

Siletz News reserves the right to edit any submission for clarity and length. Not all submissions are guaranteed publication upon submission. Please type or write legibly and submit via e-mail when possible.

Well, the oldest male Tribal member, Robert Johnson, will be 96 years young on Dec. 21. He's the most wonderful father, grandfather and uncle you could ask for. God gave us the best gift of all when he gave you to us.

We love you so much, Dad.

Gayle, Al and all the rest of the family

To a special person – Kelley, I congratulate you on your master's degree in education, what a wonderful job well done. If you are looking to more schooling, look into Tribal law. Shastas will need good young minds for these treaty rights.

God bless you,
Tyee Running Man
Apple Gate Nation

A thank you to a friend – Stan, thank you for the very kind words you gave to me about the work I've done for you at the hatchery. You are a wonderful biologist for the Tribe.

Truly yours,
Tyee Running Man
Apple Gate Nation

Happy Birthday to my daughter, Chasta, on Dec. 2. I hope it's as special as you! I love you and I'm so very proud to be your mom!

A great big Happy 17th Birthday to Jon Jon Benedict.

Love, Grandma J and Gramma

Happy Birthday to Britany, Hunter and Bradlee!

Love, Darcy, Sunny and Brendan

Happy Birthday to my sister, Alison. Here's to knowing you'll be eligible for AARP before me! Ha ha ha!

Love, your biggest fan, Darcy

I would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Hunter. He's one amazing boy who has brought a lot of joy to my life.

I love you, Mom

Happy Birthday to Britany and Bradlee ... two very adorable Robertson kids!

Love, Auntie Ali, Hunter and Noah

Happy Birthday to all of my family members in December. I can't remember them all, so a shout out to all of you.

Maggie and family

I want to wish Stacey on Dec. 2, my little gamma Sequoyah on Dec. 17 and Melody on Dec. 25 a happy and wonderful day.

Love you all, Nora

Happy Birthday to our Mom/Grandma Daryllyne. Times get rough, but we know you are a strong woman. We love you a lot.

Love, Trish and the "brats"

Happy Birthday to Brittany, Tay-Tay, Raymond, Aunt Cindy, Sierra and Joshie. Love you all.

Love – Trish, Donovan, Mia, Tyee and Loren