

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PASSAGES

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to inform other Tribal members and the Health Committee members about how much I have benefited from acupuncture treatments.

I want to thank Lisa Brown for all her hard work she put forth to lobby our Tribe and the clinic staff to make this funding possible. I have not had problems with my knees, sciatica nerve and my shoulder since getting these treatments.

I'm hoping for continued treatments for problems for my back. But I have heard they may be planning to do away with the funding for these treatments (acupuncture and chiropractic).

I for one do not want this to happen, as I don't want to go back to taking more pills again.

Before I close I just wanted to say something about letters I've read in our paper about "member's behavior ... was appalling and disrespectful."

This letter reminded me of something that has been on my mind lately. I remember what I was taught by my parents and thought I would share it with others: "Being an Elder is earned – you should respect and be truthful to the Elders and the people of our Tribe. Otherwise, you are only truthful to a few and your family."

I taught our boys to say "please" and "thank you" when someone does something for them. I would tell them "get up and let an Elder have their chair," just simple things, but important ones in my eyes.

Thanks for allowing me to share my wishes and feelings.

Gylene M. Jones, Tribal Elder



To the editor:

I am not a Siletz Tribal member, however I am a member of the Gros Ventre Nation from Fort Belnap, Mont. I recently applied for services through the Salem Area Siletz Tribal office and I would like to commend the efforts of the employees in providing services to me through the Work Experience program.

I am especially grateful because my work record, and in addition 77 months in prison, did not make their task an easy one to find an employer who was willing to take a chance on me. In spite of terrible weather conditions, holidays and the low job market, they continued to work with me to fulfill my goal of full-time employment.

In closing, the work ethic of Bev Owen, Sharmon Cook-Wright and Mark Pulam should be a standard that all Native Americans should strive for when providing services. They have been a great help to me.

Respectfully,

Frank J. Luna Windels



To the editor:

I want to express my gratitude to all the candidates who ran for the 2009 election. It was a very interesting campaign. I can hardly wait for 2010, when Delores Pigsley, Alfred "Bud" Lane III and Lillie Butler will give one another a run for their (our) money.

I believe the 2009 candidates "raised the bar," highlighting the importance to Tribal members of their obligation/responsibility to vote, plus striving to seek information on candidates. Tribal members are beginning to recognize the importance of participation in political processes by voting and asking questions.

I disagree with our Election Board's decision to deny Tribal members the opportunity of audio/visual recordings of the 2009 Candidate's Fair. This action suppresses voters' rights to receive a record of the candidates' comments. I'm appalled that 17 letters requesting to record the fair were ignored and 1/10/09 requests to record were also denied.

I'm disappointed the 11/30/08 Health Committee minutes were changed by not recording what was said. Marlene Stuart spoke for 3-5 minutes to voice her questions and concerns, but her statement, "I am opposed to this new clinic being built, that money needs to go elsewhere," did not appear.

I disagree with moving acupuncture/chiropractic service funding from initial purpose/line item to fund different use/project. This action is ethically questionable. To request EPR funds for one purpose and then apply to another is not proper. Persons responsible should be held accountable.

Tribal members deserve answers/treatment as promised. I've requested a written response/justification and copy of policy/procedures supporting this decision. Until then, I view this action as fraud, abuse of authority and contrary to the Tribal Constitution.

The recent move to limit the amount of time a member can speak at a General Council meeting is unfair. Many members can only attend a limited number of meetings. Whether disabled, Elder or distant/out-of-area members, their concerns must be heard and their right to speak must be protected. Time limits deprive them the opportunity to communicate their concerns.

Limiting speakers' times supports efforts to suppress dissenting opinions. This policy contradicts our Constitution and should be voted on by the membership. As proposed, it violates our rights under the Indian Civil Rights Act and harms our Tribe's ability to benefit from the members' wealth of opinions/points of view.

Disagreement is part of a healthy society. Gagging certain members bringing forth controversial questions may save Tribes some embarrassment, but it harms Tribes as a whole. We have to say no to efforts to silence selected members who simply bring forth questions that embarrass people.

Thanks for everyone's votes and donations supporting mailing details to voters! If you have questions, call me, 541-444-1290.

Lisa Brown

To the editor:

As Tribal members, we will be faced with the responsibility of deciding whether to put alcohol on the gaming floor in return for higher profits. I am opposed to the move.

In the beginning, the public asked if we would be selling alcohol and we said no. Time went on and we opened a lounge. Visit that lounge some Saturday night an hour before closing and it is a liability.

To me, it comes down to an ethical question vs. a business question. Any general manager we have ever had has pushed for alcohol because it brings in more profits. Tribal Council has always stood firm on the issue.

We are in a recession now and profits are down and per capita may be affected this year. Do we need to think differently because we are losing money? We maintain that Indian gaming is regulated by the Tribes and the state is just an overseer. But as soon as we put alcohol on the floor, then the state will have one more reason to regulate the gaming floor.

When the Vegas people talked to us when we opened the casino, they urged us to keep alcohol off the gaming floor. The only reason they provide alcohol is because everyone does it in Vegas. They said that 10 percent of the people drink 90 percent of the alcohol and cause 90 percent of the problems.

If we cave in and provide alcohol on the gaming floor, we should go back to the state and demand that we be treated equally with the lottery terminals and have an unlimited number of machines and really make some money.

Mike Darcy



To the editor:

I believe it's time for the Tribal Council to review the Tribal Council Ethics Ordinance. The Tribal Council apparently has forgotten all the noble and honorable words contained in that document.

1. Maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, fairness and impartiality.
2. Take action in the best interest of the Siletz Tribe and the Tribal membership, not in personal interest.
3. Carry out their duties and responsibilities in the highest ethical manner.

These are just a few words from the Tribal Council Ethics Ordinance. What I see happening is excessive salaries and salary increases for administrative staff, a \$20 million line of credit for the casino without any specific purpose and Siletz Tribal Business Corporation/STEDCO failures. In what way does increasing staff and staff salaries develop a remedy for the situation? In what way do these issues benefit the Tribe and Tribal membership?

How do the issues mentioned above fit within the parameters of the Tribal Council Ethics Ordinance?

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or opinions – 1225 Clearview Ave., Keizer, OR 97303; or dlane32000@yahoo.com.

Dennis Lane, Tribal Elder

Happy Birthday to our big brother, Wesley Roman Scott, on Feb. 12. We miss you bro, have a good day!

Love, Donovan, Miakoda and Tyee

Happy Birthday to the most beautiful elder in the world! We love you, Grandma Alice. We hope your day is wonderful just like you.

Love, Donovan, Miakoda, Tyee and Loren

Happy Birthday, Dustin Scott. We love you babe, take care of yourself!

Love – Trish, all the bratz ... oh and the one who "ran-away" hee hee!

Happy Birthday to my nephews, Gavin and Dakota, on Feb. 25. I hope you boys are doing well. Auntie misses you guys each day.

Love, Auntie Trish and your lil cousins

Happy Birthday, Dustin. Love ya, bro'.
Tays Eaglet Salazar

Congratulations to Donovan Carey (fifth grade) and Miakoda Scott (first grade) for getting strictly A's and B's on their report cards! Donovan has a 3.7 GPA and Miakoda reads at a third-grade level. I love you two so much, you're so very bright!

Love Mom

I wanted to wish you a Happy Birthday, Mom! Wish I could be there in person.

Your only daughter, Nahni lol =p

To my bother "Grant" on his birthday – I hope this year brings around the changes that make your life complete.

Your "see star," Nahni

See more Passages on page 20.

Chemawa Indian School 129th Birthday Pow-Wow

Feb. 28, 2009
Grand Entries at
1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

3700 Chemawa Road NE
Salem, Oregon
School Gymnasium

Dancing, singing, fry bread,
crafts – support Chemawa
student clubs

Public Welcome! Free Admission!

Vendor contact: Karen Serna,
503-399-5721, ext. 225
General information:
Crystal Boyd, ext. 260, or
Sonya Olson, ext. 269

Chemawa is a smoke-free, drug-free and alcohol-free campus.