

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To Tribal members:

My name is Jenera Healy and I live in Caldwell, Idaho. I am asking for your help to stop the insanity of Contract Health Services.

In December I gave birth to my second child and it was supposed to be covered under Contract Health. I was given authorization numbers and told by an employee that it would be covered. Two days later, CHS changed its mind about our conversation. As a result, almost \$3,000 in bills are not being paid.

I have heard about three other instances when Contract Health employees are giving bad information to Tribal members and as a result bills do not get paid or services are not covered. I refuse to believe that I am the only one who continues to have such difficulties using services from our Tribe.

If you or anyone you know has had any issues of wrong information from Contract Health Services or their employees, I urge you to write a letter explaining your situation to the Health Committee as well as our Tribal Council. If possible, please forward them to me as well so that I can put together something to show what we as Tribal members have to go through.

It is time that our Tribal Council is made aware of what Contract Health Services is doing. I don't know about any of you, but I have bills going to collection due to non-payment regardless of authorization numbers and approvals.

Please let someone know about what is going on. As one person, no one will listen to me. But we all need to document our problems we are having!

Thank you,
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To the editor:

About Our Constitution

Webster's definition of the word Constitution is: "The fundamental principles of a nation, state or body politic that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people and that together constitute the organic law of the land."

Well, I've been on the Internet checking our various Tribal Constitutions and I've discovered some very interesting and important information.

There's a Tribe that had written into its Constitution the power for the membership, if they deemed necessary, to remove the council members and this Tribe has just done it because they felt the council was no longer working for the good of the membership.

Another Tribe is in the process of rewriting its entire Constitution. In one situation council members were indicted, something to do with funds.

Is anyone wondering who was involved in writing our Constitution and why we were not given any powers?

You members who can go on the Internet, get on it and read what other Tribes are doing. Let's get inspired to get involved in what's happening to our Tribe. There are a lot of things we can do. Let's get the power out of the hands of a few and give it back to the membership.

Am I the only one seriously concerned about what is happening within our Tribe?

Virgene F. Blair

To the editor:

Hello again, so it seems I'm motivated to speak out once more. Not that my opinion is any more or less than another's, but I care enough to use my voice when something bothers me.

So Lisa Brown has been voted off Tribal Council? So let me see if I get this right. As long as four out of seven council members can group up together, then the votes of over 400 Tribal members no longer matter? So why even hold Tribal elections anymore? We may as well just let Tribal Council decide who they want to hold a position. After all, as soon as someone tries to shine light on what goes on any four of them can just remove that person regardless of our wishes or votes.

I don't know what it is Lisa supposedly said nor do I care. She made a "racist comment" apparently. And?! I think our elected officials are so caught up in being all "Hollywood" and big wiggin' around with the governor that they lost sight of their duty.

Tribal Council isn't there to make sure those "others" are not offended. Tribal Council is responsible for seeing that our people are taken care of and our culture is passed on.

I'm far more concerned for the many, many millions of dollars taken from our casino profits against the standard divisions originally set up that the council decided to take and sink into failing businesses that hire very few Tribal members. Isn't there a percentage of total profits that is already set aside for investing and business? Yes there is! So that money was stolen from housing, health care, elders, education and so on.

My loyalties lie with my clan first, then my Tribe and lastly all Native American people. Anyone else is those "others" and I care less what they think. What we have was bought and paid for in blood! It's for us and no one else. The people! Not what for council members decide!

Hvm'-chi'
Randall Hartwell

To the editor:

Editors/publishers have moral/ethical obligations to serve the public good and encourage democratic processes. Equal access to presenting political points of all views is crucial.

It should be noted whose letters are censored or rejected for publication. Not only are some letters rejected, but more often than not individuals are not offered a consistent or specific reason in a timely manner for the rejection.

What has been provided by Diane Rodriguez to Lynette Warren when her letter was rejected: "Siletz News reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse any publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks, or unsubstantiated statements."

So it's contradictory that Kelley Ellis' letter making an accusation that content on Siletz.net is "not healthy or accurate information" was published. The same concern is noted regarding the letter of Selina D. Rilatos, where she was allowed to print a statement attacking Siletz.net without proof of such an accusation.

The letter printed by LeiLani Cordova makes note of what "we have accomplished..."

I do not discredit this, but it does not make right the losses we have suffered. What LeiLani refers to as "negativity," I construe as transparency and accountability. Bringing to light failures or less than favorable outcomes/decisions is not saying someone is not thankful for what we've received.

As the 1973 SPJ code declared in its first statement, "The Society of Professional Journalists believes the duty of journalists is to serve the truth." (www.ocrpl.org/?p=29)

So in response to Ms. Cordova, I convey that submissions are not provided to conjure negativity but rather seeking the truth. I don't wish to prohibit such comments as the purpose of the editorial of our news publication should be that members have the right to submit their uncensored opinions.

Although letters may incite emotional, controversial/passionate reactions, they can serve to reflect as a mirror the views/opinions of Tribal communities in an unbiased manner.

But if the editor(s) choose to reject/censor one letter, it should be equally applied to all letters. No editor/publisher should ever make personal judgments on any one submission to justify rejection/censorship.

Siletz News, rather than to silence voices of opponents, should solicit responses that will generate dialogue/debate. The great belief in those freedoms is what brings about social change, where injustices are corrected, understanding is broadened and education is obtained.

I encourage all readers to remember this when reading the opinions of others and when writing opinions themselves. To censor opinions is equivalent to mocking the very freedoms and rights that are inherent to us as citizens/Tribal members, as provided in the First Amendment.

Lisa Brown

Father's Day Specials at Chinook Winds

Kids Crafts on Father's Day

Hey dads - have your kids visit us at the Play Palace on Father's Day and you'll get a special treat when you pick them up. Our always popular child care is once again doing something special for the kids, who will leave on those days with a special craft for dad.

Special Day for Dads

Chinook Winds will celebrate Father's Day with a free gift for fathers on June 21 (while supplies last). Present your Winner's Circle card at Players Services.

You know how dad likes to eat, so take him out to the Rogue River Steakhouse, Chinook's Seafood Grill or Siletz Bay Buffet. The chef has worked up menu items that will satisfy dad's hunger.



Interim General Manager Sar Richards (right) presents a check to Roger Robertson during a food drive that took place during Community Days in April. The local food pantry collected more than 3,200 pounds of food and \$3,000 during the day-long event.