

To the editor:

Good Care at Siletz Community Health Clinic

I am writing to comment on the good care I received at the Siletz Community Health Clinic. I visited the clinic for a medical appointment in September 2009. It was my first medical appointment at the clinic since I normally receive my health care in the valley.

I was impressed with the attention I received. Front desk receptionists were friendly and helpful. My wait time was a lot less than what I am used to. Medical staff was respectful, they took the time to listen and they gave me the privacy that a patient is entitled to.

When my appointment was over, it was nice being able to promptly pick up my prescription in the same building. No traveling from one facility to another, no long lines, no waiting forever to get my meds and no worry about my prescription card being maxed out. Pharmacy staff was polite and they answered all my questions.

Out here in the valley, medical appointments are not so simple. I think Siletz Tribal members are fortunate to have their own clinic and pharmacy (and especially in the same building). When I left the clinic, the level of good care that I received impressed me.

Adrienne Crookes

To the editor:

My Appreciation Letter to My Family

Hello, my name is Kyle Len Wallace, for those who know me I like to be honest. I am currently incarcerated; I was sentenced to a period of 28 months. I am halfway done with my time and I will be released on Dec. 19, 2010.

I am just writing this today to give a big thank you to my family and friends. You have been here through this rough time in my life and have never left my side and I appreciate that. You have always supported me.

I just want my mom, grandma and great-grandma to know when I get out, I am going to accomplish many great things.

I also want to give huge thanks to the whole family for always having open doors for all the family in need of a house or just a place to stay. I want my family to know that I love them all very much and you are the only thing that is keeping my head up in this place.

I will be coming home soon to be with you all.

Sincerely,

Kyle Len Wallace

To the editor:

On behalf of the Strong family, we would like to thank friends and family for the food, cards and miscellaneous items you provided for us. Your thoughtfulness means so much, especially during this difficult time.

Wilma, William, Joel, Jack, Rosa, Joella and family

We appreciate Jackie and Jesse Cordova for always taking the time to aid my brother, Royce, when needed. You two were never asked to help, it was always on your own.

Sincerely,

Joella and family

To the editor:

I'm Lynette Warren and, as I announced early this year, I am a candidate for Tribal Council.

Last year I received 281 votes, just 57 votes shy of winning a seat on the council, which positions me as the leading challenger to the current Tribal Council majority. That's a remarkable showing from the voters, especially considering that my candidate's statement was not printed in the official Voter's Pamphlet. This year I've decided it's necessary to take my campaign outside the realm of Tribal publications and speak directly to the membership.

There's a great deal of important financial and policy information I have to impart to Tribal members, which you can find at www.siletz.net.

Lynette Warren

Dear Tribal members:

It is with high spirits that we are writing this letter today. As we all know, election day is coming up and there are many candidates to consider. We are asking you to consider Kurtis Barker to represent you, the Tribal people, as a council member.

Kurtis has worked for the Tribe as a public servant for a few years now and he has great hopes of enriching the social programs within the Tribe that give members skills in order to become self-sufficient. He also wishes to involve our youth in a Youth Council so that they will have a voice within the Tribe, as well as prepare them for the day when they will be on Tribal Council.

Kurtis is an upstanding young man, with obtainable goals for the Tribe as well as an upbeat attitude and an open ear. His wishes to better fund mental health and out-of-area services that are shared by many and desperately needed.

So, it is our request that you choose to support this well-spoken and dedicated man to become a Tribal Council person. You can show your support by voting, as well as giving words of encouragement on his Facebook fan page.

Thank you,

Teala Rilatos
Tracey Worman
Sharmon Cook-Wright
Lisa Rilatos
Angela Ramirez
LeiLani Rilatos Cordova

Rebecca J. Williams
Darlene Carkhuff
Bekki Lundy
Margo Hudson
Marci Simmons

Klahowya, Kloshe Tillicums (Greetings, good relatives):

I am Ken Blacketer, Jr. My ancestors include Hoxie Simmons and Kate Chantille (Molalla Kate) on my mother's side and Elizabeth (Gram Blacketer) on my father's side. I'm the nephew of Auntie Pearl Rilatos and the late Robert Rilatos was my cousin. My parents were Ileana Simmons and Kenneth Blacketer, Sr.

From 1967-70, I served as a nuclear missile programmer and operator for the U.S. Army.

I'm 60 years old and have spent much of my working life in the private sector, beginning as a paperboy at age 10. I've been a logger, railroad hand, business owner and gas station manager. I also have experience working in federal and city government and served as a shop steward for the AFL/CIO.

Within the Tribe, I've worked as a Tribal Court administrator, court advocate and in the Tribal Accounting Department. I believe strongly in individual and employee rights and protections. Over the years I've witnessed problems originating from our Tribal structure, Tribal Constitution and lack of separation of powers.

One mistake was when our court system changed from Tribal Elders serving as judges. Many of you who've had court cases recently can attest to the court's rubber stamping of the council's wishes in your case. From employee grievances to denial of benefits to housing issues, Tribal member rights get lost in the technicalities. The outside world has well-established processes and procedures that protect individual's rights.

Put simply, there is too much power concentrated in the hands of too few people. The saddest example of this absolute power occurred when six members of the council overturned a valid Tribal election result by expelling a candidate that 401 Tribal members had voted in. The council compounded this act by filling the empty seat with a staff member, not the next highest vote-getter. Judicial and constitutional reform are needed to help us return to a more balanced way of life.

My late cousin Frank Simmons and I discussed hunting and fishing rights and our dream of re-establishing a large Tribal land base. Abandoned old farms and fields around Siletz could have been purchased at a huge discount, but these opportunities were lost. Now, areas along the Siletz River and Rock Creek have million-dollar homes on them where we used to be able to fish. We have millions of dollars at our disposal, yet many Tribal members need help with health care costs and simply putting food on the table.

I know there are more creative ways of governance. A vote for me will be a vote for protection of Tribal member rights, access to information and response to Tribal member complaints and problems.

Ken Blacketer

Hello Tribal Members:

My name is Kurtis Barker and I am running for Tribal Council.

I served on the Siletz Tribal Election Board the last three years and while doing so, I made it a priority to encourage young voters to participate in the election process. Young voters can have an incredible impact in the results of any election and young people usually have less of a turnout than other groups. I will make it a priority to encourage young voters to participate in the political process and Tribal government as a whole.

If elected, I will make it a priority to improve youth programs. Not only would I like to see a youth council created to advise Tribal Council on youth interests, but I would like to create a year-round youth employment and mentoring program.

Siletz Tribal youth are the future of our Tribe and we need to prepare them for it! Youth prevention programs are effective, but I can see room for improvement within our Tribal program. We need Tribal programs to support and encourage our youth to become self-sufficient, positive role models within our communities.

There are Tribal members suffering and struggling to become self-sufficient; we need to further programs that serve these individuals and families, and Tribal Council plays a role in this issue.

There is a silver lining, though. Most days while on the job, I get to see Tribal members and their families triumph in their endeavors to become self-sufficient. I get to see the motivation that drives many of our participants! It's truly a wonderful thing.

The improvements of youth programs and social services are things I firmly believe in. The advancement of services for those Tribal members living outside the service area is also of interest to me and if elected, I would like to see more attention paid to those Tribal members than there is currently.

Those Tribal members who will be 18 years old and older on or before Feb. 6, 2010, will be eligible to vote in this year's election. I would appreciate your vote this coming election.

Questions and comments can be e-mailed to kurtisbarker@hotmail.com or join my fan page on Facebook.com. After joining my fan page, you can view and make comments, read my bio and find updates on my campaign.

Respectfully,

Kurtis Barker, Candidate for Tribal Council