



Leon Araiza and Joseph Garver

Courtesy photo

To the editor:

Last year we were approved for a remodel by the Siletz Housing Department for our home that was built in 1953. Our house had many issues that needed correcting.

Our bathroom and kitchen floors were old and worn. We needed insulation to make heating our home more efficient. We also needed a wheelchair-accessible bathroom for our young son who has many special needs.

Our house was really in need of updating and our son needed his own space for his many medical devices that help us manage his health. Over the summer, Siletz Valley Builders worked very hard on making all of this a reality for our family.

During our remodel, our main sewer line burst, creating a two-inch-deep pond in our basement, thus halting all construction. With the help of Tribal Council, Rob Smith and the team in the Housing Department, LaVonne Butler of Siletz Valley Builders and lots of elbow grease from Leon Araiza and his right-hand man, Rob, our project came together.

We received a repaired sewer line in the basement, a new room downstairs, a new shower downstairs, new kitchen counters, new flooring in the kitchen and bathroom, and my favorite thing, a wheelchair-accessible sink for my Joseph. The work done on our house was outstanding; it looks like a completely different house!

Our family would like to take the opportunity to thank these people for their energy and efforts. Their work makes Tribal families' lives better and I feel it's important to make sure they know how grateful our family is for all of them. Thank you, everyone, for working so hard for the beautiful gift of our home. We love it!

Sincerely,

Penny Lane-Garver



To the editor:

My name is Sharon Edenfield and I am announcing my candidacy for Tribal Council.

My father is Bennie Brown Jr. and mother is the late Edwina Ann (Simmons) Brown, who was also known as Tink or Tinker. My grandfather was Bennie Brown Sr. and grandmother was Mary Ann (Butler) Brown; my other grandfather was Edwin Simmons and grandmother was Clarinda Ann (Smith) Simmons; and my great-grandfather was Hoxie Simmons.

I have 31 years of experience working with the Tribe and 2½ years of experience as a seated member of Tribal Council. My experience with the Tribe is lengthy, but my strong area is budgets, which is needed with today's economy.

I believe in fair and equitable treatment of our membership and clients and believe in consistency. I have a lot to offer our membership by serving on Tribal Council and am humbly requesting your support.

Respectfully,

Sharon A. Edenfield

For information about Agent Orange, possible health-related problems and VA benefits:

Toll-free Helpline: 800-749-8387, Press 3

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/

Most Often Requested Numbers

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – 800-922-1399	Siletz Community Health Clinic – 800-648-0449
Salem Area Office – 503-390-9494	Siletz Behavioral Health – 800-600-5599
Salem Finance Office – 888-870-9051	Chinook Winds Casino Resort – 888-244-6665
Portland Area Office – 503-238-1512	Chemawa Health Clinic – 800-452-7823
Eugene Area Office – 541-484-4234	Bureau of Indian Affairs – 800-323-8517
Contract Health Services (CHS) – 800-628-5720	Website – ctsi.nsn.us

To the editor:

I would like to thank the Siletz Tribal Housing Department for the over-income housing program. Since my name was drawn, I want to thank Jeanette Aradoz for her professional help during my household repairs that were long overdue. I could not have accomplished this without the Tribe's help. Thank you all.

Sincerely,
Eugene Dodd



Dear Tribal members:

After reading a few letters from people who have no idea what it is to be Indian, I feel I must respond.

Indian is totally in the heart and your heart pumps your blood. Blood quantum is crowd control that has gotten way out of hand.

Some believe if they have a higher number blood quantum, they deserve something more. Do they hunt for Elders? Do they do things for Tribal members, wanting nothing in return? I know of several families whose blood quantum is false unless some of their relations were Indian and a half.

Being Indian is how you act. In days gone by, if someone came to the Tribe and acted with respect, they were made part of the Tribe. If I adopted a Chinese baby and raised him, he would be Indian. We are not hang-around-the-fort beggars. Descendency is inevitable.

Some of our so-called super Indians would sell it all in a moment and forget the generations unborn to come. Some dress up like Plains Indians and that's OK. We wore shells, woodpecker and flicker feathers.

Our ancestors wouldn't throw our young away to fatten themselves up. Think Indian, not greed. Share stories and regalia and old pictures. What good is anything if you feel you must hide it from others?

With all respect,
Phil Rilatos Jr.

To my friends and family:

I'd like to thank all my friends and family for their wonderful support the last three years. On Dec. 1, 2011, I celebrated three years clean and sober. I would not have been able to go on this journey without the support of my family and friends.

I want to thank my momma and stepdad, Lou and Dave Carey, for their unconditional support and understanding. I couldn't ask for better parents! I'd also like to send a special thanks to my second mom, Sonya Moody-Jurado. Thanks for letting me call you crying, venting and being happy (thank goodness we both have AT&T)! A huge thanks to my third momma, Louise Jackson. Thanks for all your unconditional love and support!

Thanks to my sisters, Tori Moceikis and Nellie Carey. Thanks for just being a sister when a sister needed one! Thanks to my amazing nephew, Raymond Moceikis. You have brought an amazing amount of joy to your auntie's life!

Thanks to Hal Darst for being there every step of my journey and continuing to be there! I wish I could name everyone who has helped me along the way but the newspaper isn't big enough. So let me simply say thanks for everything! I'm so grateful for everyone's support.

I hope I continue to make everyone proud of my life. This journey could not have been done without every encouraging word that was said to me. Please know that all support, whether it was a hug or a "like" on Facebook, was taken to heart and was appreciated.

Thanks and God bless,
Misty Moceikis

Need caregiver information?

If you are a care provider and are interested in receiving more information, training and being a part of a support group, please contact Rachele Endres at 541-444-8261 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1261, with your contact information.

Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Siletz News* and other tribal issues.

All letters must include the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks, or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

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