

To the friends and family of Vic Miner

Thank you to all the friends who have helped me, and continue to help me, through the sorrow of losing my husband, Vic. I would especially like to thank Kelley Ellis for being the special friend you are.

Thank you to the following who helped make Vic's service a special one: Bud Lane, David West, the Dancing Again Singers, Jennifer Easter, Sara Bell-Tellez, Angeline Orona, Kelley Ellis and Celesta Lee. Also, thanks to Bristo Bayya, Rose Bremner, Brenda Bremner, Judy Imbler and Cody Gray for bringing the food to our house for our guests.

I also would like to send a special message to Hector at Affordable Burial and Cremation – you are truly a wonderful, kind-hearted person. There are no words that could begin to express the thanks I would like to give to you.

I'm sure I am not remembering everyone who should be acknowledged, but please be assured that anyone who has given me words of encouragement and has shown their kindness is truly appreciated.

And lastly, to all my family – thank you for your love and support.

Tami Miner

To the editor:

Self-Sufficiency – Attention all Tribal members

My name is Tonya Marie Smith, roll #1827. I am 34 years young and currently a certified union crane operator with the Local 701 International Union of Operating Engineers.

My path to success started five years ago when I joined the 477 Self-Sufficiency program. I was tired of jobs where I was just working for a paycheck and not being passionate about what I was doing. I knew what I wanted to do for my career, but I struggled to obtain the path to get me started. I knew my Tribe could help me with my journey. I called the office and that's when my path began!

Meeting Anna Renville, Katy Kaady, Penny Painter and Frank Simmons – all of these members were knowledgeable and resourceful. This program is designed for Tribal members to succeed – I am living proof! The program will give you exactly what you put into it, that's what you will get out of it.

I put in five long hard years and volunteer now as a mentor. Countless hours on and off the job will fulfill my career and happiness.

Thank you, Siletz Tribe!

Sincerely paying it forward,

Tonya Smith

To the editor:

I'm writing this letter to let everyone know how appreciative I am of my friends and family. I just celebrated my four years clean. The last four years have been very challenging, but I have made it through it with the help of my good friends and family.

I want to thank my brother, Darrin, and sister-in-law, Mandi, who have been a big support to me and allowed me back into their lives; my parents, Dan and Darlene, for never giving up on me and for being here for me through all the ups and downs that life brings; and Natasha Kavanaugh for always being there for me when I needed you. You will forever be my sister by choice.

Thanks also to Amy and Heidi Bayya for always being my friend and being here to support me in all my choices.

Thank you also to Teacher Tony, Teacher Robin and DeAnn Brown for always having faith in me and wanting to help and watch me succeed; and Sonya Moody-Jurado and her family for never giving up on me and now giving me a place to stay so I can further my education.

I never thought in my life that I would be going back to school, but I am now enrolled in the associate's degree program for early childhood education through Chemeketa and that is thanks to the Education Department and also the 477-SSP Department through the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. There are a lot of resources available to our people and we just have to reach out and ask.

I am proud to say that today I am doing what I love and that is being with children – and it's something I am good at. Today I choose to live life regardless of the roller coaster it might put me on. I am proud of who I am and the growth that comes with it.

There are more friends and family, too many to name, but know that I appreciate every one of my friends. I am now working toward my goal to become a Head Start teacher, going to college and working full time. I have learned that life isn't perfect but it's a heck of a lot better than it was when I was using.

Sincerely,

Danelle Smith

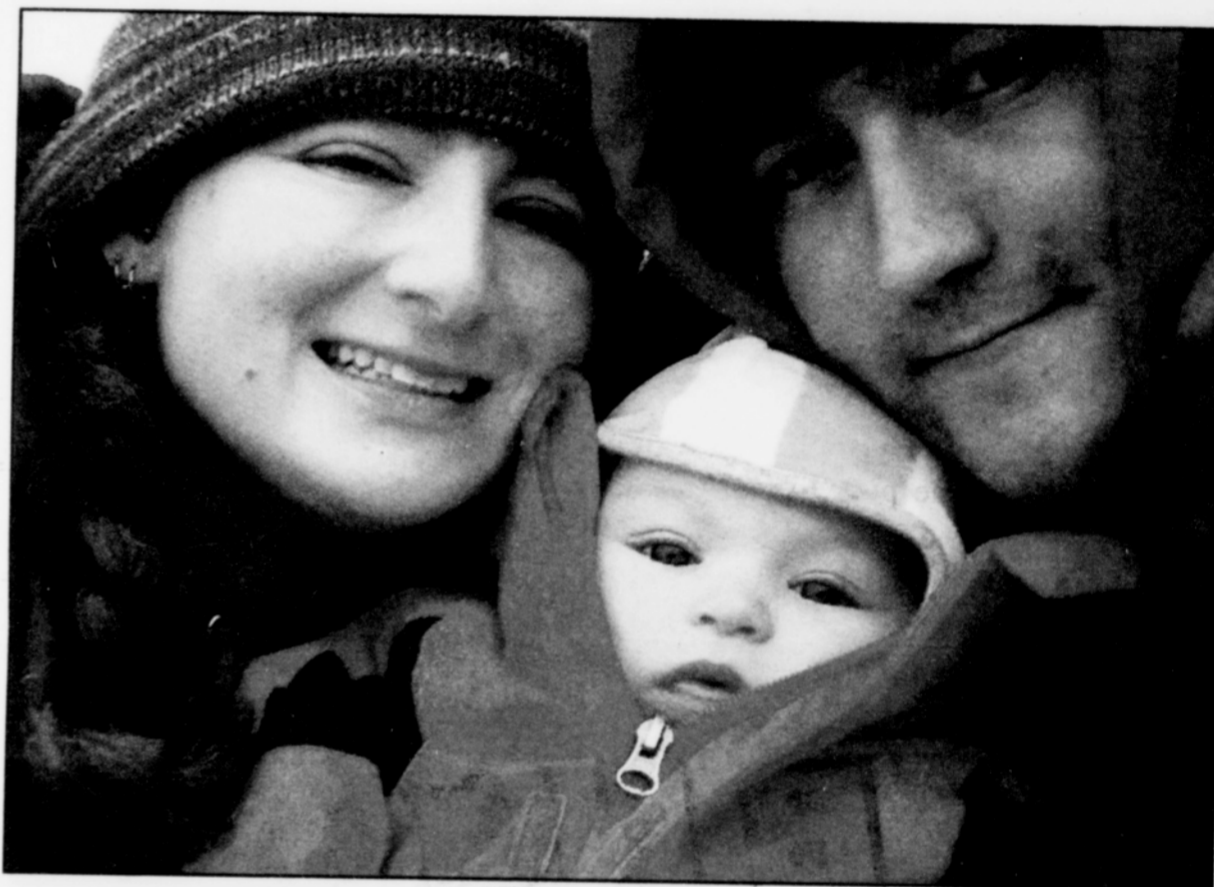
Oregon Native Chamber offers scholarships

The Oregon Native American Chamber (ONAC) is dedicated to working with all members of the community to advance the educational and economic opportunities for American Indians in Oregon and Southwest Washington. ONAC scholarships will be presented at the group's Annual Gathering on Oct. 5. This year, ONAC will award up to eight \$1,000 scholarships.

Application Deadline: Must be postmarked or electronically sent to ONAC by May 18. For more information, visit onacc.org.



Happy Belated Birthday, Uncle Matt! Hope it was fantastic!
Love ya – Shaiden, Rylee and Eli XXOOXXOO



Happy Anniversary to Mommy and Daddy on May 1!

Love, your son Kai Running Bear Williams

Happy Anniversary to Jake and Stacey on May 1 and many more.

Love you both, Uncle Randy and Aunt Nora

Happy 17th Birthday to Damion Williams on May 21.
Love, Mom

See more Passages on page 20.

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*.

Editor-in-Chief: Brenda Bremner
Editor: Diane Rodriguez
Assistant: Natasha Kavanaugh