

To the editor:

Help Needed

We at the Mill Creek Correctional Institution have just recently built our Native sweat lodge, but we are struggling with finding volunteers who can come into the prison to help facilitate our sweats.

We currently only have one volunteer who is busy working with three other institutions besides ours. This can be overwhelming for him.

We are just getting our sweats and other activities going for the first time here and we are having problems getting ceremonial medicines for our ceremonies and volunteers to help with beading, arts and crafts, talking circles, history and stories, etc.

We are trying to better ourselves through our cultures to return to our families, friends and communities as productive and positive influences. We are working on getting an account set up so we can help ourselves, but our numbers are small and until that happens, we need to seek outside help.

Our circle needs volunteers and help so that we can help ourselves become better men. If you would like to help us or know someone who would, please contact Chaplain Bowen by phone or email at (office) 503-373-1673, (cell) 503-798-0645 or larry.d.bowen@doc.state.or.us.

For more information, please contact Chaplain Larry Bowen, Mill Creek Correctional Institution, Oregon State Penitentiary Religious Services Coordinator, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310.

Thank you.

Shay Charley (Yurok-Siletz)

Carl Priest (Paiute)

Jade Chandler (Lakota)

Phil Lossing (Paiute-Shoshone)

Thomas Reyes (Choctaw)

Jess Watts (Rogue River)

Justin Walkingstick (Cherokee-Choctaw)

Brent Yunghans (Wyandot)

John Garfield (Dakota)

John Gottschalk (Navajo)

Richard Denny (Warm Springs)

Josh Corter (Grand Ronde)

Raymond Ketchem (Lakota)

Dear Tribal members:

Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me to council. Thank you all for participating in Tribal government through the right to vote.

What a wonderful day, what an honor to be elected as a member of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Many dedicated people have worked to make our Tribe successful and it is an honor to be the newest member of their legacy.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Gloria Ingle

To the editor:

Our Tribe, Our Future

I would like to thank all of the members who supported me in this last election. Your support is the foundation from which I will build my future of Tribal service. I will look within our membership for purpose and direction for it is your voice that needs to be loud and strong if our elected officials are to effect the appropriate transformation necessary for us to achieve our goals.

We have an ancient and legal right to inhabit and do business as we see proper on our reservation. Right now, right this very minute, that reservation consists of trust parcels, timberland and the 11-county service area as defined by the CTSI and the United States Congress.

We also must have total access to the sea and its bounties as we as a Tribe never ceded one of our Tribe's oldest and finest sources of sustenance, the Pacific Ocean. Access to this and to the tax revenues of the approximate 2.8 million people who currently inhabit our 11-county reservation/service area is vital to maintain and expand the services needed for the future of an ever-increasing member base.

We as a people can no longer operate a Tribal corporation (STBC) and proceed with business as usual and abide by the inequitable Indian Commerce Act or its companion law, the Indian Intercourse Acts, as these two federal provisions handcuff our business activities to the discretion of one source, that of the federal government. That has proven to be an unfavorable way to do business.

The future of Siletz business lies at the door of Indian Tribes, the Pacific Rim nations and beyond! Think now of trade and commerce and the possibility of providing a cargo port of the future for our people right here on our coast that would provide an opportunity well into the latter parts of this century and beyond for our people to finally be able to share in the commerce of the world.

I will run for council in the next election with the full and unwavering belief that the 11-county service area is now and forever our reservation. I will also not waver in my belief that the original Coast Reservation formed by the un-ratified treaty of 1855 also is our reservation and that we should combine the two reservations into one and create the tax jurisdiction rightfully our due. Then and only then can we share fairly and equally with the United States, Oregon State and local governments in the tax revenues generated on and from our reservation.

This is the future. This is our Tribe. This is our time!

John M Johnson

Umatilla among first three Tribes to implement special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction under VAWA 2013

Pilot projects allow Tribal prosecution of non-Indian abusers

WASHINGTON – Three American Indian tribes – the Umatilla Tribes of Oregon, the Tulalip Tribes of Washington and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona – will be the first in the nation to exercise special criminal jurisdiction over certain crimes of domestic and dating violence, regardless of the defendant's Indian or non-Indian status, under a pilot project authorized by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013).

"This is just the latest step forward in this administration's historic efforts to address the public safety crisis in Indian Country," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "Every day, we're working hard to strengthen partnerships with Tribal leaders and confront shared challenges – particularly when it comes to protecting Indian women and girls from the shocking and unacceptably high rates of violence they too often face. With the important new tools provided by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, these critical pilot projects will facilitate the first Tribal prosecutions of non-Indian perpetrators in recent times. This represents a significant victory for public safety and the rule of law, and a momentous step forward for Tribal sovereignty and self-determination."

Although the provisions authorizing the special jurisdiction take effect generally in March 2015, the law also gives the attorney general discretion to grant a Tribe's request to exercise the jurisdiction earlier through a voluntary pilot project.

The authority to approve such requests has been delegated to Associate Attorney General Tony West, who congratulated Tribal leaders on this historic achievement in letters to the three Tribes.

Since the Supreme Court's 1978 opinion in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, Tribes have been prohibited from exercising criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants. This included domestic violence and dating violence committed by non-Indian abusers against their Indian spouses, intimate partners and dating partners. Even a violent crime committed by a non-Indian husband against his Indian wife, in the presence of her Indian children, in their home on the Indian reservation, could not be prosecuted by the Tribe.

In granting the pilot project requests of the Umatilla, Tulalip and Pascua Yaqui Tribes, the United States is recognizing and affirming the Tribes' inherent power to exercise "special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction" (SDVCJ) over all persons, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, for crimes committed on or after Feb. 20, 2014.

As described in the Department of Justice's Final Notice on the pilot project, these decisions are based on a diligent, detailed review of application questionnaires submitted by the Tribes in December 2013, along with excerpts of Tribal laws, rules and policies, and other relevant information.

That review, conducted in close coordination with the Department of the Interior and after formal consultation with affected Indian Tribes, led the Justice Department to determine that the criminal justice systems of the Umatilla, Tulalip

and Pascua Yaqui Tribes have adequate safeguards in place to fully protect defendants' rights under the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by VAWA 2013.

The Department of Justice has posted notices of the pilot project designation on the Tribal Justice and Safety website (justice.gov/tribal/) and in the Federal Register.

In addition, each Tribe's application questionnaire and related Tribal laws, rules and policies have been posted on the website. These materials will serve as a resource for those Tribes that may also wish to participate in the pilot project or to commence exercising SDVCJ in March 2015 or later, after the pilot project has concluded.

For more information on VAWA 2013, please visit justice.gov/tribal/vawa-tribal.html.

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