

Letters to the Editor:

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation and give special recognition to some Tribal Employees and Community Members of Siletz: Judy Muschamp, Rick Leaton, Frank Petersen, Walt Klamath, Janet Dair, and George Nagel.

While I was working with Dino Butler and Juanita Whitebear on the Youth and Elders Gathering, my daughter, Fawn, mentioned to them about a Native American Rapper we had seen perform in Denver, "Litefoot", his message to Native American Youth "Tradition, Not Addiction" finding yourself through your culture, and having pride in being "IN-DI-AN".

Dino, Juanita, and I tried to figure out a way to bring Litefoot out to Siletz. Someone mentioned to me, "contact Judy and the Drug and Alcohol Program." I got a lot of information together and a video and did a presentation for the Drug and Alcohol staff. They were very receptive and said, "yes, let's get him out here!" The rest is history. I have only heard positive comments from Siletz youth and some of the valley students who were able to attend (and a few Elders)!

I think the Siletz youth, community and Tribe should feel very fortunate to have this type of employees and community members. They were willing to take a risk and concerned enough about our youth to provide this performer with his great message for today's youth.

Again, "Thank You" Judy, Walt, Frank, Janet and George for listening to me and trusting my

judgment. I believe a lot of our youth HEARD the message.

Thank you also, Dino and Juanita for your concern, dedication, hard work and long hours putting together the Youth and Elders Gathering. What an experience!

It was a privilege and an honor working with you.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Ben

"The Lost Trail"

*Old man with dog on dusty path,
Retracing steps of youth gone past.
Living in dreams of wild things,
His spirit is broken.
His land is gone.
Songs are sung to teach our young.
Longing for the stars above,
Strong and brave he is within,
His tales were told and then resold,
Wandering alone, lost in soul.
Reliving the years,
Retracing his past,
Returning to days of a youth gone past.*

Julian "88"

Happy Birthday to my two sisters, Linda & Dorothy. Thank you for being my sisters. I hope every day is as special as this day!

Love,
Your Big Sister

"Lordy, Lordy, look who turned forty". Happy Late Birthday, Marcellus Butler!

Tami, Ronelle, Ray, Everett, Brenda, Melissa, Andrea, Chris & Auto.

SILETZ NEWS DEADLINE

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mail articles and photos to:
Siletz News, P.O. Box 549,
Siletz, Oregon 97380

To all Tribal Members:

Thank you to Selene Lynch and Daryl Butler for all the work they did on the Youth and Elder Pow Wow. They worked so hard to organize everything. They did a fantastic job. I would like all of my fellow People, especially the youth, to know how true were the words Litefoot spoke. He spoke so well and thoughts that I know others feel. If the things he said changed the mind of even one youth about joining a gang, drinking, using drugs or turning away from their Indian Heritage then it was worth everything we could offer to Litefoot. When I come to the Pow Wows and events where many of the young are attending, it upsets me to see how they are acting more like white people or other

ethnic groups than the one they were born into. I really hope that inside all of them they know the great love for their People and themselves that we all feel for them. When my daughter grows into a young adult, I want her Heritage and her People to be there for her. So, all of the youth that feel confused, We all love you and want the best for you. If you feel you have no one to talk to, find someone! Alcohol, drugs, and all the other things that seem so easy to turn to when you hurt, are not going to make you happy. The pain may end for awhile, but will return a thousand folds over. May the Creator watch over and Bless all of you.

Granddaughter of
Archie & Victoria Ben,
Angela Dawn Ramirez

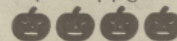


Happy Birthday, to our favorite 6 year old. You are the light of our life, and we love you with all our hearts. But then you already knew that, right? So we hope that you have very "Happy Birthday"!!!

We love you bunches,
MOM and DAD

Richard,

To one of our favorite little grandsons. We hope that you have a good day. You sure deserve the best day ever. You have grown so much these past years and it has been great to see you grow up. Happy Birthday.



Letters to the Editor :

All letters received will be printed except those which are determined to be slanderous. Please type or write legible, **no profane language will be printed.** The Siletz Newsletter and Tribal Government accept no responsibility for statements made in the letters to the editor. The opinions expressed are solely those of individuals writing in. **LETTERS THAT EXCEED 350 WORDS IN LENGTH WILL BE EDITED** as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #91-04. All letters must include your name, address and signature. Send letters to : Siletz News, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, Oregon 97380. Attn: Teresa Miller, Managing Editor.

PLEASE NOTE: The Chief Executive Officer of the Siletz Tribe is the Chief Editor of the Siletz Newsletter.