

LETTERS

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 News-letter 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.

My little sister Shawna left for heaven on a Nevada highway. I still can't believe she's gone. I know I'm being selfish but I'm so sad and angry. Maybe in time I'll except God's decision. For now I can't. I hope god will ease my heavy heart. I love you Shawna, Aloha.

Your Bro,
Phil

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!!

We greatly appreciate all the support and caring you showed to our family in our time of need. We'd like to also thank everyone for the wonderful dinner. Everyone worked together to make it very nice for us.

Sincerely,
The Rilatos
Family

I have experienced a lot of grief and heartache in my day, and have lost many of my loved ones over the past 60 years, but nothing compares to the pain over the loss of our little "Shawna". I never dreamed one could ever hurt that bad and that deeply.

I want to thank all of you for the hundreds of beautiful flowers, letters, cards, and phone calls, and the nice dinner that was provided. Your prayers and support made these trying times a little more bearable. I can't begin to tell you how much it all meant to me and my family. It seems that just a simple "thank you is not enough, but there is a lot of love and appreciation behind that simple thank you.

Phil & Sharon Rilatos
and Family

THANK YOU:

I want to send my "thank you's" to our Tribal Pow Wow Committee for selecting me as one of the head woman dancers. It was a very special honor and I pray I carried out my duties properly and with courtesy to all. I also, want to thank the thoughtfulness of our Tribal Council in sending me a beautiful gift from Siletz Tribal Smokehouse. It was graciously recieved.

May I continue to serve my tribal people as long as the Creator allows and may we have a great Pow Wow again next year, Ah-Hol

Thanks again,
Agnes Pilgrim
Tribal Member, Elder, &
Member of Sacred Lands
Committee

"Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps."

- William Lloyd George

The Forgotten Ones

Now that I've committed political suicide by writing about the "retreat" (as you know, I'm running for Tribal Council in Feb.), I have another personal opinion.

This letter is for these members of our tribe who do not, choose not, or care not to use our fine gaming facility. While I'm not a member of this group, I can certainly empathize with those that are. I am asking our Tribal Council to think of those members of the tribe. What benefits are they receiving out of all the money being made? I wish that I could give facts and figures on this amount, but I can't. I can only pass on the rumors that it is enough to pay all our debts and obligation to Comstock and to Mr. Hemstreet, as well as having enough to pay for the permanent structure. We are talking millions of dollars. What about the obligations to the members of this tribe? Last year about this time (Tribal Elections), giving "per capita" to our people was a strong part of a certain party's re-election platform. What happened? We have people in our tribe who are in desperate need of funds. We have elders who have been waiting for years, who were promised funds to supplement their meager incomes. They are dying off, still waiting. With the big B.I.A. cuts coming this year, think of all the programs that are going to be cut from our tribal services. I am sure that all the members of the tribe would welcome extra income. It's nice to have pride in our gaming

facility, and to know we are further along the path to gaining Tribal sovereignty. It took a lot of hard work on behalf of our Tribal Council to get us where we are today. Now, let's go a step further and give something back to the people. Lets keep our promises.

Thank you, I am,
Clifford W. Case Sr.

P.S. In my last letter to the editor, I wrote about the Retreat to Seaside costing the tribe \$6000.00. This was a clerical error, it actually should have read \$60,000.00 'Nuff said.

I know where I've been, I've been recycled, I've been fragmented. But I've retrieved these fragment, regained soul loss and woven a web of healing and empowered myself. If I have hurt you in any way forgive me.

I look for fulfillment within myself, to the "looks within place". All my smiles, happiness, joy, peace, and contentment is my "inside job". I do my best to look at other's through the "eye of my heart" as it by-passes all faults of others.

I will always remember I can only gain strength and direction from our Creator.

I call upon all women to witness my commitment and remember it. I pray to my Great Spirit, Creator of all life, to guide me on my pathway of life, because I may stumble and falter, for I know I am not perfect. Join me in my prayers that we can better support each other rather than negate one another.

Agnes Baker-Pilgrim,
Elder Siletz Tribe

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