

Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

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**letter RE TC election**

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**Andrew Viles** <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>  
To: Diane Rodriguez <[DianeR@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:DianeR@ctsi.nsn.us)>

Sun, Dec 10, 2023 at 7:32 PM

Hello Diane,

In Central Oregon, I took a short hike and scared up a jackrabbit, who didn't seem much concerned with me.

It reminded me of the time in my youth that I witnessed--I swear--a jackrabbit running up the trunk of a tree. I was shooting at the rabbit at the time.

My success as a rabbit hunter equaled Elmer Fudd's and I have since given up hunting generally.

It's cold over here and I hope all pom-pom tailed rodents are happy and warm in their burrows this evening.

My hope is that you're doing well, and my other hope is that you will have space to publish a letter (below and attached) in the January edition of the *Siletz News*.

Drew

Dear Editor,

Would you publish the "Dear Robert" letter below? It's a letter to former Tribal Council member (and Treasurer) Robert Kentta, who is running for Tribal Council this year and asked for support at the November, 2023 General Council meeting:

Dear Robert—As a long-time friend and admirer, I'd like to support you in this election, but my potential future support will depend upon my better understanding of actions you took last year while a Tribal Council member. The acts of yours which I found objectionable can be summarized by quoting a portion of the Tribal Council minutes of its 16 September 2022 meeting:

Heather [Heather Butler, Siletz Enrollment Officer] presented for approval 13 applications. Robert stated before a motion is made he has a question. Robert asked do we have the ability to add the one recommended for rejection and change it to 14 applications to include Robert Mannering. Bonnie asked Robert to explain why. Robert replied staff was under the impression that we do not use the McChesney Roll. This application has been delayed for a while based on that misunderstanding on the staff level. Robert stated he would like to make a Motion to change the number to 14 including the correction of "resovled" to resolved. Loraine asked would that go against the posting. Loraine asked does this need to be posted for a certain amount of time. Robert replied they were posted and recommended for rejection. He does not know if they need to be posted and recommended for approval.

Your intervention, Robert, was successful and the Tribal Council voted 8-0-0 to approve an application for enrollment at Siletz based on the McChesney Rolls after the Enrollment Committee had rejected that application.

According to Siletz law, however, prior to use for enrollment, the McChesney Rolls would need both 1) the Enrollment Committee's decision to add the McChesney Rolls to the list of Siletz Rolls and 2) the Tribal Council's approval of that addition in the form of a resolution. And the facts in September, 2022 were these: neither the Enrollment Committee had added the McChesney Roll nor had the Siletz Tribal Council passed a resolution approving that addition.

Those facts have not changed.

Why, Robert, did you not only act in a non-compliant way with Siletz law in this enrollment decision but also recommend that other Tribal Council members do the same?

You are reading this letter in the pages of the *Siletz News* because I'm confident that more members of the Siletz General Council than me are interested in your answer now as you seek again the responsibility and trust of elected office.

Yours Truly,

Drew Viles

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Andrew (Drew) Viles, Ph.D.  
Instructor Emeritus, Department of English, Lane Community College  
Former Associate Judge, Tribal Court, Confederated Tribes of Siletz  
pronouns preferred: his/him/he



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Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

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## letter RE TC election

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Diane Rodriguez <[DianeR@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:DianeR@ctsi.nsn.us)>  
To: Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 10:56 AM

Good morning!

Not sure that I've ever seen a jackrabbit; if I had, I would remember their lovely giant ears.

Things are going well here, just trying to keep my ducks in a row for all things holiday. So far, so good, but there's only 2 weeks left until Christmas. Hope you and your family have a great holiday season.

Thanks for the letter.

Diane R

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**From:** Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 7:32 PM  
**To:** Diane Rodriguez <[DianeR@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:DianeR@ctsi.nsn.us)>  
**Subject:** letter RE TC election

[Quoted text hidden]



Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

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## Letter to the Editor - December Siletz News

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Kurtis Barker <[KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us)>

To: "vilesa@lanecc.edu" <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

Cc: PIAS <[PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us)>

Thu, Dec 14, 2023 at 4:23 PM

Good afternoon,

This email is in response to your request to publish a letter to the editor titled "Dear Robert" in the December issue of Siletz News.

As the editor-in-chief, I have determined the content of your letter contains numerous unsubstantiated and inaccurate statements, and will not be published in the December issue as submitted. If you would like to submit a revised letter for review and consideration, it must be received by 12/18/2023.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Kurtis Barker (pronouns: he, him, his)

Chief Executive Officer

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

PO Box 549 Siletz, OR 97380

(541) 444-8204

[Kurtisb@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:Kurtisb@ctsi.nsn.us)

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Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

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## Letter to the Editor - December Siletz News

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Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 12:11 PM

To: Kurtis Barker <[KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us)>

Cc: PIAS <[PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us)>

Hello Mr. Barker,

Would you please tell me what specific parts of my letter's content are preventing the letter's publication in the *Siletz News*?

Many Thanks in Advance,

Drew

[Quoted text hidden]

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Andrew (Drew) Viles, Ph.D.

Instructor Emeritus, Department of English, Lane Community College

Former Associate Judge, Tribal Court, Confederated Tribes of Siletz

pronouns preferred: his/him/he



Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

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## Letter to the Editor - December Siletz News

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Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 11:02 AM

Kurtis Barker <[KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us)>  
To: Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>  
Cc: PIAS <[PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us)>

Good morning,

Here are the areas –

- You only quote part of the discussion from the 9/16/22 minutes and the rest of the conversation is key.
- You mention Robert's "intervention" – the excluded minutes state the TC discussed this at a workshop and would approve the application in question. It was not the action of one Tribal Council member.
- The Enrollment Committee does not have the authority to "reject" an application. They are a recommending body.
- The Tribal Council has the authority to contradict a committee recommendation as outlined in §2.317 of the Enrollment Ordinance.
- There is approved resolutions directing the Enrollment Committee and department to utilize the McChesney Rolls for enrollment purposes.

Including your letter as written would be misleading to the membership. If you wish to revise, please submit it prior to 4:30pm today.

Respectfully,

Kurtis Barker (pronouns: he, him, his)

Chief Executive Officer

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

PO Box 549 Siletz, OR 97380

(541) 444-8204

Kurtisb@ctsi.nsn.us

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Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

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**Letter to the Editor - December Siletz News**

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Andrew Viles <[vilesa@lanecc.edu](mailto:vilesa@lanecc.edu)>

Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 3:53 PM

To: Kurtis Barker <[KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:KurtisB@ctsi.nsn.us)>Cc: PIAS <[PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:PIAS@ctsi.nsn.us)>

Thanks for the prompt reply. I appreciate your attention to this.

Here below and attached is a revision of that letter.

Would you please publish this latest version in the next edition of the Siletz News?

Drew

Dear Editor,

Would you publish the "Dear Robert" letter below? It's a letter to former Tribal Council member (and Treasurer) Robert Kentta, who is running for Tribal Council this year and asked for support at the November, 2023 General Council meeting:

Dear Robert—As a long-time friend and admirer, I'd like to support you in this election, but my potential future support will depend upon my understanding of actions you took last year while a Tribal Council member. The specific acts which gave me pause are described in the words below taken from Tribal Council minutes of its 16 September 2022 meeting:

Heather presented for approval 13 applications. Robert stated before a motion is made he has a question. Robert asked do we have the ability to add the one recommended for rejection and change it to 14 applications to include Robert Mannering. Bonnie asked Robert to explain why. Robert replied staff was under the impression that we do not use the McChesney Roll. This application has been delayed for a while based on that misunderstanding on the staff level. Robert stated he would like to make a Motion to change the number to 14 including the correction of "resovled" to resolved. Loraine asked would that go against the posting. Loraine asked does this need to be posted for a certain amount of time. Robert replied they were posted and recommended for rejection. He does not know if they need to be posted and recommended for approval. Dee stated we had that discussion before about that information for enrollment. Loraine asked what was the answer. Dee replied we use the McChesney Roll and it should be used to determine blood quantum. Loraine stated she means the posting part. Loraine asked does it have to be posted. Dee replied we had a workshop and decided it should be included. Bonnie stated the Enrollment Committee was supposed to look at it. Robert stated the discussion was that it needed to be posted and then the Council could change it at the meeting from a recommended rejection to approval. Loraine asked was it posted. Dee replied it was posted as a rejection. Bonnie stated we can include him for approval.

Your request for a change, Robert, was successful, and the Tribal Council voted 8-0-0 to approve an application for enrollment based on the McChesney Rolls after the Enrollment Committee had recommended rejecting that application.

The Siletz Tribal Council—not the Enrollment Committee—has the power to ultimately decide who gets enrolled pursuant to the Enrollment Ordinance. According to that same Siletz law, however, prior to its use as a basis for enrollment, the McChesney Rolls would need both 1) the Enrollment Committee’s decision to add the McChesney Rolls to the list of Siletz rolls and 2) the Tribal Council’s approval of that addition in the form of a resolution. And the facts in September, 2022 were these: neither the Enrollment Committee had added the McChesney Rolls nor had the Siletz Tribal Council passed a resolution approving that addition.

Siletz Tribal CEO Kurtis Barker has recently informed me that “[t]here is approved resolutions directing the Enrollment Committee and department to utilize the McChesney Rolls for enrollment purposes.” This mirrors Chairman Pigsley’s observation above that “we use the McChesney Roll and it should be used to determine blood quantum.” That’s not the same thing, however, as using the McChesney Rolls as the basis for enrollment. And it remains the case that the Enrollment Committee has not added the McChesney Rolls to the list of Siletz rolls and neither has the Tribal Council passed a resolution approving that addition.

Robert, what reasons did you have to use—and recommend others use—the McChesney Rolls as the basis of enrollment in a way that was questionable under existing Siletz law?

You are reading this letter in the pages of the *Siletz News* because I’m confident that more members of the Siletz General Council than me are interested in your answer now as you seek again the responsibility and trust of elected office.

Yours Truly,

Drew Viles

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