Chiloquin, OR.- On December 23, 2020, the Klamath Tribes Wellness Medical Center distributed the tribe's first Covid-19 vaccinations. Pictured above, Klamath tribal members, and Tribal Health medical staff, Kimmie McNair (left) and Lena Schonchin (right) who were the first to receive the vaccination by Brandy Rogers (CMA) and Misty Wadzeck, RN, Nurse Supervisor.

What to expect now and how can tribal members get more information?

The vaccine arrived at the Klamath Tribes Medical Wellness Center on December, 22, 2020. Vaccination of front line health care workers began immediately on the 23rd. Front line workers were given the vaccine first to ensure health care can continue to be provided to the members of the Klamath Tribes. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, initial doses are being prioritized to high risk tribal members. More of the vaccine is anticipated to arrive soon.

Klamath Tribal Health and the Klamath Tribes have faced the Covid pandemic together, therefore the team vaccinated together.

The medical team believes in the safety of this vaccine and can provide you with information on Facts vs. Myths about the vaccine.

For more information:
Klamath Tribal members interested in a Covid-19 vaccine (and are >65 years of age, or are high risk) please call the wellness center at 541-882-1487 to be placed on the list for the Covid-19 vaccine.

Thank you.
Misty R. Wadzeck RN, BSN, Nurse Supervisor KTHFS
NEWS RELEASE
KLAMATH TRIBES OF OREGON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Thursday, December 3, 2020

For More Information, Contact:
Klamath Tribal Chairman, Don Gentry at 541-892-1433 email don.gentry@klamathtribes.com
Tribal Council Member, Willa Powless at 541-238-4073 email: wpowless.council@klamathtribes.com

KLAMATH TRIBES MOURN FIRST COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS

“Without being able to gather to mourn it is especially hard on our families and tribe”

It is with great regret and heartbreak that the Klamath Tribes announce the first deaths due to COVID-19.

The first loss was a tribal member who passed away on November 28, 2020 at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon after a lengthy illness.

Another tribal member who is a tribal employee and medical provider also succumbed to the illness on December 2, 2020 at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, Oregon.

The Klamath Tribal Council mourns with our people, colleagues, and our community at this time. It is especially heartbreakingly that due to COVID-19 restrictions, family and friends cannot traditionally gather in this time of mourning to celebrate the lives of those we have lost.

The Klamath Tribal Council sends their heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those who have passed.

Be strong. Be comforted. Stay safe.
AS WE MOVE INTO THE NEW YEAR 2021 - PLEASE REMEMBER ALL TRIBAL OFFICES AND BUSINESSES (DO TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC) MAY CLOSE WITHOUT NOTICE. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE STILL IN PLACE AT ALL TRIBAL OFFICES/BUSINESSES AND SOME SERVICES ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

For your continued protection, please be sure to call ahead!
A closed building/office does not mean services stop.

We will continue to perform essential program services and you will be able to make initial contact by phone or email. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, all programs have been working towards the capacity of working remotely along with the development of electronic formats to continue essential program services. When there is a building(s) that requires closure, essential services will continue via remote access via telephone and/or Zoom.

Call Tribal Administration at: 541-783-2219 or 1-800-524-9787 www.klamathtribes.org
Call Klamath Tribal Health at: 541-882-1487 or 1-800-552-6290 www.klamathtribalhealth.org
BACKGROUND: Mark Cruz, an enrolled member of the Klamath Tribes in Oregon, was recently the Deputy Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development (DAS-PED). He was appointed to that post by Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs Tara Karuk Mac Lean Sweeney on September 24, 2018. The DAS-PED oversees the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) and the Office of Self-Government (OSG). He also assists the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs in overseeing and managing the Bureau of Indian Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Gaming and Office of Federal Acknowledgment.

Mr. Cruz came to the Interior Department after serving on Capitol Hill, most recently as chief of staff to Representative Todd Rokita (R-Indiana) from 2017-2018 and on his legislative staff from 2014-2017. Prior to that office, from 2013-2014, he worked as a legislative fellow in the office of Representative Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma). On Capitol Hill, Mr. Cruz's legislative work focused on education, labor, civil service reform, appropriations, and oversight. He played a notable role in helping enact the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, and twice helped lead House passage of the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act.

A Teacher for America alum, Mr. Cruz taught at the St. Francis Indian High School, a Bureau of Indian Education tribal grant school, located on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. While there, he earned the 2011-2012 St. Francis Indian High School Teacher of the Year award. That experience further instilled in Mr. Cruz the belief that all students deserve a high quality education as a means to accessing opportunity and achieving upward mobility.

A 2006 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Millennium Scholarship recipient, Mr. Cruz earned his bachelor’s degree at Pepperdine University and master’s degree at Brown University.
The Klamath Tribes completed a monumental and historical land acquisition transaction in 2020, doubling its current land holdings of roughly 1,100 acres. Over the past couple of years, the Klamath Tribes has vigorously explored the acquisition of a major tract of land within the former reservation boundary. Several property owners within the region have been soliciting the sale of their property and the Klamath Tribes has been actively evaluating every opportunity. Knowing that funding limitations is the ultimate barrier to land acquisition, and several land acquisition opportunities to pursue, a judicious decision would need to be made. This past summer, a large 1,705 acre parcel of land situated in the upper Williamson River Valley was identified as a monumental opportunity for “Land Return.” After an on-site tour of the property and developing proper due-diligence documents for internal evaluation, the Tribal Council knew a move would need to be made, and made swiftly. Not only for the opportunity to return land, but more urgently, the listing agents were advising that other entities were highly interested in acquiring the land as well and offers were expected in the days ahead. In a moment’s notice, the reality became true, another buyer made an accepted full offer on the property. Speculation surrounded that the buyer of the property was basing their contract on a creative and un-secured risky finance package, providing the owners with exclusive leverage to rescind the purchase/sale agreement. Tribal Council knew they had to be ready, as it appeared there would be another opportunity to purchase this piece of land. In October, the opportunity re-emerged, the owners listing agent provided notification to the Tribal Council that the previous purchase agreement was rescinded by the owner, and the property was going to be put back on the market in the coming days. After several intense impromptu meetings between Tribal Council and staff, and the fear of another buyer pursuing on the open market, it was decided to make a move, time was of the essence. An offer was made immediately following the notification, and the offer was agreed to shortly after by the owner. And the rest will forever be Tribal history. 

The property is known as the “Rocky Ford Ranch,” which provides a perfect description for where the land is located, within proximity to tribal camps near “Head of the River.” Apart from the pristine beauty of the upper Williamson River Valley, the property sits north of the main Williamson River head waters, west of Yamsi Mountain, and just southeast of the historic Klamath Marsh. The property can be accessed off Silver Lake Highway at both USFS 49 Road exits (Roughly 10 miles from Silver Lake Highway either exit). The land is a gem of all gems, and marks a significant milestone in the Klamath Tribes perpetual effort to return the former reservation. Property Details:

- 3.7 Miles of Williamson River Frontage
- 431 acres of mixed conifer Timber stand
- 1,701 total deeded acres of encompassing Riparian meadows, wetlands and timber
- 900 square foot cabin, off grid
- Home of the largest/oldest Ponderosa Pine Tree within the former Reservation
- Near Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
- 1,200 square foot shop
- Water Rights – Claim #13 for irrigation of 112.3 acres
- Solar water stations
- Mountain spring fed, continuous flow upper Williamson River
- Boarders the Fremont-Winema National Forest
- Prime Habitat for wildlife: Rocky Mountain Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, waterfowl, Sand Hill Cranes, Eagles, Hawks, Coyote, Bear, Cougar, Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, C’Waan.

Tribal Council has not declared a future use or immediate plans for the property, that type of discussion will take place in 2021. In the coming months, several Tribal Departments and key staff will assist in the development of a draft land management plan that will be shared with the Tribal membership. For now, this piece of former reservation can be considered officially returned, creating a special moment in the tribes history, and that is something that all Tribal members can celebrate with pride and resuscitate the cultural and spiritual healing process. For more info: Jared Hall, Klamath Tribes Planning Director 133 1st Street, Chiloquin, OR 97624 Jared.hall@klamathtribe.com 541-827-5220 #156
City of Klamath Falls votes to condemn racism

Klamath Falls City Council members voted unanimously (in December 2020) to pass a resolution to condemn racism, prejudice and bigotry in any form.

Klamath Falls City Council members spent the past two months working with the task force to resolve questions about the wording of the resolution, which when it was first put before council in October 2020 called the issue a 'societal crisis.' The resolution instead condemns racism and recognizes the societal and economic harm caused by the inequities therein.

The resolution change was made to better identify the problem and produce ways to move forward, without condemning the city or its residents.

RELATED NEWS:
Prior to the vote, Council President Todd Andres had multiple questions, including about whether the item should be a resolution, as well as the potential outcomes of such an action.

“I’m not saying there’s not a problem,” Andres said. “There’s a problem.” But Andres wasn’t sure a council resolution was the right action versus a proclamation, for example.

“I don’t know if this resolution stops a guy from putting a swastika on public property” he said.

City Manager Nathan Cherpeski said that a proclamation is more ceremonial than a resolution. “The resolution is a much more formal action,” Cherpeski said, but noted the council decree could serve as a guiding document when examining its policies.

Police Chief Dave Henslee gave the resolution a hearty endorsement prior to the vote.

“Please pass this,” Henslee said. “This isn’t about crime ... This is about a community standing up together, all of us, saying we do not condone racist behavior.”

A unanimous vote soon followed.

Prior to the vote, council members heard from task force members and community members.

Joey Gentry, a task force member and member of the Klamath Tribes, spoke of the racist comments she endured growing up in Klamath Falls, the daughter of a white hairstylist.

“When one of (my mom’s) Klamath Falls clients asked her how she could tolerate living in Chiloquin with all the Indians, my mom had to inform her that she was married to one,” Gentry said. “Incidents like this happened frequently and often. Because my mom was white, people didn’t hide their racism, they spoke freely to her about their disdain and hatred for Klamath Indians and I feel sorry that my mom had to endure that.”

“Approving this resolution tonight will become part of your legacy,” Gentry added. “This is the start of a shift in Klamath Falls that will unite our divided communities. This is the start of something big.”

Alexandra Lehman, a task force member and member of the local Black Lives Matter movement, also urged council members to vote in favor of the resolution.

“As a town we must face this problem head on and address it,” Lehman said. “Passing this resolution is a good step in the right direction.”

A vast majority of the emails sent to council prior to the meeting were in favor of the resolution, according to Nickole Barrington, city recorder.

Story by: hdillemuth@heraldandnews.com; @HollyDillemuth
SEEKING CRT’S
(Cultural Resource Technicians)

If you are a Klamath Tribes Cultural Resource Technician and you are seeking work, please contact the Klamath Tribes Culture and Heritage Department at: 541-783-2764.

We need monitors for the 2021 field work season.

Please call & leave your name and phone # and we will get back to you or you can email us at:

mandy.roberson@klamathtribes.com
ron.busby@klamathtribes.com
(541) 783-2764x 101 or 104

Don’t forget your incarcerated family during these times...

Klamath Tribal Council Member, Jeannie McNair submitted this photo of Inmates from Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem, Oregon (2605 State Street). Some of her work, prior to the pandemic, included keeping in contact with inmates around the State of Oregon. Pictured here: Shane, Teel Blue Atchley, and Brain Mason

“OUR LITTLE CHILDREN SPEAK”
nalam kickani tataskni hemcanga
Pre-school

ENROLLMENT KICK OFF
A focus on enhancing our tribal language and culture
Age appropriate curriculum
School readiness to prepare for kindergarten
Nutritious meals and snacks
For ages 3-5 years olds
For Tribal Members and Descendants that qualify (low-moderate income)

OPENING EARLY 2021

Please contact Jennifer at 541-783-0804 for application

Klamath Language Class
Zoom Meetings
Wednesday Evenings
5-5:45pm

Pre-registration is required
To pre-register, please contact the Culture and Heritage Office to get the zoom link.

mandy.roberson@klamathtribes.com
ron.busby@klamathtribes.com
(541) 783-2764x 101 or 104
Meet some of our Covid-19 Mask Makers

I'm Amber Scott. I was born in Corvallis. I'm the daughter of Kevin Scott and granddaughter to Verna Scott and Joseph George Scott III and niece to Clarence "Bud" Jenkins.

I was raised in Phoenix AZ and now live in Hermiston. I am a single mom to 7 most wonderful children. I work full time as a community organizer for a non profit agency and am currently working as lead for our contact tracing team.

I learned how to sew in Home-Ec class in high school and fell in love with it. I've never made masks before, so it was challenging at first but I got the hang of it quickly.

I am so grateful I was given the opportunity to help keep our tribal members safe and learn a new skill along the way.

Hope you all stay safe and enjoy the masks I made!

Thank you so much.

I'm Anthony Jackson, the grandson of Clarice David Karratti. I spent most of my childhood in the foster care system. I experienced living in several states including several years living in Europe. I attended and graduated High School in Washington, whereas being a Federal Ward, I was moved onto the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. I am a combat veteran. Since leaving the Marine Corps, I have continued to serve our military through my years in the defense industry and works at Conifer Group. I started Spera amidst the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic to better serve our communities. Conifer Group Design is a Native American, Veteran owned, small business located in Sisters, OR. We are a concept design lab focused on problem solving in challenging and austere environments.

Best regards,
Anthony Jackson
Vice President
speradesigns.com

I'm Carol Hicks-Duran. I am the youngest of 9 siblings and the daughter of the late LeRoy “Buddy” & Corrine Hicks. I grew up in Chiloquin & eventually made my way to Jackson County for the past 8 yrs. & have been married for 6 yrs. to Nau Duran Sr. I am also the mother of 4 children: Lahnaiah, Lilianni, Destany & Nau Jr & I have 3 add-ons Deanna, Cesar & Diego.

I learned how to sew by watching my mom over the years make her ribbon shirts, aprons & other clothing. I didn’t ever think that I would be doing a large project like the masks but I did it!

There’s a crazy story behind the masks, my best friend from South Dakota Bernadine Jones had the idea to make the mask & I do the paperwork part of the project, well on Father’s Day she tested positive for COVID-19 & passed away July 14th due to complications, so then the whole project fell in my lap and I had no clue what I was doing at first - then I figured it out.

I am so thankful that I was able to learn to sew from my mom, and her telling me stories along the way, that way I can pass that down to my kids… except for the hand slapping I got for using her fabric scissors to cut paper ha-ha!

Thank you,
Carol Hicks

Hello, I'm Ana Maria Contreras. I was born January 18, 1955, to Natividad Contreras, Mexican descent, and to Thelma Knight Wright, a Tribal Member from Chiloquin Oregon. They divorced and we went to live with our grandmother. We returned in 1971 to the United States. We learned English, I got married and had 3 great kids. They are all grown up, I have five grand kids- I love being a grandma!

I got my GED, an AA in business, a Certificate in fashion design, and currently pursuing an AA in the culinary arts. I love sewing, painting, rocks, painting, and cooking.

Thank you,
Ana Maria Contreras aka: Anita

Hello, my name is Misti McNair, daughter of Randy McNair Sr. (Hunky).

I currently reside it Eugene, OR. I work as an Independent Contractor with Sacred Heart Hospice.

It has been an honor to make masks for our Tribe.

Stay safe!
The Klamath Tribes donated more than $114,000 of CARES Act funding to Chiloquin schools to help with the transition back to in-person learning.

In the past, the tribes have previously sponsored field trips and speaker events for students, along with tutoring programs and technology investments. Tribal council members often show up on the first day of school to greet students and send them well wishes for the upcoming school year.

“The kids need our support and need to know that we’re looking out for them,” said tribal council secretary Roberta Frost. “Because there’s so many of our tribal members in schools, it’s really important that they have a working relationship with us.”

With the COVID-19 pandemic sending the school year into a frenzy, the tribal council and Chiloquin school principals looked for ways to fill gaps in funding. Months of challenging distance learning had left both teachers and students exhausted. Some students had fallen behind and needed tutoring, and teachers struggled to engage students in their virtual classrooms. And many low-income, rural families had inadequate technology and internet access to facilitate online learning.

“We’re just trying to survive right now,” said Chiloquin Elementary School principal Rita Hepper.

Both parties had been meeting fairly regularly to discuss problem solving strategies and brainstorm ideas for school-related projects. At a meeting near the start of the school year, tribal council said they had a significant chunk of CARES Act funding, which had been distributed to state, local and tribal governments across the country to help mitigate COVID-related crises, that they planned to disburse to schools.

Schools presented a list of needs geared toward both distance and in-person learning, expecting only some of the items to be granted. The tribes agreed to everything.

“They kind of went above what we were expecting,” said Chiloquin Junior/Senior High School principal Scott Preston.

The funds have gone toward after-school tutoring at both Chiloquin High School and Chiloquin Elementary School. Hepper said that’s a huge benefit for students without Reliable internet who struggle with online learning.

And now that Chiloquin schools have returned to in-person instruction in some capacity, each teacher at both schools has received $500 to spend on classroom supplies. Teachers at Chiloquin Elementary have also been given $10 per student toward a student incentive fund, which they can use for prizes to encourage student participation both online and in-person. Adding things from shop equipment to art supplies will help keep students safe and abiding by COVID guidelines, according to school staff.

“A lot of it was additional materials so the kids didn’t have to share,” Preston said. The money will also go toward updating school infrastructure to keep students healthier. Water bottle filling stations will replace drinking fountains, hand dryers will replace paper towels, sink faucets will be fixed and new air filters will be installed. About $30,000 will be spent on improving technology for both schools. At Chiloquin Elementary, which is being partially renovated, teachers have to share classrooms. The tribes’ donation will allow them to purchase laptops and move around more easily. Laptops will also allow Chiloquin High students to use digital design software for their Career and Technical Education (CTE) class that district-provided Chromebooks can’t support.

Though roughly 60% of Chiloquin students are Native, Hepper and Preston emphasized that the funding will benefit everyone regardless of tribal affiliation or lack thereof. “The focus hasn’t just been on tribal member students; it’s the whole school,” Hepper said. “They’re willing to support and represent all of our kids.”

Tribal council member at-large Clay Dumont said CARES Act funding wasn’t required to be used only on tribal members, and that the tribes understand that Native students benefit when the whole school receives support. Tribal council has also begun reaching out to other county schools to discuss possible donations there.

“It’s an honor to be able to help all the kids in our schools,” he said.
Waq’lis’i maqlaqs - We are seeking deer hides

The Klamath Tribal Health Prevention Program is planning on hosting a hide tanning workshop in the spring. If you are interested in donating a deer hide to the workshop, please give Prevention a call so we can coordinate a time to receive it. We can also use the brains if you want to put them in a plastic bag, we’ll take them too.

Call us to donate at 541-884-1841

Sep’kec’a
Dear families,

When a Tribal Member passes away, please submit a copy of the Certificate of Death to the Klamath Tribes Member Benefits Department at:

memberbenefits@klamathtribes.com
PO BOX 436, Chiloquin, OR, 97624.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Barnes | Member Benefits Director
501 Chiloquin Boulevard
PO BOX 436, Chiloquin, OR 97624
O: (541) 827-5195  C: (541) 205-8353  F: (541) 783-7768
elizabeth.barnes@klamathtribes.com or
memberbenefits@klamathtribes.com

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Walking-On...

Our prayers and heartfelt condolences go out to our families for the loss of loved ones / Klamath Tribal Members 2019-2020.

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There is no death only a change of worlds.
All,

Please share this resource far and wide! The THRIVE project is excited to share a new collaboration with the Crisis Textline, IHS, and Suicidologists across Indian Country!

Starting now, you can text the word “NATIVE” or “INDIGENOUS” to 741741 to connect with a Crisis Counselor. This collaboration will allow NPAIHB and Tribes to collect data around crises that Tribal communities are struggling with so that we can identify the best ways to support those who need it.

Thank you,

Monica Yellowowl, CADC, CPS
Behavioral Health Manager
Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services
Youth & Family Guidance Center
(541)884-1841

In crisis?
Text NATIVE to 741741.

Free, 24/7, confidential crisis support by text.

Title VI—Indian Education Act
“506 Forms for schools”

If you have a Native American, Alaska Native or Hawaiian Native student/grandchild attending a Klamath County school— a 506 form needs to be filled out for Title VI services when your child registers for school.

Please return filled out forms to your child’s school. If you already filled this form out for your child when they entered kindergarten or first grade it does not have to be filled out again.

Torina Case, Title VI Coordinator
Klamath County School District
case@kcsh.k12.or.us