



KLAMATH TRIBES NEWS

KLAMATH - MODOC - YAHOOSKIN

VOL. 27 NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Klamath Tribes and County officials prepare for annular solar eclipse – and thousands of visitors

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

Klamath County’s time to shine is nearly upon us as the annular solar eclipse arrives on Oct. 14. The last solar eclipse Oregonians witnessed took place in 2017. For this upcoming event at 9:15 a.m., the Klamath Basin will serve as the initial focal point as the annular eclipse crosses over eight states.

Every October, the basin draws in visitors seeking pristine weather and the foliage

of orange aspen. This, coupled with a celestial event most people can only dream of witnessing, guarantees our community will be a popular tourist destination.

If the fair weather of southern Oregon and an annular eclipse are not enough, rock band Smash Mouth will headline Eclipse Fest 2023 in Fort Klamath for the multi-day event taking place from Oct. 10-15. In anticipation of the influx of thousands of visitors, the Klamath Tribes will be coordinating closely with



Eclipse Fest 2023 will take place on private land behind the Rodear Arena in Fort Klamath. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

government entities at the local, state, and federal levels.

Tim Sexton, Wildland Fire Program Manager for the Klamath Tribes, set up a multi-agency coordinating group within Klamath County to ensure the well-being and safety of visitors and residents. Sexton

has vast experience in managing large complex incidents in his previous career, and he has been tasked with the challenge of facilitating this multi-agency effort.

“There will be issues with traffic, and we’ve got ODOT and Klamath County Traffic involved, and likely issues

with law enforcement,” Sexton said, “The Klamath County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon State Police are leading an effort of all of the various law enforcement entities throughout the

See page 19,
Solar Eclipse

Ambodat Restoration Team works to ‘Heal the land’

By Michelle Ochoa
Klamath Tribes News

For many years, the waterways, springs, and lakes of the Klamath Tribes’ homelands and treaty territory have been degraded by landowner practices that are proving unsustainable, such as free-range cattle grazing, undersized culverts, and inappropriately designed

diversion structures. Unfortunately, it has resulted in a direct and negative impact on the lands and on local fisheries. The once lush wetlands of the marshy region are drying up, and fish populations suffer to the degree that sacred and historical sustenance fish species, the c’wamm and koptu suckers are nearing extinction, and streams and rivers that were once fish-bearing are going dry.

In order to try to protect these and other species, the watersheds, and our ecosystem, very important and valuable work is being done by a Klamath tribal member crew consisting of seven tribal members and led by Ambodat Water Rights Specialist Brad Parrish.

“We’ve put a lot of focus on trying to restore the functioning of the basin ecosystem,

realizing that our fisheries are going extinct because of the degradation of our watersheds,” said Parrish.

See page 12,
Ambodat Restoration



The Klamath Tribes Ambodat Restoration crew at a work site. From Left to Right: Jesse Sampson, Chassidy Head, Brad Parrish, Gustavo Miller, Anthony Navarro, Elwood Miller, Shay Dupris, and not pictured is Tobias Vazquez. (Michelle Ochoa/Klamath Tribes News)

The Klamath Tribes
P.O. Box 436
Chiloquin, OR 97621

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PAID
CHILQUIN, OR
PERMIT NO. 4

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS
MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE

RESTORATION CELEBRATION 2023



KLAMATH TRIBES NEWS

KLAMATH - MODOC - YAHOOSKIN

By Phone: (541) 783-2219 / By Email: News@klamathtribes.com / By Mail: P.O. Box 43 Chiloquin, OR 97624

Editor: Ken Smith / Reporters: Paul Chamless, Michelle Ochoa / Production: Mary Hyde

The Klamath Tribes News is published bi-monthly, serving members of the Klamath Tribes. ©2023

Chairman's Report

The Agency Barnes Wetland Restoration Project: Tribal Understanding versus the Bureau of Reclamation and Klamath Water Users Association



By Clayton Dumont Jr.
Klamath Tribes Chairman

It has become fashionable for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to cite "Traditional Ecological Knowledge" (TEK), meaning tribal understandings of how our homeland ecosystems function. So far, in the Upper Klamath Basin, it is only lip service.

As the original inhabitants of this land, the Klamath Tribes are intimately aware of the highly evolved (over thousands of years) and deeply complex patterns of symbiotic interdependence between all parts of our natural world. Because of our TEK, we astutely respect its power and immensity.

As far as I can discern, this deeply felt deference is not sufficiently shared, or even understood, by the leadership of the BOR or the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA). I can think of no more stark example of ecological ignorance and its consequences than their opposition (KWUA) and unwillingness to facilitate implementation (BOR) of the 14,000 acres Agency Barnes Wetland Restoration Project.

Located on the northeast end of Ews (Upper Klamath Lake), this long-planned and fully paid-for project would reestablish the natural floodplain, reconnecting Four Mile and Seven Mile Creeks as they were for centuries to a refilled wetlands. Among the many benefits of restoring this part of our ecosystem would be a large reduction in the harm currently caused by agriculture's West Side Canal.

Wetlands and TEK

Although we commonly translate ?ewsi-knii (Klamath people) as "people of the waters," ?ewksi is our word for the Klamath Marsh. ?ewsi-knii, then, is actually more akin to "marsh people." Given the character of our homeland before the relatively recent appearance of the "Reclamation Project," the KWUA, and the BOR, this makes perfect sense. Hundreds of thousands of acres of open water, wetlands, marshes, and floodplains were drained and diked by and for three or four generations of our new neighbors who continue to farm lands that were formerly under water.

Today we are all plagued by the consequences of those unwise choices—decisions hatched from an arrogant lack of respect for something much larger than themselves.

Wetlands (roughly 80 percent of which are now gone) are the cleansing kidneys and water storage sponges of our ecosystem. They are sucker-rearing nurseries and resting and refueling stations for birds of many kinds. They recharge groundwater and ensure the abundant springs

and seeps that feed our surface waters continue to flow.

In their absence, the nutrient-rich (particularly phosphorous) sediment that washes off of our volcanic landscape leads to toxic algal blooms that leave Ews too poisonous to touch. When the snow melts in the spring, water that once was cleaned, held, and slowly released in hot summer months by functioning wetlands now moves quickly and harmfully through diked and straightened streams. Stream banks denuded by uncontrolled cattle grazing erode and add to the nutrient build-up in Ews. The surrounding lands stripped of meandering, flood-plain-infused moisture grow increasingly arid.

The centrally important role of wetlands was common sense for our ancestors. Indeed, they told winter stories about kow'e (frog) traveling from spring to spring on the underground waterways, moving between surface and groundwater. Our people have always understood and respected the relationship between surface water and groundwater, between wetlands and springs, between phosphorous-capturing wetland plants and clean water, between wetland refuge habitat (protection from predation) and healthy juvenile suckers, and between flood plains and healthy stream banks.

From my interactions with KWUA and BOR leaders, it is clear to me that they do not readily understand any of these connections. Indeed, they oppose and resist restoring the Agency Barnes wetland by appealing to "bathymetry."

Imagine your bathtub partially filled with water. Then imagine making it a foot wider and a foot longer. Now

imagine it is outside and thus subject to evaporation in the sunlight. More surface area equals more water necessary for maintaining depth, and more surface area subject to evaporation means still less elevation. Attempts to apply this ridiculously oversimplified model to our complex homeland ecosystem (as it functions above and below ground) is the go-to argument for BOR's and KWUA's opposition to TEK-informed restoration projects, including Agency Barnes.

Despite its obvious inadequacy, bathymetry is math-laden and thus carries the prestige of "science." It therefore allows leaders of BOR and KWUA to present their political claims about water as supernaturally "objective." Filling wetlands, they tell us, will require more water to fill the lake. More lake area, they say, means more evaporation and thus "waste." Never mind that wetlands are natural storage and cleansing systems holding more and cleaner water longer and more productively. Never mind that lake water (minus wetlands) is now routinely too toxic to touch and that irrigators continue to pour this poison onto their crops.

Conceiving our complex homeland ecosystem as a bathtub devoid of wetlands and forests has cost all of us the opportunity to refill the 14,000 acres of wetland at Agency Barnes while reservoirs downriver are being drawn down for dam removals. Because BOR, and regional level USFWS leadership, are unable to comprehend, let alone celebrate and promote the healthy water increases that wetlands produce and sustain, they have bowed to KWUA's objections. Indeed, BOR is at this

moment diverting poison lake water onto Project crops, water that should be going into a reanimated, phosphorous-controlling wetland.

Having blown the opportunity to fill the Agency Barnes wetland this fall and winter, BOR is gearing up to propose lake levels that will once again violate biological minimums necessary to stave off the extinction of c'waam and koptu. That is, in exchange for filling the wetland, they will demand that the Klamath Tribes accept lake levels below those necessary for our fish to spawn at lake shore springs.

Let me be clear. Because BOR continues to view its primary purpose as allocating as much water as possible to Project irrigators, the Klamath Tribes will be asked to choose between our fish spawning or dying weeks later in poison lake water. Victimized by a century of inept forest management, irresponsible cattle ranching, and unsustainable farming practices (none of it tribal), the first peoples of this land and the only ones with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge necessary to clean up the mess are once again being marginalized and ignored.

Maqlaqs, make your voices heard. Please contact:

Commissioner
Camille Touton, Bureau of Reclamation,
mtouton@usbr.gov

Paul Souza, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
paul_souza@fws.gov

Paul Simmons, Executive Director, Klamath Water Users Association,
psimmons@somachlaw.com

Upcoming General Council Meetings

9-30-23 Special General Council Meeting Swan Lake Project

10-21-23 Special General Council Meeting- Tribal Council Member At Large- Options



Klamath tribal youth gather for a day of activities and celebration during Coley Miller's 'Movement and Inspiration'

Coley's Freestyle basketball shoe and backpack design were on display for the Nike United Native American and Friends Network



Coley's Freestyle basketball shoe and backpack design were on display for the Nike United Native American and Friends Network. (Ken Smith/ Klamath Tribes News)



Coley Miller (center) and her mother, Natalie (right) participate in a panel discussion during N7 Day. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

Three years ago, on her ninth birthday, Klamath Tribal citizen Coley Miller received a kidney transplant from her mother, Natalie. Though there were some ups and downs over the following three years, Coley is a healthy and strong 12-year-old girl. While she was in the hospital during her recovery from the surgery conducted in Portland, she was approached by Nike to participate in N7. Nike N7

began seven years ago after Nike's Native American division commenced. N7 collaborates with a variety of experts in their community and tribal leaders to create footwear and apparel specifically for Native-American communities.

"Coley was asked if she wanted to participate in this program where she collaborates on the design with Nike, and all the proceeds go back to Doernbecher

for families like us," said Natalie during an interview at an N7 activities event held at the Klamath Tribes fitness center in Chiloquin. "And so, she decided to do it. And we made a mood board, and she wanted to represent our culture through basket designs, a specific colorway. It's all relative to our culture and community that we come from."

"I didn't actually think I would get this opportunity,"

said Coley. "But when I started designing it, I wanted to put my culture into it. I asked my mom what designs I should use. And I figured out the designs, I told the team I wanted these specific designs, and they put it in the shoe for me."

Last year, the shoe and backpack were released. The shoes were offered through an auction and available at Nike stores around the country, including major cities like Portland, Las Vegas, and New York.

"So, people who are really into shoes, Sneakerheads, they would get in line," said Natalie. "There were lines outside of Nike stores just to buy them," said Natalie.

The basketball shoes are purple, chartreuse, and white and change colors in the light. Natalie, Coley, and other community members wore the shoes at the event,

and the shoes were on display as well as the backpack. The event was well attended by Klamath Tribal youth ages 7-17 as part of the "A Day of Movement & Inspiration with Coley Miller and Nike United Native American and Friends Network" held Aug. 25, beginning with a panel discussion with Coley and her mother, as well as Nike representative, Izzy Yasana, who is also a Klamath Tribes citizen at the basketball court in the fitness center.

The event kicked off at 1 p.m. as part of an afternoon of activities, including a basketball session and golf at the four-hole golf course at DMOLO Golf Facility across from Agency Lake on Loop Road.

The event wrapped up at 5 p.m. with closing remarks on what was a day of inspiration and fun for all the youth who participated.

Language Department offers classes in Klamath, Modoc, and Northern Paiute

By GeorGene Nelson,
Klamath Tribes Language Dept. Director

August is the beginning of the Klamath and Modoc calendar, and it is the month of tq'opo (right-hand thumb). This is the month when we at the Language Department are getting the word out that language classes will be starting up on Sept. 18 for the Klamath and Modoc classes and Sept. 20 for the Northern Paiute Classes. The deadline to get your application in was Sept. 8. Students will not be enrolled once the classes have started. The classes are at no cost to the students. Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The

Classes will run into 2024, and there is training for eight weeks and then a two-week break in between classes.

Any and all persons who have requested the registration packet need to complete the registration application and the media authorization form to be registered for the classes. You will receive a notice of registration after you have been enrolled in the class of your choice. Students are encouraged to only register for either the Klamath/Modoc Class or the Northern Paiute Class. So far, 19 students have enrolled. The new Cultural Sounds

Training Course is 24 hours of language training. It is broken up into three eight-week training sessions. These training classes are for families/individuals and are trained on the Zoom app. The first eight weeks are learning the Tribal alphabet sounds and phrases to introduce yourself in Modoc, Klamath, or Northern Paiute. The second eight-week class is about writing in the tribal languages, learning about the IPA alphabet, learning what the different symbols sound like in order to make the sounds for tribal words, and then learning to write words and phrases in the Tribal languages. The 3rd class of eight-week training is on the

grammar of the Klamath, Modoc, and Northern Paiute. Students learn sentence structures, how to identify the subject and object, and learn about classifiers and pre-fix and suffixes of the tribal languages.

Students with 60 percent attendance and who can meet the merits of each class can obtain a certificate of completion. All students who participate with less than 50 percent attendance will receive a certificate of participation.

The books, ?ewksiknii ?am hemkanks and neme yadua, are used for language training. These booklets are free to download at www.klamathtribes.org/language. Students will need a notebook, pencil,

computer or smartphone, internet, and a book to keep their language lessons in.

The lesson trainers this year are Language Instructor Trainee Mr. Steve Weiser for the Northern Paiute and Director Ms. GeorGene Wright-Nelson for the Klamath and Modoc.

Interested Tribal members can request registration packets by sending an email to ktlanguages@klamathtribes.com. Persons can also contact Ms. Lahoma Schonchin, Administrative Assistant at (541) 783-2219, ext. 293, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Klamath Tribes Public Safety Department adds new personnel as they prepare to serve the local community

By Michelle Ochoa
Klamath Tribes News

The Klamath Tribes hired Vernon Alvarez as Chief of Police in December 2021, creating the foundation for the Klamath Tribes' new Public Safety Department. The Klamath Tribes was one of two tribes in the nation to receive funding for technical assistance to create a new Public Safety Department from the Department of Justice's Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC)2.

In an interview with Chief Alvarez, he said the first thing they needed to do was identify each position that needed to be filled. They had funding for one officer, and they created another position for an Administrative Assistant/Dispatcher, which they filled this past January with the addition of Andraya Fernandez.

Soon after, it was identified that the Emergency Management Department would also be under the Public Safety Department, which resulted in the Department inheriting the Emergency Manager Position and the two Natural Resource Game enforcement positions.

During the past year and a half, they prepared and completed all the job descriptions and hired to fill open positions.

Next was to get the new officers into the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Police Academy. "We wanted to send them through the Indian Police Academy rather than the State to learn Federal law and to collaborate with other law enforcement entities around the nation (first)" explained Chief Alvarez. "Once they have completed the BIA training, then we will send them through the State training, which is only a two-month

basic waiver certification."

He explained that this means the knowledge the department obtains from the Federal training reduces the length of time in State training and provides the applicable training to the Federal work they will be doing, but also prepares them for the State aspect of that work.

The two new Public Safety Officers for the Klamath Tribes are Zane Powless, a Klamath tribal member who served in the U.S. Army, and Juan Pulido, also a tribal member and formerly served in the Army.

"They are in training right now," Chief Alvarez said. "So, we will have some good officers once they get back." Additionally, one officer position was filled by Yurok tribal member James Moore. He has connections to the area and looks forward to coming here. "He will be onboarding for two to three weeks," said Chief Alvarez. They also have the position of Emergency Manager advertised now.

The Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training will be giving the Klamath Tribes Public Safety Department an ORI#, which identifies the Department as a certified Oregon State Police Department.

It will provide access to the National Crime Information Center data bank for background checks and other resources to the Public Safety Department staff. This step is due to be completed in about a month. The Public Safety Department is taking the necessary steps of thorough and complete advancement toward the Klamath Tribes' goals for law enforcement and public safety.

Collaboration with other agencies over the last year has been successful with Oregon State Police, Klamath Falls Police Department, and Klamath

County Sherriff Kaber, but since they are still in the process of becoming an established law enforcement agency, they have been sharing information, such as some of the events the Klamath Tribes has been involved with.

During a Salmon Run and Healing Water ceremony, other agencies were on standby, especially to watch the floodgates area. There has been significant collaboration with the Oregon State Police as they work hand in hand with tribal Fish and Game officers.

The State Police have a Fish and Game officer who works with the Klamath Tribes Fish and Game officers on violations concerning tribal or non-tribal members as assistance is needed. While the Klamath Tribes Fish and Game Ordinances are in place, they are working with a firm to establish the Klamath Tribes criminal codes. They also intend to work on developing a civil regulatory traffic code, and they will have the authority over it, once certified, to write citations.

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Klamath Tribes made an application for funding for a Public Safety building and was approved for \$70,000.

It was determined that the building would be located near the Klamath Tribes Wellness Center in Chiloquin with a separate entrance from the rest of the enterprises there for traffic safety. They anticipate breaking ground next year during spring and fall. Jarod Hall, Klamath Tribes Planning Director, is currently looking to get the land surveyed by a civil engineer. They may have to conduct another National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) report but are in the process of seeing if the prior one will be accepted because there has been



Klamath Tribes Public Safety Chief Alavarez (left) and Officer James Moore. (Michelle Ochoa/Klamath Tribes News)

no subsequent change since the last NEPA report.

The Klamath Tribes Public Safety Department and Chief Alvarez have had considerable collaboration with the local Chiloquin Fire and Rescue and Chief Mike Cook, especially on the upcoming Eclipse Fest event happening in Fort Klamath.

It has been instrumental in preparing local agencies for the influx of tourists that may affect local traffic, safety, and response times. State Police also had a direct connection with the Klamath Tribes Culture and Heritage Department in identifying significant cultural and archaeological sites in recent fires. Strong collaborations have been and continue to be made between our Public Safety Department and other area agencies.

Other advancements in the works are the plan for the Public Safety Department's own radio system. It will have the main frequencies of all the area law enforcement, but they will have their own separate channel, and a radio repeater may be placed on the Train Mountain property where there are other repeaters.

This will allow them to expand their coverage area. In the coming years, they plan to have a 24-hour dispatch center and increase

How things may change is that in the past, the Klamath County Sherriff Department and State Police had jurisdiction in the absence of local law enforcement.

"Once we are established, we will enter into Memorandums of Agreement and Understanding to handle any federally recognized Native American in this area," Chief Alvarez said. "We have jurisdiction to do so. If they are identified, and they request a tribal law enforcement officer, since we will be stationed here, more than likely, the Sheriff will ask us to investigate. We will handle all Native American instances in Beatty, Sprague River, and Chiloquin."

"We want the (Klamath) tribal community to know that we are working for *them* in the field of Public Safety, not just criminal matters, but also events that require a presence," Chief Alvarez stated, "It's not always (about) reacting, but participating in community events."

Chief Alvarez heads up the Department and has a lengthy and diverse history of groundbreaking experience in the field of Native American law enforcement. In addition, the Tribes' Department of Public Safety will be able to reduce response time by having tribal officers stationed in Chiloquin.

MMIP Report

By Elyesse Lewis
MMIP Coordinator

We all are living proof that our people have survived for centuries. Regardless of the hardships, we still stand together to celebrate life and grieve for what we have lost. We all continue with our lives for the next generations that have yet to come.

Lately, there has been an uprising cry for justice across the Indian Country that the nation has heard for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples. The Klamath Tribes now have the privilege of creating a new position, the MMIP Coordinator, to address this topic. The coordinator position has been designed to begin prevention and offer support.

Policies and procedures are in place to suit the needs of our people. The coordinator will offer assistance in the procedures of the case(s). As appropriate and needed, the coordinator will help design an

individualized plan. The plan may include organized volunteer searches, navigation through the investigation processes, accompaniment to law enforcement interviews, court accompaniment and support with hearings, dates, and processes, and referrals for support services as needed.

We live life at our own pace with our own limitations. We're here to help ease the burden that pertains to the topic, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples because every one of us matters. Every tribal member is important. With your support, we can ensure everyone is accounted for as the coordinator reaches out to government agencies to bring hope and peace of mind to you for your loved one.

All information is strictly confidential and anonymity will be respected.

The Klamath Tribes' Social Services Department, Healing Winds Program MMIP Coordinator;
Elyesse Lewis
Email:
elyesse.lewis@klamathtribes.com
Cell 541-591-9170 / Desk 541-827-5173 / Fax 541-783-7783

Klamath Tribal Administration rapidly increasing workforce

The Klamath Tribes is one of the largest employers in the Klamath Basin. Tribal Administration, which is located in Chiloquin, Ore., is rapidly increasing its workforce. Administration Human Resource is regularly looking to fill a wide variety of positions, including regular, seasonal, and temporary positions. The Tribe provides a competitive employee benefit package for regular and seasonal positions.

The Klamath Tribes has a mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the spiritual, cultural, and physical values and resources of the Tribe. The role of a tribal employee is to strive to serve in a manner that meets the mission of the Tribe. With this responsibility in the forefront, we are looking for individuals who want to serve with compassion and a desire to make a difference. If you have the desire to serve, protect, and enhance our Tribe, we encourage you to join us in our mission.

On the Klamath Tribes' official website, you will find a list of open jobs as well as an application for employment at the job postings at klamathtribes.org. Position requirements are noted on the job description. Employees must meet the required requirements to be considered for the position.

Drug Testing: The Klamath Tribes has an alcohol and drug-free workplace policy. Positions that transport passengers are subject to the ODOT drug testing rules. The Tribes have instituted drug testing for

employees, which provides for reasonable suspicion, post-accident/injury/incident, random, and follow-up testing. Pre-employment testing is no longer required.

Employment of Felons: We have numerous positions that do not require clearing a background check or have reduced restrictions, which allow felons to be employed.

Positions that work with children must clear more stringent background checks as per public law 101-630, which means the applicant may not have any felony crimes against persons and is allowed only to have one misdemeanor crime against persons.

Indian Preference: Indian preference gives qualified Klamath Tribal Members the first opportunity for hire; it does not prevent non-tribal people from hire if they qualify. All are welcome to apply.

Employment Rules: As a sovereign nation, Tribes are not subject to Oregon Employment Laws. The Tribes have established Klamath Tribal Employment Law and policies. The Tribes also follow applicable federal Employment Laws.

HR Phone Contact: If you prefer speaking in person, please reach out to our Human Resources staff for information on potential positions and the application process for Tribal Administration:

(541) 783-2219

**Laurel Robinson ext. 104,
Sarah Bates ext. 190,
and RaeDawn Weiser ext. 113.**

Klamath Tribes welcome Representative McIntire for open dialogue

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

Oregon State Rep. Emily McIntire (R) of District 56, which covers parts of Klamath County and runs adjacent to Chiloquin, introduced herself to The Klamath Tribes at a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Klamath Tribes auditorium. McIntire said that her main goal of the visit was to learn about the Klamath Tribes, as she cited in her opening remarks.

Councilmembers made sure McIntire understood the Tribes' history and stances on various issues, from water rights to broken treaties to wildfire management. The water rights issue, however, serves as a particularly thorny issue. According to information furnished by Rep. McIntire on oregonvotes.com, she describes

herself as "Pro Agriculture/Timber/Water Users," which could potentially prove detrimental to the Tribes' wishes to see Upper Klamath Lake restored to its former natural state, capable of sustaining healthy c'waam and koptu sucker populations.

Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont Jr. began the meeting by giving McIntire a brief background on some of the hardships the Tribes have endured. Directing McIntire's attention to the "historical trauma genogram" in the auditorium, Dumont said, "Since contact in particular, we've had a really tough time... Our treaty with the United States was signed in 1864. At that time, we reserved what we thought was about 1.1 million acres. And that was in exchange for much of Oregon and a big chunk of Northern California. If you

look at the treaty, we reserved rights to hunt, to fish, to gather, to live well within a healthy environment.

"And many of the battles that I know that you're aware of, for example, over water, over endangered species, that all stems from those rights, which we've always had, which we reserved in that treaty with the United States in exchange for all of that land base, about 22 million acres that we ceded to the United States to preserve those rights. There were a whole lot of hard things that happened after that. One of them was just the United States not honoring what our ancestors believed they had reserved as far as the boundaries of the reservation."

Dumont expounded on the history of the relationship between the Tribes and the United States. A more recent setback many tribes endured

was the various termination laws enacted by Congress throughout the 1950s – acts that forced Natives to cede control of their lands and resources, all in the name of assimilation. Dumont compared Termination to someone coming into your home and saying, "We're taking your home. And we will give you pennies on the dollar for what it's worth. But it's gone. And you don't have any say in that."

Don Gentry, Natural Resource Specialist with the Tribes and former Chairman, shared his thoughts with McIntire on Termination and how it deprived the Tribes of any control over the forests, resulting in "excessive logging and throwing things out of balance."

Being the first people and original curators of the land, The Klamath Tribes possess an inherent knowledge of

the land, Gentry said. "And we're trying to protect those things," he added. "And we think it's for the benefit of not only the Klamath tribes but for our people in the region, the things that we've departed from: the healthy ecosystem. Over extraction of logging in the way that was done, the impacts of grazing on our streams, all these things that affect hydrology and water that's available, affects our fish and affects water availability; it affects water quality."

Gentry also stressed to McIntire that the courts have determined the Klamath Tribes still have treaty rights, and as a consequence, there exists a federal obligation to look out for the Tribes' interests, "that [the

*See next page,
McIntire Visit*

McIntire Visit

Continued from previous page

federal government] needs to consult with us and manage things in a way that protects our treaty resources.”

Steve Rondeau, Lead Forester for The Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department, in a presentation to McIntire and the council, explained some of the factors that have made the forests more difficult to manage. The department looked at a survey done by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1914. The survey’s function was to identify what kinds of trees – and their sizes – were in various plots of land. Rondeau and his team then took that survey and reapplied it to those plots. “There’s a major change in terms of the size of trees, and there’s a lot more small trees that have grown in after timber harvest and grazing and other disturbances, and then also from lack of fire,” Rondeau explained. “So that now a large portion of the former reservation is no longer large trees. There are small trees that are causing a problem...so these

have an effect on wildfires.” Rondeau went on to describe how spatial complexity in former times helped the forests. Trees do not grow in plantation form, people plant them this way, and this has debilitating effects. The fires jump from canopy to canopy burning through forests, and the smaller trees aid in this destruction.

However, if there is ample space between trees, snow will accumulate. “Where there’s that long linear opening, so think of winter when snow falls, it would fall onto the forest floor where there weren’t tree canopies,” said Rondeau, “but where there are tree canopies, it lands in that canopy and evaporates. So, when you have those openings on the ground, snow gets onto the ground, builds up, and then there’s actually trees there that’ll shade it. And so, it melts slowly over time. So deeper into the summer, we have water still in our systems.”

Rondeau shared with McIntire and the council the results of the Tribes partnering with the Nature Conservancy, Sustainable Northwest, and the Forest Service. They applied

prescribed burns and identified trees requiring removal. When a massive fire encompassing 420,000 acres burned up a quarter of the reservation, almost all of the 12,000 acres that received treatment survived.

Gentry expressed his concern about the forest losing its ability to store water. According to Gentry, this ability has been severely compromised. Striking a diplomatic tone, he noted, “It’s not that we’re anti-grazing, a lot of our folks are ranchers, and we’ve been ranchers. But grazing was done in such a way that the streams unraveled... So, the water, when it is there, just runs right through, rather than stand in the riparian area, which is storage water.”

One final concern of the Tribes brought up by Chairman Dumont was groundwater. Many irrigators, particularly in the lake irrigation district, have resorted to “just going to groundwater.” The depletion of what once was “thousands and thousands and thousands of acres of open water wetlands,” reduced to wells running dry, is concerning and needs urgent attention.

Dumont further stated, “I think there is a disconnect often in the minds of folks if they can’t see visibly the connection between the surface water and groundwater. But our people have always known that’s the same one.”

He continued by expressing his concern to Representative McIntire. “We know that there’s a connection, as I told you a moment ago, between restoring those wetlands and seeing those springs come back up,” he said. “The state of Oregon right now does a miserable job managing wetland mining or groundwater mining.”

Tribal Council Member Jeannie McNair offered some final comments before McIntire addressed the council stating, “I hope you’re here to do what you said you’re going to do, which is listen to us and not back up one entity over the other. We all have to learn to get along together. But it’s kind of hard when we’re bumping heads over water, which is nobody’s water. God created these things. And I think we lose focus on that.”

McIntire admitted she had heard only from one side before this meeting took

place because, she said, “Unfortunately, that’s where I’ve been invited. It’s kind of partisan. And I hate to say that.” However, her website, while she was running for state representative, states she is “Pro Agriculture/Timber/Water Users.”

In regards to water, McIntire said she is “looking for balance.” She claimed to understand the Tribes’ perspective, but she is also “on the other side looking at it.” And while she did not come to Chiloquin to talk strictly about water, McIntire said, she did come to hear from The Klamath Tribes. Acknowledging that Chiloquin is not in her district, McIntire said, “Klamath County is mine. So, whether you are mine or not, whether you vote for me or not, I view you as mine and a representative for you.”

Chairman Dumont closed the meeting by acknowledging that McIntire’s personal presence is a great start in developing a relationship with the Tribes. “We care deeply about how you vote and what you understand,” he said, “even if our election membership isn’t within your district.”

RESTORATION ROYALTY



On Saturday, Aug. 26, the Restoration Celebration crowned a new Klamath Tribes Queen and Junior Princess. Alexa Martinez was crowned as Queen (right) as the outgoing Queen, AiYana Reyes (center), made the presentations, crowning Martinez and Jr. Princess Natasha Roberson (left). Martinez, a graduate of Mazama High School class of 2022, is currently attending the University of Oregon as a sophomore, majoring in human physiology with a minor in chemistry, and is a pre-med student. Roberson is in eighth grade and attends Bonanza Jr./Sr: High School and is a member of the Klamath Tribes Youth Council. Reyes, who grew up in Chiloquin, is a junior at Western Washington University majoring in biology for the pre-dentistry program. *(Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)*

RIDE THE RIM



Portland resident, Chris, a cycling enthusiast, participated in the annual “Ride the Rim” event at Crater Lake National Park on Saturday, Sept. 16. He said he had heard about the event for years and finally found the time to participate. When asked about the experience, he responded, “So far, so good, it’s been fantastic!” Around 5,000 people participated in the all-day ride on the East Rim road, which was closed for the event, so cyclists had the road to themselves. *(Paul Chamless/Klamath Tribes News)*

Native American Boys and Girls Club coming to Klamath Tribes

By Michelle Ochoa
Klamath Tribes News

The Native American Boys and Girls Club is coming to The Klamath Tribes, which is in the process of completing a charter with The Boys and Girls Club of America's Native Services.

American Boys and Girls Club, its site, hiring, and activity/program schedules.

The Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) started in 1906 when 53 clubs banded together to unify their leadership. They are renowned for the positive impact they have on youth. They are known to

be a safe place that provides opportunities to discover youth's great futures and provide access to experiences and opportunities, regardless

of circumstances. Their goal is to ensure that all youth's success is within reach. In their clubs, youth learn to demonstrate good character and citizenship and live healthy lifestyles.

BGCA provides support to clubs by developing and testing new programs for youth, assisting with quality program planning and evaluation, helping community leaders establish new

clubs, and expanding existing clubs. The organization recruits volunteers and helps with staff development, compensation, and benefits.

They participate in facility design, renovation, and construction, as well as assist with facility management and safety. BGCA also supports Tribes with fundraising, marketing, and communications and addressing legislative and public policy issues affecting youth.

The distinction between standard Boys and Girls Clubs and Native American Boys and Girls Clubs is that Native American tribes run Native American Boys and Girls Clubs.

They implement programs and activities that are culturally aware in respect to curriculum, language, tutoring, sports, and other physical activities. They are culturally meaningful and significant to Native American youth of a specific Tribe or Tribes.

BGCA has established a presence on Native lands for the past 30 years and has dramatically increased its impact by improving

sustainable, strategic collaborations with Tribal leaders and communities. Their pledge is to assist Native communities to expand youth development by establishing BGCA Native Services, a branch of the organization.

They have assisted in the establishment of nearly 250 Native Clubs where over 120,000 Native youth have been served in nearly 150 represented Tribal communities.

Some of the Club programs options to choose from are: "All Stars" which provides programming for youth in flag football, cheer teams, basketball leagues, and traditional dance.

"Be There" is a program that has a comprehensive approach to building supportive relationships and integrating the best practices for youth experiencing bereavement or other life altering losses.

"Culture Program Toolbox" provides resources for clubs to run culturally specific programming.

"Diplomas to Degrees" is a college readiness program for preparing youth

for post-secondary education and career success.

"DIY STEM" is an activity based Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program promoting real world application connections.

"Healthy Habits" emphasizes good nutrition, physical activity, and overall well-being.

"My Future" teaches digital skills for the media world, develops digital interest, and provides certifications.

Other programs include Project Learn; SMART Girls; Smart Moves; Teen Dating Violence; T.R.A.I.L. Diabetes Prevention; and Workforce Development.

One benefit of adopting a local Native American Boys and Girls Club is the increased opportunity to bring in more funding for Klamath Tribes youth.

The club can also promote more activities that are Klamath Tribes-specific from large organizations such as Major League Baseball, Toyota, NASCAR, Adidas, and many more.



"We are excited to bring (Native American Boys and Girls Club) to Chiloquin," said Klamath Tribes General Manager George Lopez at the Regular Tribal Council meeting Aug. 9. Minimum requirements are to provide at least four hours per day of activities and programs, and have a designated site. Further discussion will establish details for the future Klamath Tribes Native

Klamath Tribes Child Support Enforcement

Located inside the Klamath Tribes Fitness Center at 320 S Chiloquin Blvd, Chiloquin, OR 97624


Open to the public 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. (Closed for Lunch)

KTCSE, is excited to offer the following services to all Klamath Tribal members:

- Paternity Establishment
- Child Support Establishment
- Child Support Order Enforcement
- Modification of Child Support

Local Office for:
Payment Services
Customer Service

Please contact one of our Child Support Case Managers at your convenience – Blanche, Danielle, Leah, or Margaret all can be reached by following the prompts at
(541) 783-3020.



The Klamath Tribes
Community Services Department
Ph: (541) 783-2219 Fax: (541) 783-0994

❖ Symbol indicates income limits apply

ELDERS PROGRAMS

Elder's Outreach Worker (541) 783-2219 x 177

- Elders' events, trips, activities, talking circles, transports, etc.
- Contracts to provide relief for non-paid Caregivers (max \$2,100/year)
- Assistance for Tribal grandparents (55+) raising their grandchildren
- Medical Lending Closet (walkers, shower chairs, grab bars, etc.)

Meal Site Staff:
Elders Program Cook 541-363-6917

- Elders Meal Site & Home-Delivered Meals; rides available Tue/F (in Chiloquin W/F and in Beatty Tue/Thu)

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (must live in Klamath County)

Energy Assistance Coordinator (541) 783-2219, ext. 186 for:

- Elders EA – Payments for electricity, natural gas, propane, firewood, etc. Must be a Klamath Tribal Elder (60+) & no income limits (Dependent on when/or if funding is available)
- ❖ LIHEAP – Payments for your electricity, natural gas, propane, firewood, etc. for low-income households (\$250 to \$750)
- ❖ Emergency furnace, wood/pellet stove repair/replacement
- ❖ Home Weatherization, repairs, or replacement of windows, doors, floors, roof, insulation, appliances, stoves, etc. (max \$5000/three years)

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Commodities Warehouse (541) 883-2876:

- ❖ Food Distribution – Large Food Packages (delivery offered) to Elders (60+), disabled, & or homebound individuals.

Administrative Assistant (541) 783-2219, ext. 174 for:

- ❖ Goodwill Vouchers for clothes, shoes, housewares, etc. (\$20 to \$80)
- Employee Sponsored Emergency Fund (max \$100/year)



Fremont-Winema National Forest Report

By Benjamin Wilson
Forest Service Public Affairs Officer

The Klamath Ranger District recently hosted a full house for a seminar on the second round of funding under the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program, educating at-risk local organizations on the process and eligibility requirements for funding. The 2022 first round of funding provided up to \$10 Million for eligible organizations to develop and revise Community

Wildfire Protection Plans and implement projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than ten years old.

The second round of funding brings a series of changes to make the application process easier. Tribes, organizations, and communities that received funding from the first round are also eligible for funding from the second round.

To apply, follow the instructions in the Notices of Funding Opportunity or search for the grant opportunity number specific to your notice (USDA-FS-2023-CWDG-TRIBES, USDA-FS-2023-CWDG-CWSF, USDA-FS-2023-CWDG-NEMW, USDA-FS-2023-CWDG-SGSF) at grants.gov. Applications will be accepted until 8:59 p.m. Pacific time on October 31, 2023.

In the Mountain Lakes Wilderness area, recreation crews and volunteers recently cleared the Clover Creek trail up to Clover Lake Junction. This first 4.3 miles of trail provides access to the Mountain Lakes loop, an 8.2-mile loop that travels through the four shield volcanoes and 20 lakes of the Wilderness.

In the Sky Lakes Wilderness area, a recreation crew and five members of the Back Country Horsemen High Desert Trail Riders hiked 37.5 miles and cleared 5.5 miles of trail. Sky Lakes, Snow Lakes, the Pacific Crest Trail between Divide and Snow Lakes, along with the upper half mile of Nannie Creek, are now clear. Debris and downed trees from the 790 Fire slowed progress on trail clearing. Nannie Creek still has 16 trees remaining across the trail, which will take some time to clear.

Increased precipitation and moisture levels, along with cooler temperatures, have decreased fire danger across the forest, allowing fire managers to end the Temporary Public Use Restrictions as of Sep. 6. Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management (Lakeview District) and Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex lifted their restrictions. Crater Lake National Park will lift fire restrictions on Friday, Sept. 8 at 00:01 a.m. Public use restrictions within the Klamath River Canyon will remain in effect until rescinded,

and Oregon Department of Forestry restrictions are also not lifting at this time. The 'Fire Season In Effect' declaration on June 16 enacted regulations restricting debris burning and timber harvest operations. Wildland and structural fire protection agencies in Klamath County have agreed to prohibit all outdoor debris from burning. Forest operations that require a permit to operate power-driven machinery now are required to have fire tools, on-site water supply, and watchman service on privately owned forest land. The release of sky lanterns is prohibited during any time of the year. The discharge of exploding targets and the discharge of tracer ammunition are not permitted during the duration of the fire season.

On the east side of the forest, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Lake County, and Warner Canyon Ski Hill are putting on a small event for the annular eclipse on October 14.

A limited number of participants will have the opportunity to camp overnight and view the eclipse the next day. Event organizers are providing arts and crafts for

children along with eclipse viewing glasses. This will happen simultaneously with Eclipse Fest 23, although on the opposite side of the forest. On Sept. 23, the east side will be hosting a volunteer trail cleanup for National Public Lands Day at Rogger Meadow trailhead, a popular access point in the South Warner Mountains that provides access to Crane Mountain National Recreation Trail #161.

As the forest begins to experience cooler weather, commercial Matsutake mushroom season has opened, signifying the transition toward fall weather. Commercial permits for the Deschutes, Fremont-Winema, Umpqua, and Willamette National Forests open the day after Labor Day and will close on November 6.

In addition to a permit, everyone must have a harvest area map in their possession to gather, transport, or sell mushrooms. All tools for matsutake harvest cannot exceed one inch wide and 18 inches long. Raking or other ground disturbance is prohibited, as that can disrupt the mycorrhizal fungal mat between overstory trees.

QUAIL TRAIL PUBLIC TRANSIT BUS SCHEDULE

| MONDAY THRU FRIDAY | LOCATIONS | PICK UP (PU) DROP OFF (DO) | DEPART TIMES |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| ROUTE 1 | | | |
| Chiloquin | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | PU | 5:55am |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | PU | 5:56am |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | PU | 6:00am |
| K-Falls | Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station | PU/DO | 6:40am |
| | Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St. | PU/DO | 7:00am |
| | 2220 Eldorado Ave, KBBH Top Parking Lot* | PU/DO | 7:15am |
| Chiloquin | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 7:40am |
| | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | DO | 7:45am |
| ROUTE 2 | | | |
| Chiloquin | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | PU | 7:55am |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | PU | 7:56am |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | PU | 8:00am |
| | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 8:10am |
| K-Falls | Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station | PU/DO | 9:00am |
| | Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St. | PU/DO | 9:15am |
| Chiloquin | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 9:50am |
| | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | DO | |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | DO | |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | DO | |
| ROUTE 3 | | | |
| Chiloquin | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | PU | 11:10am |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | PU | 11:11am |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | PU | 11:15am |
| | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 11:25am |
| K-Falls | Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station | PU/DO | 12:00pm |
| | Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St. | PU/DO | 12:15pm |
| Chiloquin | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 12:50pm |
| | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | DO | |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | DO | |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | DO | |

*STOPS ONLY IN EARLY MORNING AND EVENING

STOP AT KLA-MO-YA CASINO WILL BE BY THE SMOKING SHED IN FRONT OF BUILDING

BUS RIDES ARE FREE OF CHARGE & RIDERS WILL RECEIVE AN ALL DAY BUS PASS TO RIDE THE BUS IN KLAMATH FALLS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE KLAMATH TRIBES, PLANNING DEPARTMENT/TRANSIT PROGRAM AT (541)783-2219 Ron H. Ext. 134 or Michelle C. Ext. 175

| MONDAY THRU FRIDAY | LOCATIONS | PICK UP (PU) DROP OFF (DO) | DEPART TIMES |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| ROUTE 4 | | | |
| Chiloquin | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | PU | 2:10pm |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | PU | 2:11pm |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | PU | 2:15pm |
| | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 2:25pm |
| K-Falls | Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St. | PU/DO | 3:25pm |
| | Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station | PU/DO | 3:35pm |
| Chiloquin | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 4:10pm |
| | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | DO | |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | DO | |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | DO | |
| ROUTE 5 | | | |
| Chiloquin | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | PU | 4:55pm |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | PU | 4:59pm |
| | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | PU | 5:05pm |
| | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 5:15pm |
| K-Falls | 2220 Eldorado Ave, KBBH Top Parking Lot* | PU/DO | 5:35pm |
| | Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St. | PU/DO | 5:50pm |
| | Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station | PU/DO | 6:00pm |
| Chiloquin | Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites) | PU/DO | 6:35pm |
| | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | DO | |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | DO | |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter | DO | |
| THURSDAY ONLY | LOCATIONS SCHEDULE CHILOQUIN/ FALLS | BEATTY/KLAMATH | PICK UP (PU) & DROP OFF (DO) |
| ROUTE 1 | | | |
| Chiloquin | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | PU | 9:55am |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | PU | 9:56am |
| | 202 Pioneer St. Bus Shelter | PU | 9:57am |
| Sprague River | Sprague River Community Center | PU/DO | 10:28am |
| Beatty | Beatty Community Center, Godowa Springs Rd Bus Shelter | PU/DO | 11:00am |
| K-Falls | Arthur St. | PU/DO | 11:45pm |
| K-Falls | Sherm's Thunderbirds Parking Lot | DO | 11:55pm |
| ROUTE 2 | | | |
| K-Falls | Sherm's Thunderbirds Parking Lot | PU | 3:20pm |
| K-Falls | Klamath Basin Senior Center 2045 Arthur St. | PU | 3:25pm |
| Beatty | Beatty Community Center, Godowa Springs Rd Bus Shelter | DO | 4:15pm |
| Sprague River | Sprague River Community Center | DO | 4:45pm |
| Chiloquin | 202 Pioneer St. Bus Shelter | DO | 5:20pm |
| | 502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter | DO | 5:23pm |
| | 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg. | DO | 5:25pm |

Klamath County Commissioners approve Hagelstein Park for day use only

The decision was made in part to protect endangered suckers living in the park's pond

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

The Klamath County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, Aug. 15, unanimously approved a motion to transition Hagelstein Park to day use only. Currently, the park allows overnight camping, which has also led to the degradation of park grounds and water contamination in the spring-fed pond at the park, which is a habitat for a resident population of the endangered c'waam and koptu suckers. Fecal coliform, E.

coli, was in two water quality samples taken this year.

The decision followed a public hearing held last week when the members of the public and many Klamath Tribal members expressed their support for changing the park to day use and eliminating overnight camping.

Commissioner Dave Henslee spoke prior to the vote, stating, "I think it's really important that as we continue to make decisions, we do the work of the community, and we make decisions in the betterment of the

greater good. So, I was really happy that we decided to take that route. And based upon those hearings, everything seemed positive in that it goes to a day use facility only, and we exclude camping from that location. So, I have been supportive of moving forward in that direction."

Commissioner Kelley Minty followed Hensley, expressing her support to exclude camping at the park, but added that she doesn't like the idea of restricting camping to visitors. "There are certain places where it



A day use sign at Hagelstein Park was posted the day after the Klamath County Commissioners approved to discontinue overnight camping at the park.

(Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

may be more beneficial to restrict camping based on different factors," she said, "and certainly the feelings of our friends, the Klamath Tribes is a huge piece of that."

Minty added that she would like the opportunity to revisit the decision to exclude camping at the park if there is a "huge public outcry."

Then Commissioner Derrick DeGroot weighed in on the discussion. "I think that we heard from the community," he said. "I think that the neighbors, the community at large, are all in support of this being day use. I think that we will see less abuse to the park. And it is up to this body to determine time, place, and manner and highest and best use of the parks and the facilities that we own. I think that it's clear that turning this to day use is step one of making sure we're utilizing this property to the biggest benefit of the community at large."

Finally, prior to a vote on the motion, Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont made a brief statement. "Just let me say that I'm very grateful that the County has so graciously listened to the concerns of the Klamath Tribes," he said. "Hearing us out about the cultural, ecological importance of that site for us is heartwarming. And I know that we don't always agree, but when we do agree about things, we can really show that we can be a force for the good of the community at large. And, so, I think going forward here that we're all going to see that place become much

healthier, and it will be a place that we can all be proud of."

Minty and Klamath County Parks Manager Tom Crist spoke on the phone to the Klamath Tribes News a week after the Commissioner's meeting. Crist said he posted two signs for "Day Use Only No Camping" at the park the day after the meeting, approving day use only. "We went out and changed the sign to no camping, day use only," he said "and the park's attendant talked to each of the people that were there." Crist said he checks on the park most mornings, and the morning following the meeting, the park was already cleared out of most overnight campers; however, one camper was still there, and the park attendant spoke to that person about the day use enforcement, which would take place officially Aug. 31.

Minty, who was overseeing the transition of the park to day use only, said she hadn't received any negative or positive feedback. "We'll continue to hear people if they have concerns about lack of camping," she said, "but I anticipate this is going to be perhaps smoother than maybe we would have even expected."

"Our expectation is that this is a good transition," she added. "And that we will continue to keep it as day use only. You know, never say never, but my guess would be that we will continue this as a great site for day use, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Klamath Tribes on ensuring it's a place that's well taken care of."

You can view the pdf of this issue online at [KlamathTribes.org](https://klamathtribes.org)

Email news@klamathtribes.com to update or cancel your subscription.

Keep yourself and your family safe & healthy

AGAINST COVID-19

COVID-19 is still circulating and hospitalizations related to COVID-19 are on the rise.

Tips to stay safe and healthy:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Wear a mask when in large crowds, especially indoors.
- Stay home when sick and get tested.
- Stay up to date with COVID vaccines.
- Seek treatment if you have COVID-19 and are at high risk of getting very sick.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you experience shortness of breath.

This message brought to you by
Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services
Medical Department
Rachel Miller, Infection Control RN
541-882-1487 ext. 605
ramiller@klamathtribalhealth.org





The Klamath Tribes received \$2.3 million from the state this year to buy and renovate Melita's, an old restaurant, bar, RV park, and motel on Highway 97 in Chiloquin. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

Klamath Tribes to provide housing for Elders at the former site of Melita's Restaurant and Motel

By Michelle Ochoa,
Klamath Tribes News

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek declared a State of Emergency due to Homelessness at the start of 2023 and, on July 27, hosted a signing ceremony to acknowledge the passage of Senate Bill 611, House Bill 3042, House Bill 3395, and Senate Bill 5511, bills that passed in the 2023 legislative session.

According to the Declaration, central Oregon, including Klamath County, has experienced an 86 percent increase in homelessness. These four bills are intended to address the housing and homelessness crisis. SB 5511 was a budget bill for the Housing and Community Services Department and includes \$130 million for critical investments for a response, including maintaining turnkey sites, navigation center, and shelters built through the Declaration, \$55 million to expand the state's homelessness prevention response, \$5 million in direct funding to tribes to prevent and address homelessness, \$12.5 million supporting homeownership for low-income families, \$6 million for tenant services, and more for other costs.

Kenneth Ruthardt, Klamath Tribes Housing Director, explained that the houseless situation for Klamath tribal members in the County is at a crisis level. "Currently on our waitlist, there are 289 people," he said. "I've identified 19 tribal members between 60 and 83 that need housing tonight. And then there are another 30, between 60 and 80, that will need housing in

the next six months. That's just the elders. They are my main priority. I need to have them have a place to live. As one elder pointed out to me, it's starting to get cold."

The Klamath Tribes received \$2.3 million from the state this year to buy and renovate Melita's, an old restaurant, bar, RV park, and motel on Highway 97 in Chiloquin. Work will begin soon to renovate it for Tribal elder housing, operate a restaurant for food distribution and warm meals, and be a community gathering place.

On Jefferson Public Radio (JPR), in an interview with Klamath Tribes Chairman Clay Dumont, he mentioned that elders are the most important teachers because they are how we know who we are. "Tribal elders who are without or are in danger of being without shelter will be our priority for this newly acquired tribal property," he said. He added that the Oregon Community Foundation was a good partner through the acquisition process.

Ruthardt said Melita's is going to play a vital role in the tribal community. "Since the elders are a priority, and there are so many of them, there are 14 units. We're going to renovate them," he said. "The restaurant is going to be renovated into office space for support staff. There is going to be a community room there, as well as for the resident tenants. Then a commercial kitchen is going to be put in there."

That will be Phase 1 of the project, Ruthardt said. In



Work will begin to renovate the former Melita's Restaurant where The Klamath Tribes are going to operate a restaurant for food distribution and warm meals for elders, and a community gathering place. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

Phase 2, 17 units in the RV park and 14 tiny homes, if they can fit them on the property. The tiny homes would be one bedroom, one bathroom, kitchen, and living area. Phase 3, where the storage units are located on the property, will be demolished and utilized as low-income housing tax credit property.

Architects arrived last month to tour the property and create a Master Plan. The Request for Proposal (RFP) that was published stated that time was of the essence.

The goal is to get Phase 1 started right away and propose an aggressive timeline to get drawings done. A million dollars of state funding will go toward renovating the property. The caveat is to spend the funds by Dec. 15 in order to fulfill the goal to spend as much of those funds as possible to build permanent supportive housing for elders in the most effective way possible, said Ruthardt.

The Homeless Ad Hoc Committee for the Klamath Tribes recently dissolved, but the Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont said in a statement that the "new shelter is part of a larger effort to ensure Tribal members have warm, dry places to sleep." As homelessness becomes

more and more prevalent, greater focus is being placed on solutions. In an analysis of some of the Statewide efforts, a gap was noticed, and other housing efforts, such as the Medford Pallet shelter, have different levels of services than the Klamath Tribes are planning. The Klamath Tribes intends to provide ongoing services through Health and Administration for Elder Tribal members. In a more holistic model, Elders also receive medical care, transportation, social services, and elder program services such as meals and activities. The Klamath Tribes is leading the way in offering a comprehensive model for improving the crisis of homelessness for their members, starting with their most valued and vulnerable elders.

Ruthardt also stated that this would reduce the housing waitlist to about 250; for each person who comes in for housing, there are at least two other people in that household, also needing housing, so that is just under 1,000 people needing housing. "So, I am looking at ways of stretching the funding," Ruthardt said. In regard to future efforts to provide more housing, he said, "I identified

60 acres that the (Klamath) tribes own. It's flat, pretty much cleared, and utilities at the street. That is my focus to develop that property."

An RFP closed at the end of the third week in August to select a company to do a community needs assessment so they can find out exactly what kind of housing is needed to put there. The Klamath Tribes is implementing and planning for the future to combat homelessness in Klamath County by providing safe and clean new housing options to their members.

This endeavor will also contribute to economic improvements for Tribal members by creating newly available jobs such as property manager, property maintenance staff/handy person(s), cook, and others, and any improvements will create local bid requests for contractors and other services.

The Grande Ronde and the Klamath Tribes are the only Tribes, thus far, in Oregon with turnkey programs, and they are making a positive impact in local communities to address homelessness and its many challenging issues.

Ambodat Restoration

Continued from front page



A degrading watershed (left) and a watershed in the process of being restored. (Photos courtesy of Brad Parrish)

The Klamath Tribes has been diligently fighting for the protection of the waterways and water bodies that many species have depended on for time immemorial. C'wamm and koptu are considered indicator species. Indicator species are **living clues** to the health of an ecosystem, revealing the effects of pollution, climate change, or habitat loss.

Chassidy Head, Ambodat Aquatic Tech I, expressed what the outcome of their work would be. "Doing this work, and then coming back later and seeing how it's holding up the water and seeing the difference it's making, it's pretty cool," she said.

The mission of the Ambodat restoration crew is to restore areas that have gone dry by building natural structures that raise the water level and put the water back on the land where it historically was when it was healthy. Areas they have worked on and are monitoring Dry Creek on Green Diamond property, Merritt Creek, and Evans Creek USFS. Restoration work is being conducted as part of the Palustrine restoration project on Hog Creek Ranch, Watkins Springs, which is located on U.S. Forest Service land. Planning efforts are ongoing for restoring Dry Creek on property owned by The Nature Conservancy and the Long Creek project, also on the Conservancy property.

Jesse Sampson, Ambodat Aquatic Tech III, explained that the opportunity to work in the wilderness and the woods in his homelands is something that he'd always enjoyed. "It's the healing process of putting back

together our homelands, heal the land up," he said. "I firmly believe that if you heal the land, you can heal the people that live in the community around the land. So, we're in despair; our folks are in despair, lands in despair. So, we take the opportunity to try to better the situation."

Parrish is working with landowners to negotiate and collaborate with them to allow his restoration team to come out and work on the projects. Parrish researches the history of the land and the water rights process that occurred through the Oregon Water Resource Department. He inspects the lands and watersheds for their current conditions and then comes up with a viable plan to restore them to a closer example of its original flows.

It is long days and hard work that is making this happen. The team works ten-hour days, often in the sun and elements, but they all seem to enjoy their work. "I grew up on this land," said Ellwood Miller, a member

of the restoration team. "I hunt, I fish.

Being able to have water for the animals, the fish, it's really important."

When asking another crew member what they anticipated their work would achieve, Anthony Navarro, Ambodat Aquatics Technician, said, "Putting more water on the land, it's

a domino effect for other wildlife. I think as the years go by, I'll be able to come back and see what we are doing is great. I've already seen the pictures and already in a year, the difference it makes, and see all the greenery. It was like night and day."

Ambodat restoration crew member Shay Redhorse Dupris explained that the structures that they are building are helping restore the land closer to a normal state of the flood plains that had been here since time immemorial. "One of the hardest parts in all reality about life is just that there's cows, and other animals, mostly cows that walk around, walk through and just tear up the bank, giving you this three to five-foot wall, and it's going to collapse," he said. "So, this will help keep water here longer, as well as raise overall water level to cover the original height of the rest of the ground around here."

On a mid-morning day in August, while touring several restoration

greenery. Culverts placed in the past were causing undercuts, forcing the water into narrower channels to divert them, which lowered the water level and dried out the flood plains.

"We work with the Forest Service in the fact that we're doing this restoration work," said Parrish. "If I want to address the cattle issue, then we have to work with different departments, but to address the degradation that was occurring associated with cattle, we've fenced it all off."

There was a definite comradery between members of the Ambodat restoration team, and they enjoyed joking around and each other's company. It's a long drive out to their work sites each day, an hour and a half to these particular sites. Still, once the crew arrives, they launch into their work, lifting and moving rocks and boulders, leveling out earth, using willow sticks carved into spears, and pieces of wood to make water traps to slow the flow down and spread it across the land. It is a lot of heavy lifting and hauling the on-site, natural materials manually.

The Restoration crew of Ambodat has the opportunity to usher in a new era of restoration and utilize their abilities and talents to show others what can be done to restore our ecosystem in this region and to make the land and waters closer to their natural state, as well as, serve as an example to others on how it is done.

"Healing the land is healing our people, and healing our people is healing the land," said Parrish.

"Healing the land is healing our people, and healing our people is healing the land" –Bradley Parrish

sites, this reporter observed cattle and their feces throughout the areas, cattle hoofs in stream beds, and streams that had just ended into dried-out land. While in areas where the restoration team had been working previously, the streams were turning dry, cracked land into lush

Wrecked cars removed from Nilaqs by USFS at request of Klamath Tribes Aug. 31.

(Photo courtesy of Klamath Tribes)



Q&A with international public speaker and Klamath Tribes member Rebecca Kirk

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

Rebecca Kirk is a member of the Klamath Tribes and travels the U.S. and Canada as an international speaker promoting empowerment to Native youth. She is also the owner of Resting Warrior Face Apparel and Accessories and director of the Northwest's largest pageant for indigenous women, "Miss Indian Northwest." She was the keynote speaker at the 7th annual Klamath Tribes Youth Summit on Aug. 23 at the Oregon Institute of Technology.

Q. You just finished your keynote speaking, and it was very good. Obviously, you've done a lot of this.

A. Yeah, I have. So, I've actually been doing this professionally since 2014. But I did start my public speaking journey when I was in high school with the International Toastmasters organization.

Q. The message you seem to convey is very positive. I don't mean to incorporate religion or other things, but I was reading about a Buddhist monk. And he said the key to happiness is a positive, compassionate outlook and how you treat your fellow man. And that seems to be your message.

A. I think that message is universal. So that can be for everyone. And personally, for me, I don't ever like to try to push my personal beliefs on our youth. But what I do like to do is share my story share my upbringing. And if there is a piece of my story about my life that inspires a few of our native youth, or a group of them, or all of them, that's terrific. I love that for them. But the most important thing, I think, you know, if you're too shy of a person to get involved with leadership, but maybe you just want to put goodness

out into the world. One of those things is practicing being mindful with the way that we move throughout this world. So, if you can put out a kind gesture, you can be kind to another person every day in practice. That's one of the keys to happiness to me.

Q. Do you travel the country and talk to various tribes around the country?

A. Yes, I do. So, I travel throughout the United States and Canada. I kind of took a little bit of a break and slowed down when I started my family. I now have a three-year-old daughter, but she's here with me today while I'm able to speak. And I do travel with her, and I've had the honor of being able to host national conferences, TV shows, to do modeling and walk runway for Canada Fashion Week, Indigenous Fashion Week, and to be able to speak at all different universities and colleges and different tribal communities throughout the nation and Canada.

Q. Did you grow up in Chiloquin?

A. I didn't grow up in Chiloquin; I grew up in Portland, Oregon, but my grandmother was born and raised in Chiloquin.

Q. There are not a lot of public speakers that are Native American. So, are you kind of leading the way here?

A. I would say that I am one of not many, but one of a strong group that there is currently. But that can always change; we can always add more people to that. And it's really not just about being a public speaker. It's about having your message and wanting to share that with

other people so that you can inspire them. I think one of the things that inspired me to be able to do this line of work for our youth is because I needed that message growing up. And I was fortunate to have some really nice mentors throughout my life that inspired me. And, so you know what way to give back to the people who taught me is to take those teachings and pass them on to other youth.

Q. You mentioned some of your struggles as a child growing up, and you were a challenging kid. Would you like to revisit that a bit?

A. Really, it's not even about being a troublemaker, being a challenging kid. I think really what it was, was I needed somebody that believed in me and somebody that could take the time to teach me about what my learning style was as a neurodivergent child, which I didn't realize I was until later in my adulthood.

Being neurodivergent and having symptoms of ADHD and having things like anxiety and things like that, and just learning about what those are – not looking at them as things that are bad, or things that are looked down upon – but look at it as what I said earlier, you find those muscles that you have, and if they're a little weaker, find ways to exercise them and make them stronger so that you are good in all areas of your life.

Q. The hardest muscle to exercise and change is your brain. And you did that; you've really transformed your mental state and maturity spiritually and as a human being. What's the key to that?

A. I would say the key to transforming yourself to whoever you need to be



Rebecca Kirk

to live your life in a good way is always believing in yourself, knowing that one decision isn't going to, you know, be that for the rest of your life. But it's like partnerships, it's like relationships, marriages, you have to choose those things every day. It's a lot like love.

You have to choose to want those things every day and want that for the other person. And for me, I know that there's a lot of work to do in Indian country. And most of that is letting our youth know that they are important, that they are intelligent, maybe not in a way that they were taught, growing up is the right way to be this type of smart person or that type of talented person. But there definitely is something about them that makes them unique and makes them stand out from other people.

Q. You did some exercises today to instill positive thought and compassion for the person sitting next to you. Is this something that you think could be incorporated into education as a way to mentally strengthen and provide positivity for students?

A. I think it's something that should be incorporated into our school systems because we are learning, especially as young people; how can you expect our young people to know the right things to do all the time if we are not showing them by creating these stories for them to learn from, by having hands-on examples for them is something as simple as writing on a piece of paper, something nice. I can say to somebody, 'I'm going to write it down, fold it up, go put it in the middle of all these pieces of paper, and everyone's going to randomly grab one. Someone's going to read that, and it's

going to make them feel good. When they did that exercise earlier, there were people crying, good, happy tears; there's people laughing; there are people blushing because there were things written really nice, like, 'You're cool, you're pretty.' Somebody even wrote a heart on one person's paper. And it's little things like that – that are going to change our world. Because we have to teach our youth to be mindful.

We have to teach them to be compassionate. But we have to be an example of what that means. And actively show them so that they can learn it from us.

Q. People talk a lot about hailing because of the past. You brought up something that wasn't too far in the past, that Native people weren't allowed to go out after 7 p.m. in Seattle in the 60s or early 70s.

A. So that wasn't just for me because I was born in 1991. I'm going to be 32 years old in September, but for the native people in Seattle, Washington, that was a rule for a long time. And I was told that by other native people that had been there for decades since the early 60s, and they told me that was something that was known in Seattle. And that's so unfortunate that our native people ever had to go through that. But now things are changing. And we have leadership for Native people everywhere.

We are able to put on events wherever we want to, and we can move freely in this world, maybe not completely, fully, equally as everyone else, but we are getting to that point where we're making that happen.

Tribal Youth inspired by the past to rebuild Earth Lodge



Ezekiel Sheppard would like to learn how to restore the traditional earth lodge built by Ivan Jackson years ago. *(Photo courtesy of Mary Williams Hyde)*

By Michelle Ochoa,
Klamath Tribes News

Ezekiel Sheppard, a seven-year-old Klamath tribal member youth, asked to meet with Klamath Tribes Chairman Clay Dumont about the Earth Lodge behind the Administration building. They met on Aug. 18 and discussed that it had gone into disrepair over the years and Ezekiel's interest and enthusiasm to rebuild the lodge. He told his Mother, Randee Sheppard, "I want to sit and learn stories of my ancestors."

The 'winter house' Earth Lodge was constructed in 2002 by the traditional methods of Ivan Jackson, a Klamath-Modoc tribal member, and it was anticipated that it would become the Flint Gathering Park. He worked for over three-and-a-half months to build the lodge. Jackson mentioned in a previous Herald & News article, "I think it's opening eyes. The importance is to show our culture is still living and to share it with people. This is our identity." A playground was also installed at the site.

The Earth Lodge, when constructed, was 30 feet long and 10 feet high, with four of those feet below ground. Four corner posts were erected upright and then framed with 88 Lodgepole Pine logs along with cedar and pine slats and covered with sod and soil. Two holes are on the top of the lodge- one for entry and one for smoke to exit the lodge.

You enter the lodge from the narrow top by a notched log ladder. In the center of the lodge is a fire pit, which heats the rocks and keeps the lodge warm all night. It can accommodate four or five large families. Mats are laid out, traditionally, Tule mats, and when the fire burns out, the rocks continue to

heat the lodge throughout the entire night.

Traditionally, large groups of tribal members of all ages would help with lodge building, and this sacred tradition is still practiced to this day by many tribal members. Although lodges can be occupied year-round, earth lodges were full during the winter when Klamath Tribes members returned from villages and camps along the Sprague River, Williamson River, and other rivers and lakes throughout the region. Some Ancestors, historically, were born in earth lodges. The Earth Lodge is a warm welcome and reunion during the coldest of winter months.

Chairman Dumont and Ezekiel Sheppard's meeting resulted in some ideas to revive the Earth Lodge behind the Administration building. "Maybe we could speak to the Klamath Tribes Youth Council and make [its rebuilding] a joint effort," said Dumont.



Tule mats were prepared by Tribal members to make roofing material. *(Photo courtesy of Mary Williams Hyde)*



Chairman Dumont and seven-year-old Ezekiel Sheppard have a meeting regarding the Earth Lodge. *(Michelle Ochoa/Klamath Tribes News)*



Ivan Jackson digging the footprint of the earth lodge by hand. He dug it to about 40 feet or so wide by 4 feet deep. When finished it required a ladder to get into and out of, and was about twice as tall as Ivan's head above the center pole. *(Photo courtesy of Mary Williams Hyde)*



New KTH&FS Patient Portal Coming Soon!

Our new Patient Portal will make it easier than ever to access your medical records and manage your health.

Here are some of the things you can take advantage of when you have the Patient Portal:

- Request and view appointments
- Request medication refills
- Access your medical record
- Send Secure messages to your care team
- And More!


For more information or to sign up call our Medical Front Desk at (541) 882-1487





Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services
Mo ben dic hos'intemlek - To be in good health again

NOTICE
HOURS OF OPERATION FOR:
KTHFS Health Center - Klamath Falls, OR.
6000 New Way
Monday-Friday: 7:30am- 4:00pm
 Closed for Lunch (12:00 noon - 1:00 pm)
 All Dental - Call Wellness Center in Chiloquin to schedule!
Dental in Klamath by Appointment Only!
 (541) 882-1487 or (541) 783-3295

YFGC/Behavioral Health Center
 6000 New Way
Hours of Operation are: 8:00am - 5:00pm
 (Open During Lunch) 541-884-1841

Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services



Wellness Center Hours
KTHFS Wellness Center - Chiloquin, OR.
 330 Chiloquin, Blvd. Phone: 541-882-1487
Monday - Friday: 7:30am - 4:00pm
 Closed during lunch hour (Noon to 1:00pm)
Medical ~ Pharmacy ~ Dental
 Chiloquin Dental Walk-in hours: 7:30am - 10:30am
 Chiloquin Dental Walk in hours: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Note: On the first Wednesday of each month, due to administrative requirements, the Wellness Center is open 9:00am - 4:00pm

The Klamath Tribes is one of the largest contributing employers in Klamath County

By Michelle Ochoa,
Klamath Tribes News

The mission of the Klamath Tribes and its Administration is “To protect and enhance the spiritual, cultural, and physical values and resources of the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Peoples, by maintaining the customs and heritage of our ancestors. To establish a comprehensive unity by fostering the enhancement of the spiritual and cultural values through a government whose function is to protect the human and cultural resources, treaty rights and to provide for the development and delivery of social and economic opportunities for our People through effective leadership.”

The Klamath Tribes is one of the largest contributing employers in Klamath County. According to research, they rank sixth based on the number of employees, and they continue to grow with new enterprises. Most of the dollars spent by Klamath Tribes employees remain local, supporting the local community and businesses. Some employers boast economic revenue in excess of millions of dollars, while a large amount of their revenue or wages don't remain in the local community.

The Klamath Tribes Administration employs and/or supports several levels and departments, including Tribal Council, Early Childhood Development Center, Finance Department, Human Resource, Support Services,



Klamath Tribes Early Childhood Development Center building (Michelle Ochoa/Klamath Tribes News)

Ambodat Department, Community Services, Culture and Heritage, Education and Employment Department, Housing Department, Members Benefits/Enrollment, Natural Resource Department, Planning Department, Social Services, Klamath Tribes Judiciary and Public Relations. There are also several committees, such as the Culture and Heritage Committee, Elders Committee, Constitution Committee, and others. Add to that the many tribal members who operate businesses and employ local job seekers, and their contribution to the local economy is significant.

In addition to the Klamath Tribes Administration is the Klamath Tribes Health and Family Services and Wellness Center, which is expanding and serves both Chiloquin and Klamath Falls. According to the total tally of each Department and subsidiary, the Klamath

Tribes employs upward of 568 people locally, making it the top six Employer in the state in regard to the number of employees, and likely higher when you compare salaries, wages, and benefits combined. The employment to total population rate for Klamath County is 48 percent, and The Klamath Tribes make up 1.89 percent of that employment rate. Of those employed by the Klamath Tribes, approximately 80 percent are Tribal members. Of the approximate 4,586 Klamath Tribal members eligible to work, more than 12 percent are employed by the Klamath Tribes. The majority of Klamath Tribal members who live in Klamath County work for their own Tribes.

The Klamath Tribes Administration “employs 216 employees with 21 positions being filled and growing,” according to Laurel Robinson, Klamath Tribes Human Resources Director. Klamath Tribes Health and

Family Services KTHFS Interim Human Resource Director Nikowa Mendez confirmed that their department employs 178 employees and currently has 38 open positions, and continues to expand. The Klamath Tribes Gaming Regulatory Committee employs 14 people. The Kla-Mo-Ya Casino Corporation, including Crater Lake Travel Center and Sleep Inn, combined, employ 160 people, and if all positions were filled, would employ 194 people, said Heather Thompson, Human Resources Manager. “We are an engaged employer that offers growth opportunities with great pay and amazing benefits,” she said.

If you combine all of the Klamath Tribes enterprises, the Klamath Tribes employs a minimum of 568 employees, all of whom are living and shopping in Klamath County and are considerable contributors to the local economy. Some of the top

employers in the county, according to current statistics, are Sky Lakes Medical Center, with 1,657 employees and a revolving employee population, Kingsley Field National Guard, with 1,100 employees, some of which are only part-time, said Jeff Thompson, Kingsley Field Public Relations Officer, the Klamath County Schools District employs 943 employees, some of which only employed during the school year months, Oregon Institute of Technology at 813 employees including all full time, part-time, temporary and student workers. In addition, Jeld-Wen employs 715 local employees, Klamath Tribes with 568 employees and growing, Klamath County with 480 employees, Columbia Forest Products with 410 employees, including their out-of-area sales team, Klamath Community College with 365 employees, including Adjuncts that may live out of area, and Walmart



Kla-Mo-Ya Casino, (left), Klamath Tribes Sleep Inn and Suites.

with 345 employees, which is likely decreasing with continued reduction in service employees, and with it, decline of service. The number of employees due to layoff, termination, hire, transfer, and other factors changes on a daily basis. That puts Klamath Tribes in the top 6, as Employer based on employees they support at any given time, and even higher if you consider average salaries, wages, and benefits to their employees.

The total impact the Klamath Tribes has on its local economy due to employment rates and revenue is hard to quantify, as there is not complete data available, and in this reporter's research on contributing employers to the Klamath County economy noted in the past, the Klamath Tribes is not mentioned. The Klamath Tribes has also contributed by direct donations to various local organizations for various projects and collaborations such as the Green Schoolyard project, pocket parks, administrative grants for water services, and much more.

Counties, such as Klamath County, are sponsors of local economic development initiatives and partnerships and collaborate with other stakeholders to broaden resiliency goals. They say collaboration is key to local economic development. The Klamath Tribes is a primary contributor and stakeholder to the economy of Klamath County and should be recognized as such. A future interest to the Klamath Tribes may be to analyze and provide that data to the Klamath County Economic Development District (KCEDA) and other organizations for publication so that others know the great impact in the betterment of sustainability of our community that the Klamath Tribes provides.

A strong Tribal economy is often unknown in regard to their jobs, growth, and revenue. As sovereign nations, they have the ability to keep fiscal information that they choose to keep confidential, but studies show Tribes are often the largest drivers of their local economies, and

this is also the case for the Klamath Tribes. A study by the Native Nations Institute states, "The economic gaps between Indian Country and the rest of the United States at the beginning of the self-determination era were so large that closing those gaps was taking time." The study further reported that "It is proper to say that the glass may have been only half full, but at least it was filling. In fact, in some cases, there was truly outstanding progress being made against the scourges of economic disadvantage."

The lack of data at times fuels misconceptions such as the myth that tribes receive an unfairly greater portion of funds, when in reality, "It is state and local governments that have received outsized support from the federal government," the 2019 Oklahoma Native Impact report said. The report was produced by Dr. Kyle Dean, Director of the Center for Native American and Urban Studies at Oklahoma City University. It would be beneficial for the Klamath Tribes to have their own Native Impact Study so those analytics can be utilized to demonstrate the success of the Klamath Tribes managed enterprises.

According to the University of Arizona's Native Nations Institute, "few Nations are primarily concerned with making themselves rich. Nor are they merely interested in generating jobs and income, as important as those things may be in improving quality of life in Native communities. Most are trying to gain the wherewithal to address a more ambitious set of needs and concerns. "Furthermore, they say there are "three purposes that appear to be particularly important in economic development efforts of many Indian Nations: To provide their citizens with economic opportunities so they can support themselves and live satisfying lives in their own communities. To provide Native communities with the means to pursue their own social and cultural objectives, from



healthcare, housing, elder and youth services to revitalization of language and culture, on their own terms. To support Native governance, empowering their Nations to implement their own governance designs and carry out their functions. "

A study conducted by the Aspen Institute in 2021 by Stephanie Gutierrez and Mariam Jorgensen concluded, "When Native Nations thrive, they tend to lift up the non-indigenous communities that are their neighbors." That is exactly what is happening today in Klamath County by the Klamath Tribes. The direct community impact on their members through services, the many collaborations

made with local government to government relationships, the continued efforts to improve the ecosystem and environments that support the entire community, and the extraordinary amount of revenue generated and kept in the County by their significant number of employees indicates that Klamath Tribes is a prime contributor to the local economy, and one that will continue to grow into the future. When more people understand that fact, they can understand the great value the Klamath Tribes brings to its surrounding community and can gain further traction for future collaboration and economic growth.

The number of tribal

enterprises other than gaming continues to grow significantly, and many of those (70 percent nationwide) businesses are off-reservation. They provide opportunities for Native Americans and non-Natives alike, with positive economic impact and well-paying permanent and temporary, skilled positions with excellent benefits in the employment market. It is the Tribal members' innate skills of resiliency, creativity, and abilities to broaden and diversify that make Tribal businesses and enterprises poised to be the strong and sustainable leaders of the future in Klamath County and beyond.



(Top to bottom) Klamath Tribes Medical Center, Klamath Tribes Travel Center, Klamath Tribes Health and Family Services Building, goos oLgi gowa "Gathering in the Pines." (All photos by Michelle Ochoa/Klamath Tribes News)



CHILOQUIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S NEW PLAYGROUND

Last year, the Klamath Tribes, for its leadership, partnership, and support of the Chiloquin Schoolyard project, was nominated for the Trust for Public Land's 50th Anniversary People's Champion Award.

The Tribes has been selected as a co-recipient of this award along with Parque Padrinos, a Washington community organization TPL has partnered with on a park project in Wenatchee.

(Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)





KLA-MO-YA CASINO & HOTEL

888.552.6692 • klamoyacasino.com

SLOTS • FOOD • HOTEL • FUN



Your Gateway to a Great Day!

Enjoy breathtaking views of the Ponderosa Pines as well as several other attractive hotel amenities.



- **Free Wi-Fi**
- **Free Breakfast**
- **Meeting Space**
- **Fitness Room**
- **Indoor Heated Pool**
- **Hot Tub**

**ENJOY A RESTFUL NIGHT
AT OUR SLEEP INN &
SUITES AT KLA-MO-YA!**



Eclipse Fest 2023 will take place on private land behind the Rodear Arena in Fort Klamath. (Paul Chamless/Klamath Tribes News)

Solar Eclipse

Continued from front page

county, which includes the Klamath County Sheriff's Office, city police, state police and the various federal agencies that have federal law enforcement officers, as well as our own Klamath Tribes' public safety officers under Chief Alvarez."

Concerns are not limited to traffic and issues with law enforcement but also extend to the preservation of cultural sites and resources. One of the functional groups is the natural and cultural resources group, said Sexton. "Don Gentry is the representative of that group," he said. "They are meeting to determine anything that can be done to protect cultural resources as well as the natural resources that are within the basin. And that includes all of the federal land managers, the Park Service, Forest Service, BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as state parks, Oregon Department of Forestry, and other local land management entities. "We expect there to be a lot

of folks that are interested in camping," Sexton continued. "So, there will be discussions about any places that they want folks to avoid camping or not camp, as well as the sites that are the cultural sites that are along the ridge overlooking this Smash Mouth event. And there are those sites that were exposed when the 242 Fire burned through there. There's a lot of concern about individuals that would perhaps go up to that ridgeline to view the Smash Mouth concert and inadvertently damage or destroy some of our cultural sites that are up there."

Sexton also cited potential weather-related scenarios. The temperature could dip into the 20s overnight for the duration of the festival, and campers will want to stay warm and have campfires. In this case, it is important to stay vigilant, he said, with respect to wildfires. Several inches of snow could also wreak havoc. Recently, thousands of festival-goers at Burning Man were stranded in the mud for days as they were hit with inclement weather.

Chief Vernon Alvarez of the Klamath Tribes, is coordinating with several entities in regard to public safety. One of his main obligations, in collaboration with Klamath Tribes' Cultural and Heritage Director, Christina Rubidoux, is protecting the cultural sites in the area around Fort Klamath, where the Eclipse Fest will be held. Fish and Game officers under Alvarez's leadership are also working with the U.S. Forestry Department and other law enforcement divisions to ensure these sites are preserved.

Ongoing discussions are being held to determine some of the best ways to ensure the sites are unharmed. Deliberations are ongoing on whether to close some roads to prevent tourists from accessing and trampling sacred sites.

And with hunting season underway, there needs to be consensus. As Alvarez noted, "They have to allow access for not only tribal members but other parties of that hunting group. One of the things that they're going to try to do is maybe shut that

down at least for five days or six hunting days. So that is still being worked out."

Alvarez anticipates 12,000 people in the area of Fort Klamath for the eclipse festival, and there will be 750 usable acres for the festival itself. As for sanitation outside the event grounds, dumpsters will be placed near roads leading in and out of the festival. The festival will handle its own sanitation requirements.

Klamath County Commissioner Kelley Minty is confident the community is up to the challenge of hosting such a unique event. "It's really a positive that, unlike some other significant emergencies, we do have the opportunity to plan," she said. "We know this is coming up. We know this is five or six weeks away now. So, we can all do the best we can to plan."

Minty stressed the importance of everyone being proactive and helping one another. Stakeholders and organizers have been meeting every Monday. They are a diverse group, from tribal to county officials, as well as emergency responders and businesses for people to prepare and be aware but not anxious. "I do want to be very honest and transparent that we don't know how many people, there's not something where people have signed up and said, 'Okay, we're definitely coming to your community during that time,' So, we just need to be prepared for

a scenario of maybe we do double or triple our population over that week."

As for the financial allocation of funds to oversee eclipse events in the county, the budget has already been approved.

One Fort Klamath business seeking to benefit from the eclipse and festival is Crater Lake Resort. Most of their campsites, RV sites, and cabins were already booked before the festival was announced – as a result, they do not anticipate a lot of overnight guests arriving for Eclipse Fest. The resort has stocked up on goods in anticipation of shortages. The owners are also debating hosting a wine tasting and having a food truck on-site.

Liz Ashley, manager of Crater Lake Resort, embraces the upcoming event, despite some concerns about the influx of people. "I think everyone that's here is really excited," she said. "I mean, we do have our concerns about how it's going to impact us, you know, people are going to want to be over here using the bathrooms and the showers and parking and things like that. But we're excited for it. I think it'll be good for the county. But we're also worried about traffic, people being able to get in and out."

While some citizens and local business owners see the dual events as an economic boon, others see them as a strain on infrastructure. For those apprehensive about the influx of tourists

*See next page,
Solar Eclipse*



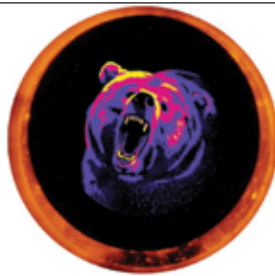
Crater Lake Resort is one business in Fort Klamath, embracing the thousands of people expected for Eclipse Fest 2023. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

Solar Eclipse

Continued from previous page

carrying on with business as usual is not even an option. Jim and Robin Hurt, husband and wife and owners of Jo's Motel & Campground in Fort Klamath, expressed their mutual concerns – focusing on the inadequacy of the infrastructure to handle the thousands of tourists in a small town of only 90 residents. They will not be opening their lodging for rent during the festival due to infrastructure concerns, namely sewage and sanitation. They said that they can see a scenario in which their facility gets swamped with unauthorized guests. "Our campground is not controllable for security reasons, in the sense of someone coming in late at night," said Jim Hurt. "And why wouldn't they? Free shower, bath house. And we're tiny, were so tiny back there. We can't handle more than we can take. We're not licensed to take more than that, for sure. But we can't handle it either. We just have very small infrastructure here.

That number of people is just going to overwhelm." With an estimate of over 60,000 out-of-towners flocking to Klamath County for the eclipse, local officials would like to remind residents to prepare early. Goods could potentially be in short supply, and County officials are advising residents to stock up on food, water, and medicine and make sure their gas tanks are full. And be prepared for extra traffic. Another concern is that cell towers could be overwhelmed, slowing credit and debit card purchases, so be sure to have cash for the weekend of the eclipse. With networks strained, cell phone signals might be spotty, so reach out to family members and friends' whereabouts ahead of time. And most importantly, make sure to have safe, solar-viewing glasses. You don't want to miss the event of a lifetime!



'Ring of Fire' Solar Eclipse
Tribal Term (Loq slo'ki s'abas - Grizzly Bear Eats the Moon)
 Once-in-a-generation event projected to bring 60,000 people to Klamath County
Shortages expected!
KTHFS urges patients and members to prepare early!

What: The October 14, 2023, annular eclipse is projected to bring 60,000 visitors (known as Umbraphile's - eclipse chasers) to Klamath County starting as early as mid-September, with festival campers beginning early October, 2023.

Tribal History: Lok slo'ki - 'Grizzly Bear Eats' is a time when Grizzly eats the sun or moon. At this time the people gather to make noise, asking Frog Woman (Moon's wife, who can be seen in the moon) to use her powers on the bear to drive him away. It is a time of change and power. Some stay inside, others watch, most pray at this time.

Why: Klamath County is ranked the #1 location in the nation for viewing the annular eclipse. Best location is in Fort Klamath, just 20 miles from Crater Lake National Park, and a few miles from Chiloquin, Oregon. Fort Klamath is also the location of Eclipse Fest 2023. The peak of the eclipse will be Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 9:15 a.m. - the eclipse will last for approximately 4 minutes 24 seconds.

What is EclipseFest23: (eclipsefest23.com) It is an 'Annular Eclipse Festival' being held in Klamath County (Ft. Klamath, Oregon), on October 10-15, 2023. It is a multi-day immersive festival that includes camping, food & drink, vendors and artisans, as well as a large concert. In addition, the Klamath Falls (Running Y Resort) is also hosting a Two-Day "Eclipse Into Nature" event on October 13 & 14th, featuring activities, live music, and presentations.

Prepare Early: With so many visitors traveling to our area, we encourage our members and patients to prepare. **Shortages are expected.** Things to consider are: Eye Protection, Prescriptions, Fuel, Groceries, Water, Etc...

- *Get eye protection early. Stock up on items, such as food, medication and toilet paper, ahead of October 14.
- *Fill your gas and propane tanks early, prior to the week of October 14th.
- *Get your prescriptions and other appointments prepared ahead.
- *Be prepared to pay with cash the weekend of the eclipse, the extra use of cell towers and other technology may slow credit and debit purchases. The worst case scenario is payment systems may fail with extra use.
- *Enjoy the experience, but be prepared for extra traffic.

Eye Protection: Remember, it is never safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection designed for solar viewing. Get your eye protection early. KTHFS will provide free glasses at our offices.

Prescriptions: The KTHFS Pharmacy urges our patients to get your medications early, if possible. With the added traffic we want to try to alleviate added travel in October. Please call your provider and contact:
 Klamath Tribal Health Pharmacy at 541-882-1487 Option 1. Call Medical at 541-882-1487 Option 3.

INFO CONTACT: Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services
 Incident Command/Emergency Preparedness
 Numbers: (541) 882-1487 or 1-800-552-6290

Jon Sergi, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, ext. 254 Tim Langford, Incident Commander, ext. 354
 Nikowa Mendez, Deputy Incident Commander ext. 221 Jerry Mellentine, Safety Officer, ext. 213
 Taylor Tupper, Public Information Officer, ext. 222



KLA-MO-YA CASINO & HOTEL
 888.552.6692 • klamoyacasino.com
 SLOTS • FOOD • HOTEL • FUN



GRAND IN YOUR HAND FRIDAY DRAWINGS
 September 8-29 • 6pm-9pm
 WIN UP TO \$1,000 CASH!
May only win once per day.

ANNULAR ECLIPSE WEEKEND CASH HOT SEATS
 Friday, October 13 & Saturday, October 14 • 2pm-9pm
 Win up to \$1,000 CASH!
 Drawings every hour
May only win once per day.

CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

TRAVELING LUGGAGE SUNDAY KIOSK
 September 3-24 • 11am-7pm
 EARN PRIZES!
 September 3: Travel Pack Bag
 September 10: Carry All with Strap
 September 17: Duffel with Strap
 September 24: 20" Hard Side Luggage
May only redeem once per day. While supplies last.

ANNULAR ECLIPSE SUNDAY HOT SEATS
 October 15 • 10am-5pm
 Win up to \$500 CASH!
May only win once per day.

GIVING AWAY FRIDAY DRAWINGS
 November 3-17 • 6pm-9pm
 Win up to \$1,000 CASH
May only win once per day.

BATTY FRIDAY DRAWINGS
 October 6, 20 & 27 • 6pm-9pm
 Win up to \$1,000 CASH!
May only win once per day.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST
 Tuesday, October 31 • 7pm-9pm
 Scariest Costume: \$500 CASH
 Most Original Costume: \$500 CASH
 Best Pair: \$500 CASH Each (\$1,000 CASH Total)
 Best Overall Costume: \$1,500 CASH

KISS THE COOK SUNDAY KIOSK
 November 5-26 • 11am-6pm
 WIN PRIZES!
 November 5: 13pc Kitchen Utensil Set
 November 12: 6pc Nesting Mixing Bowl Set
 November 19: Square Stoneware Covered Baker
 November 26: Rectangular Stoneware Covered Baker
May only redeem once per day. While supplies last.

ANNULAR ECLIPSE EARN & GET
 Thursday, October 12, Friday, October 13 & Saturday, October 14 • 10am-8pm
 Earn 10 points on players card and receive \$10 free play!
May only redeem once per day.

VETERANS DAY GIVEAWAY
 Saturday, November 11 • Noon-6pm
 Win a Wind-Breaker Jacket!
 All guests currently in or previously in the Military.
 Go to Bonus Club to be entered into Group
 Go to Promotional Kiosk to receive voucher for Wind-Breaker Jacket.
May only redeem once per day. Must be a Bonus Club Member.