



KLAMATH TRIBES NEWS

KLAMATH - MODOC - YAHOSKIN

VOL. 28 NO. 4

klamathtribesnews.org

September / October 2024



The Sprague River is undergoing a multi-million dollar restoration effort with the Ag Collaborative to return it to a more naturally flowing river. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

Multimillion-dollar Sprague River Collaborative Restoration Project underway to improve river flow and repair ecosystem

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

Over the last 30 years, a water and economic crisis has emerged in the Sprague River Basin as available surface water and groundwater supplies for agriculture have become increasingly depleted. This has resulted from climate change, the

enforcement of senior instream tribal water rights, and failing ecosystems. Ranchers, tribal allottees, and communities have struggled as less water is available. In response to the problem, the Upper Klamath Basin Ag Collaborative was established to form a collective response to address the problem.

The Ag Collaborative is initially focused on the Sprague

River watershed, with other projects expected to restore other aquatic ecosystems to their natural conditions in the coming years. An 85-mile stretch of the Sprague River Collaborative Restoration Project is in Phase 1 of three phases. The joint project is a team effort partnering with the Klamath Tribes, non-profit, government, and private

organizations. The project is also committed to farm and ranch families' interests and rights and voluntary, incentive-based approaches to advance agricultural and environmental resiliency. Local organizations, including Trout Unlimited and Klamath Watershed Partnership, are working on restoring instream and riparian habitat through various initiatives.

Raising water tables, cooling the river, reducing erosion and phosphorus loading, and improving the fisheries are benefits of a restored, healthy Sprague River.

Overcoming cultural and logistical barriers to restoring the aquatic ecosystem is a challenge, but one that is necessary to address the water crisis in the Basin. Larry Nicholson, a Klamath tribal member and Fort Klamath cattle rancher and farmer, is the point man for the collaborative effort. "We're trying to figure out how the tribes can work with landowners," he said. "And you know, the different agreements, particularly the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement (UKBCA), were agreements at one time that we could share the water and have water for both agriculture and the fisheries. And it was signed by all the stakeholders."

He said they tried to get funding for the UKBCA initiative, but it failed. But now funding is available, and the Ag Collaborative has access to millions of federal dollars. "It's going to be very difficult to do in the future because the money is not going to always be here," Nicholson said. "So, we put together the Upper Klamath Basin Ag

See page 18,
Ag Collaborative

Oregon's mule deer population in drastic decline; in 5 decades population has decreased by half



Two mule deer bucks forage at the Running Y. A small population inhabits the local resort, seven miles from downtown Klamath Falls. Mule deer have been declining in the state for the past five decades. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

By Kayce Womack
Klamath Tribes News

The mule deer population in Oregon has declined significantly over the last five decades with the downward trend continuing.

Today, the mule deer population is estimated at around 155,000 in the state, a nearly 50 percent decrease from the recorded 300,000 less than 50 years ago. The population reduction is the second major drop since European settlement two centuries ago.

The first wave of new human residents brought extreme changes to natural resources management, infrastructure development, and human traffic on mule deer territory within the ancestral homelands of the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Snake Paiute. These changes resulted in decreased avail-

See page 20,
Mule Deer Decline

The Klamath Tribes
P.O. Box 436
Chiloquin, OR 97624
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR1-STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHILCOQUIN, OR
PERMIT NO. 4

2024 KLAMATH TRIBES POWWOW

Photos by Mary Williams Hyde except as noted



Ken Smith



Ken Smith



KLAMATH TRIBES NEWS

KLAMATH - MODOC - YAHOOSKIN

By Phone: (541) 783-2219 / By Email: News@klamathtribes.com / By Mail: P.O. Box 436 Chiloquin, OR 97624

Editor: Ken Smith / Reporter: Kayce Womack / Production: Mary Hyde

The Klamath Tribes News is published bi-monthly, serving members of the Klamath Tribes. ©2024

KLAMATH • TRIBES • LANGUAGE • PROGRAM

neme yadua / Introduction List

Relative	Paiute Word	Pronunciation	Relative	Paiute Word	Pronunciation
Mother	pia	pee'ah	Husband	kuma	koo'mah
Father	naa	nah	Wife	nodekwa	noh'duh'kwa
Son	tua	too'ah	Relative	naneme	nah'nuh'muh
Daughter	pade	pah'duh	Brother	saamu	sah'moo
Aunt	pidu	pee'doo	Older Brother	pabi?i	pah'be?ee
Uncle	?aatsi	?ah'see	Younger Brother	wanga?a	wahn'ga'ah
Grandmother (paternal)	hutsi?i	hoo'se?ee	Older Sister	hama?a	ha'ma?ah
Grandfather (paternal)	kenno?o	kuh'no?oh	Younger Sister	penni?i	puh'ne?ee
Grandmother (maternal)	mo?a	mo?ah	Children	tuamuubi	too'ah'moo'bee
Grandfather (maternal)	togo?o	toh'go?oh			

Adding the letter "I" makes these more possessive (eg) I naa or My Father

See neme yadua book pages 13 – 15

Adding the "I" also can chang some of the letters (eg) pia – mother / adding the "I' makes it I'bia or My Mother

mi?i nania Steve Weiser – My name is Steve Weiser

I-naa (my Father) is Lorentino "Bunny" Weiser, I-bia (my mother) is Jessie Robbins Weiser

Numbers and Colors-maqlaqsyals

Numbers

Naas |
 laap ||
 ndan |||
 woniip ||||
 ton'ip ||||
 Nacksept |||| |
 lapksept |||| |
 ndanksept |||| |
 Nacq'eeks |||| |
 tewn'ip |||| |

Colors

taktak'i red
 woyganks green
 mec'mecl'i blue
 joyjoyl'I orange/pink
 balbal?i white
 boqboql'I tan
 beqbeql'I gray
 bosbosl'I black
 kaWkaWl'I brown

noo ?a Naas taktak'i coLis gitk. I have one red shirt
 noo ?a coLis gitk I have a shirt

Emergency Number in maqlaqsyals: Nacq'eeks Naas Naas 911

Klamath Tribes Administration number in maqlaqsyals:
 (ton'ip, woniip, Naas) lapksept, ndanksept, ndan – laap, laap,
 Naas, Nacq'eeks
 (541) 783-2219

**LANGUAGE CLASSES VIA ZOOM APP
 maqlaqsyals (Klamath and Modoc)**

Training Day: Monday
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Length of Class for Beginner: 8 weeks
Date Class Starts: 9/16/2024

**neme yadua (Northern Paiute-
 Ya hooskin Snake band dialect)**

Training Day: Wednesday
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Length of Class for Beginner: 8 weeks
Date Class Starts: 9/18/2024

Contact Information: Klamath Tribes Language Department

Address: 116 E. Chocktoot St. (Old KT Court Building) corner of Chocktoot St and 2nd Ave.

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 436

City: Chiloquin St: OR Zip: 97624 email: ktlanguages@klamathtribes.com

**website: www.klamathtribes.org/language language book down-
 loads available on the website. Download to smartphome.**

Merkley, Wyden announce federal funding for the Klamath Tribes' efforts to curb pollution

Oregon's U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden today announced the Klamath Tribes received \$545,000 for programs that improve water and air quality and reduce pollution. The investment is an initial award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address environmental and public health concerns.

"Tribal families and community members rely on clean air and water for the health, safety, and economic growth of their communities," Merkley said. "It is vital that we support environmental projects so that the Klamath Tribes have the resources needed for their Tribal members to live healthy lives."

"Tribes throughout Oregon often face serious challenges when it comes to ensuring their community members have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink," Wyden said. "I'm glad the Klamath Tribes have secured this federal investment

in better public health, and will keep battling for similar funds that help Tribal and non-Tribal communities alike."

"The Klamath Tribes appreciate the support of Senators Merkley and Wyden in securing an EPA Performance Partnership Grant," said Klamath Tribes Chairman William E. Ray, Jr. "This grant allows the Tribes to increase its capacity to operate the Sprague River Water Quality Lab and monitor water quality conditions in the Sprague River to assess changes resulting from stream and riparian restoration work and other land use changes."

The grant funding also allows the Tribes to work with EPA in developing programs to minimize water quality impairments in the Upper Klamath Basin."

Today's initial investment comes from an EPA Performance Partnership Grant, which allows States and Tribes to direct resources where they are needed most or try inno-

vative solutions to address environmental problems.

In total, the Klamath Tribes were approved to receive \$558,049 under the program to continue en-

vironmental programs and activities to protect and maintain air, water, land, and data quality. The funding will build off past grants for the Klamath Tribes, while giving greater flexibility

to improve environmental performance, achieve administrative savings, and strengthen the partnership between the Tribes and EPA.



The four dams on the Klamath River have all been removed, clearing the way for the Klamath River to flow freely for the first time since 1918 when the Copco 1 dam became operational as part of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project. On Aug. 28, the river officially began flowing freely. (Photo by Klamath Tribes Chairman William Ray Jr.)

Attention Tribal Campers! Fire Risk Reduction Program

For additional information, please contact:

Shane Foster, KIGC Chairman: (541) 892-2066

Mike Appling, Fuels and Cultural Burning Manager:
(541) 450-5541

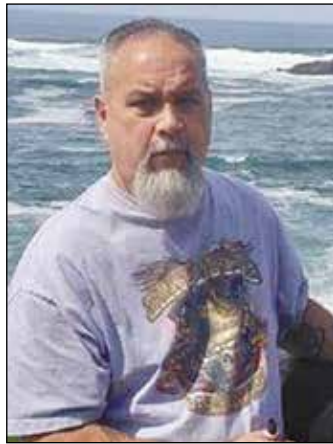
Tim Sexton, Fire Program Manager: (541) 274-9850

In Memoriam

Joseph Dean Cook, 66

Joseph Dean Cook, known as Joe, peacefully passed away at his Albany, Oregon home on May 13, 2024. He was 66. Joe was born to the late Jack M. Cook Sr. and Verna Lou (George) of The Klamath Tribes. Joe was preceded in death by his parents and youngest brother, Jack Cook Jr. In his first marriage, he had his only child, Justina M. Cook, and later remarried Debra J. Cook. She had two children from a previous marriage: a son (Brandon Bandy) and a daughter (Tracy Bandy). Later on, he had five granddaughters, two being from Justina, Hailey Ettestad, and Fallon Cook. He loved his granddaughters very much. Debi and Joe remained married since 1996.

Joe leaves behind younger siblings Ronald, Kathleen, and Michael Cook. He had many cousins, nieces, and nephews. He had lived a great life. He retired from the army after 21 years as a Specialist. During his time in the Army, he was in the Army National Guard reserve, where he enjoyed serving. During his time in the army, he did tours in Iraq. Joe has always enjoyed a Pepsi, making friends and family, being there for others, helping when he could,



learning to jam out, playing drums, listening to music, going to powwows and trips, and riding on his motorcycle. He was always riding when he had the chance, enjoying the Road Brothers, family, and friends riding behind him. He had been a loyal member there for nearly 15 years, and they became family, too. He helped the toy run and helped with fundraisers, which he enjoyed very much. Joe stole the room with his presence and sarcasm. He was humble and Kind.

The kind of man that you're gonna miss forever. He was laid to rest at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Ore., on May 23, 2024, where he received full honors and proceeded by his procession from Albany, Ore., with his Road Brothers MC Family behind him and friends.

In Memoriam Guide Lines

If you would like an In Memoriam included in the Klamath Tribes News, please email a Word document to news@klamathtribes.com. Limit the word count to 500 words or less and provide a photo as a PDF or JPEG.

In Memoriam

Rick Michael Gibbons, 63



Rick Michael Gibbons was born in Klamath Falls, Ore. on Aug. 2, 1960, to Margaret (Wright) Sandoval and Jack "Bumps" Gibbons Sr. He started his journey to our creator at home surrounded by loved ones on June 15, 2024.

Rick, also known as Two Feathers, grew up in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He had a very infectious laugh and loved making others laugh. He was loved by


many and will be missed. Rick loved playing pool, hunting, camping, his old truck- Black Betty, picking on his sisters, joking around, and having a good time; his wife of 30 years, two daughters, Feather and Nicole, stepsons Ace and Brandon, stepdaughter Torey, and his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Gibbons, daughter Nicole Swagert, stepdaughter

Torey and husband, Simeon Allen-Wright, stepson Ace Wright, step-mother, Toni Quenelle; siblings and spouses; Terry and Troy Adams, Connie and Kevin Snoozy, Misty and Darrin Clouse, Natalie "Pebbles" Jackson, Tiny Gibbons, Lawings Yahwee, Labeads Yahwee, Guy and Shealyn Gibbons, Marcus and Kristi Gibbons. Grandchildren Noah and Maximus Swagert, Whisper Barney, Miracle and Assaih Hermann, Kit-tsie and Majeztik Allen-Wright, Tannon, Jess, Brandon, Gabriel Wright, Tallon, Tyrone, Ace Tavon, Fayden, Nakhia, Rainnin, Roanin, and Makai Wright. As well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends.


Rick was preceded by father Jack "Bumps" Gibbons Sr, mother and stepfather Margaret and Munson Sandoval, brother Jack Gibbons Jr, daughter Feather Moore, and stepson Brandon Wright.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Sunday, Aug. 25, at Moore Park Klamath Falls, and the burial followed at Hills Cemetery Indian Burial Ground Chiloquin.




KLAMATH
Community College
Workforce & Community Education


KCC's Workforce/Community Education Department is offering 3 new non-credit classes this fall 2024!



Whether you're interested in being a graphic designer or adding to your branding skills, our **Beginner Logo Design 101** class is for newbies seeking to learn FLEXI design, symbolism, and fundamental principles. Dates: 9/30/2024-12/19/2024 M/W 5:30pm-8:30pm Cost: \$270



Learn how to respond to crisis situations in a variety of settings, including law enforcement, mental health, and education. **Crisis Intervention** starts 10/08/24-11/12/24 T 6:00pm-8:00pm Cost:\$75



Planning on retiring? Our free one-day **Getting Ready to Retire** course is offered twice this Fall and will get you ready for retirement with the four aspects of success. Dates: 10/21/24 or 11/15/24 M 5:30pm-6:30pm No Cost

Contact Denise Martinez for registration at 541-880-2243 or ce@klamathcc.edu

Klamath Community College does not discriminate in any programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, age, pregnancy, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Q&A with “Killers of the Flower Moon” Native American actor Chance Rush

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

Chance Rush, 49, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, spoke at the Klamath Tribes 8th Annual Youth Summit, held Aug. 6, 7, and 8 at the Oregon Institute of Technology Klamath Falls campus. Rush, who starred in the movie *Killers of the Flower Moon*, is also a public speaker, facilitator, and fitness trainer. After speaking to the youth for an hour, he sat down with the Klamath Tribes News for a Q&A.

You made it into the cast of *Killers of the Flower Moon*. How was that experience?

It was a blessing to be cast as Bill Stepson. I think what was special about that is I got to meet the Stepson family and understand their family, their lineage, and how important this film was to that family and that community. So that's what was exciting and interesting about it. More than being in my first major motion picture, there was always a purpose for why you do something. And my purpose wasn't to be in a movie. My purpose was to represent that family, the Stepson family, the best that I could.

I saw the movie, but I'm a little sketchy about some of the details. What was the Stepson's family relationship in the story?

The Stepson family relationship was Bill Stepson was just a mindful individual who was nice and friendly with everybody. He's a former Bronc rider and had a ranch. He was Osage. They took advantage of him, and he was killed. He was murdered, but it was uninvestigated, and it was undetailed.

Were you killed in the movie?

Yeah, yeah. I guess in the movie, I was poisoned. They found me in my hotel room. That part was hard. It was the cornerstone of the movie. That was the start of the poisoning of the men. And that was a tragic side to that whole story. And that was emotional.

That day was emotional because I filmed that scene for, like, maybe an hour and a half, two hours, and it was emotional because the real Bill Stepson, I'm playing his character 100 years later in the same building in the same town. So that's why it was emotional and I'm honored to know, and to meet the Stepson family.

Did the family ever get restitution for that?

No, because everybody that got to kill off so many Osages; they died of natural causes. They were free whenever they ended up dying. They didn't die in prison. They didn't die the way that we did. So, there was no restitution.

That was a dark movie.

Yeah, it was dark, but it was a movie that needed to be told and needs to be shared, and it needs more than anything; needs to be respected.

There's a lot of dark sides to the history of the Native Americans and how there was a kind of a genocide that took place in this country —

Not kind of, it was a genocide.

Yes, it was a genocide. But people don't use that term, do they?

Well, they need to. The word genocide needs to be used. Because when you have a people that went through that, and then it's kind of not used anymore, it kind of takes down the harshness of it. Colonize is another big word, massacre, you know. So that's why I do what I do today, is that I still want us to celebrate our culture. I want us to celebrate that we're still here, and that's what this youth conference is about. And I feel the energy in this youth conference. There's some goodness here, and I'm glad that Oregon Tech, that they're partnering with this. This shows our community that it's not about handing out; it's about in partnership with, right? This college is on tribal land, and this college has great opportunities for tribal members. I think that it's a true partnership. And I'm very grateful and thankful to step foot on this campus, knowing that they're the ones behind the youth summit, so it's a blessing. It's a blessing to learn something every day. And that's one thing I



Actor and motivational speaker Chance Rush with Klamath Tribes members at the 8th Annual Youth Summit hosted by the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

told the kids today, is number one, you know, always pray and put God first. Number two, live an alcohol and drug-free life. Number three, learn something. And number four is to share. So, when we leave here, that's what I want us to do, is get out here into the rest of the world and share with them our goodness.

You've been making your rounds with the tribes doing motivational speaking.

Yes. I've had the privilege to come to Oregon. Oregon has always been a special place in my heart because of the consistency in it, being able to go to all these different tribes. The very first stop here is the Klamath Tribes. And I've been waiting for this for a long time. I've always reached out to Vice Chair Hatcher to come to town, Hannah as well to come to town, and I'm just very grateful that the consistency in it led them to invite me to come to the conference. So, it's emotional for me because I've always wanted to come to the Klamath Tribes.

Why?

I haven't been here before. I've heard that this is a beautiful part of Oregon. I've been to all the other tribes, but today was my mission of coming to Oregon and working in Oregon has been accomplished because I got to finally visit all of the tribes here now, and being out here in the mountains and being with our relatives here.

And your home is where?

I live in Dallas, Texas. I'm originally from the three affiliated tribes in North Dakota; my other side is the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe up in North Dakota. My grandparents were both from those two tribes, but I make my home in Dallas, Texas, and when I'm at home, I'm reading, writing, and trying to better my outreach to tribal communities across the United States.

You mentioned the younger generation, that seventh generation? Do you think they've made the strides necessary to push things forward?

I think having a room full of Native youth shows that we're making strides and that we're ready to be on the front line, and we're ready to play our part. You felt good energy in there. So, I think they're doing some wonderful things, and I think that we have to continue to back our young adults. I mean, they could check out any time. As far as the way technology is there for them the way that what's being taught to them, you know, like in social media or in the media. So, to see them here. Speaking of Oregon and the strong tribes in Oregon, the Klamath Tribes had a huge presence at the largest Native American youth conference that took place in Portland, Oregon, called Unity. It's called the National Unity Conference and 2,990 youth attended it. And I told that to an elder, and what that elder said

to me was that means our Native youth are wanting to make changes. When you have youth conferences like this, and it's packed out like this in this area, they want to make changes. They want to see change. And so, I think our seventh generation is doing a great job. We just have to back them and support them. I mean, I think about like, how we would raise our kids. You know, we're going to put them in a certain school, or we're going to put them in a certain environment, because we're going to say, golly, it's crazy out here, right? So, we got to, we got to back and support our seventh generation, and I think they're doing a phenomenal job in today's society.

And they have educational opportunities that are opening up that maybe weren't there in the past, more high school graduates going on to college. Do you see that?

I see that because it's recognized now. And 20 years ago, 200 Native American lawyers, Native students went to law school, and they graduated. Now we have thousands. So, it's been there. It's just now

See page 8,
Chance Rush



Fremont-Winema National Forest Service News

By Benjamin Wilson

The Fremont-Winema National Forest and the South Central Oregon Fire Management Partnership, along with partners and cooperators, thinned and underburned what might be a record amount of acres this spring and into early summer, dramatically reducing fire risk to communities in the wildland-urban interface, such as Chiloquin, Sprague River, Paisley, Bonanza, and Bly Mountain. Fire Managers intend to implement further treatments this fall and in 2025.

Daniel Foley, a new wildland firefighter assigned to Bly, tragically passed away on July 9th. Jacquie Buchanan, Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region, said, "Dan tragically passed away yesterday following a routine firefighter preparedness activity.

Words cannot express the depth of this loss. Losing even one life is a tragedy, and Dan's passing, especially so soon after our Week of Remembrance for fallen firefighters, hits me hard. Dan was a first-year wildland firefighter, just 27 years old. He leaves a profound void within the wildland firefighter community and at the Bly Ranger District."

Members of the Forest Leadership Team and other Forest staff had two opportunities recently to see new technology in action: Earth Force, a non-profit organization that uses vehicle-mounted LiDAR to measure distance, spacing, density, and basal diameter of trees while driving through a plot, and Burnbot,

a bay-area corporation that provides fuel management services through the use of two types of robots; one which macerates vegetation while minimally impacting the soil and environment, and one which can create a 'black line' around an area by burning, then extinguishing, vegetation as it drives over.

This year, the Fremont-Winema and partners are seeing a bumper crop of Ponderosa pine cones in South-Central Oregon. As a result, Forest staff members are working with American Forests, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Patriot Restoration, and the International Conservation Foundation to organize the largest cone collection effort in which the Forest Service has been involved.

With hundreds of thousands of acres burned on the Forest in the past five years, the need for seed is high; however, the Forest Service doesn't have all the required personnel to harvest cones. Partners in the public and private sectors, working with the Forest Service, are acting as force multipliers to allow for a large, coordinated workforce, which should enable the effective collection of seeds to support the reforestation of burned areas.

Benjamin Wilson is the Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Forest Service.



A band of the Klamath People lived in settlements along the Williamson River and on the edges of the Klamath Marsh. In late summer, they gathered wocus seeds in the open waters of the Marsh

2025 Klamath Tribes Election

The Klamath Tribes' nominations for Tribal Council and Chief Judge

Positions will be held in February 2025.

Per the Klamath Tribes Election Ordinance, if you wish to be nominated and accept that nomination for placement on the election ballot, you must be present at the February General Council meeting and accept your nomination, in writing, before the adjournment of that meeting.

Per the Klamath Court Ordinance, the Chief Judge process for placement on the ballot is as follows: Any person who is certified by the Tribal Council as meeting the judicial qualification requirements of this Ordinance shall be eligible to be placed on an election ballot of the Klamath Tribes or be otherwise nominated to fill a vacancy on the Tribal Courts. Requests for certification from the Tribal Council shall be made in writing on the forms provided by the Tribal Council and submitted no later than the second Tuesday of January before the judicial election.

Please make sure that your mailing address is current with the Member Benefits Department as ballots will be mailed to those addresses on file.

For more information on the Election Process, contact Kathy Rich, Election Clerk at 541-783-2219, ext. 101.

Klamath Tribes Child Support Enforcement

Located in the Judicial Building at
35601 South Chiloquin Road
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 Klamath Tribal members:

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

Local Office for:
Payment Services
Customer Service
Notary Services

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

Chance Rush

From page 5

that we're bringing it to life. They're bringing it to life because they're putting things on social media. They're making things happen. They're creating things, so I think there's a lot of creativity here. Obviously, every community is going to have their setbacks, but I think we're, heading in the right direction, and we're going in a good place. I said in my message earlier, we've got to be real about things, you know, like be in your lane, grow in your lane, strengthen your lane, and

share your lane. I think we're heading to some good places.

Lastly, in the world of movie acting, some big inroads are being made. There are Indigenous actors, you be-ing one of them. Do you see a lot of growth potential that can happen, that will happen both in the stories they tell and the actors from the Indigenous community?

I do. I think what we have to now rely on is Native producers, Native writers, Native productions. You know, it got hot there with the second with Reservation Dogs and Killers of the Flower Moon and Fancy Dance and now

Res Hoops. I think we have to keep the movement going. As Native producers, directors, writers, and actors, we can't wait on Hollywood. We've got to go and keep pushing content. I think that's what's going to continue to open up doors for us. We had some pretty big steps in the best comedy to me in the nation, in Reservation Dogs and one of the most powerful films in Killers of the Flower Moon. We made some big strides, and we got some great leadership leading the way. We have an Academy Award winner. We have actors that are in major productions now, so we have to continue to keep moving.

I do. I act full-time now, and I'm taking little steps, but I'm growing. I'm getting better. I'm learning. You got to learn about something that you want to invest in. And I'm learning that as an actor who's just been acting now for, you know, a little over three years, it's a lot of work, but you've got to go toward it.

So, you've got two careers going now: your social work and motivational speaking and your full-time acting.

I believe being a social worker can help you be a good coach, good leader, and good speaker. And I'm also a pastor, and I'm also a podcaster, and I do live streams every

Sunday night, so I'm excited.

What's your podcast about?

It's called "Chance with Greatness," and it's just like spiritual Sunday night, spiritual and leadership.

You like to talk.

I think so. That ADHD helped me somewhere.

All right, well, thanks a lot!

Yeah, I appreciate you, man. Thanks for letting me think about this stuff, too.

Small Business News

Take your business to new heights

By Estella Woodley

Dear Valued Business Owner, are you ready to take your business to new heights? The KCC Small Business Development Center invites you to join our Small Business Management Program (SBM). This program is designed to equip you with the tools and knowledge necessary to not only survive but thrive in today's competitive marketplace.

Let's work together to unlock your business's full potential.

Program Overview

Designed for established businesses with a solid foundation, our SBM program offers a comprehensive approach to business management. Through a unique blend of classroom learning, one-on-one coaching, and peer networking, you'll gain the tools and knowledge to elevate your business to new heights.

- **Classroom Learning:** Immerse yourself in essential business topics, including:
 - **Strategy & Planning**
 - **Cybersecurity Best Practices**
 - **Finance & Accounting for Decision Making**
 - **Leadership Skills for Great Customer Service**
 - **Introduction to the Theory of Constraints**
 - **One-on-One Coaching:** Receive personalized guidance from a dedicated business advisor who will help you set and achieve your goals.
 - **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with other business owners, build relationships, and exchange ideas.

Program Benefits

- **Expert Guidance:** Learn from seasoned professionals who understand the challenges and opportunities facing small businesses.
- **Increased Profitability:** Gain the skills and knowledge to improve efficiency,

reduce costs, and increase revenue.

- **Personal and Professional Growth:** Develop your leadership abilities and expand your business network.

Program Requirements

To qualify for the SBM program, you must have:

- Filed at least two years of business taxes
- An existing business where you can apply what you learn

Time Commitment

The SBM program requires a significant time commitment of 510 per year or approximately 10 hours per week. This includes classroom sessions, one-on-one coaching, and dedicated time for implementing new strategies within your business (Three hours each month is spent in class; at least two hours each month is spent in advising; and 465 -hours applying your learning to your business).

What Our Clients Say

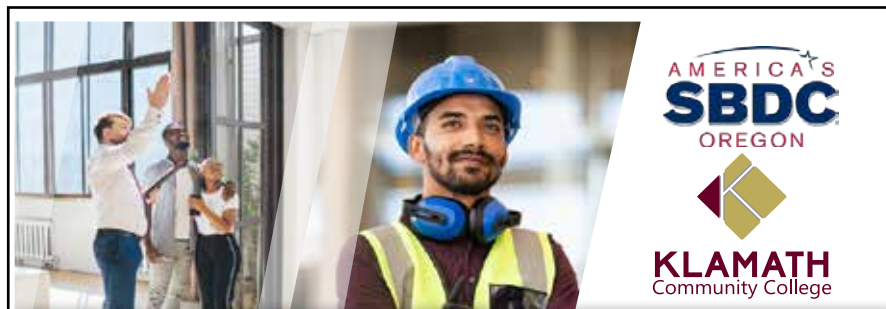
"The SBM program helped me tremendously. It helped me understand how to better operate my business, from knowing how to market correctly to knowing how to find the leaks in my day-to-day operations. This program is great for entrepreneurs and managers alike who continue to strive for better output from themselves and their respected fields. I also enjoyed connecting with other local business owners who seem to share the same circumstances as I do, which further gave me input on how to solve issues or continue the momentum we've built. 100% recommended!"

— *Rigoberto Cisneros, Owner, Girasol Family Mexican Restaurant & Cantina*

Invest in your business's future with the KCC SBM I program. Our experienced team is committed to your success. Let us help you achieve your business goals. To learn more or to enroll, contact us at (541)205-5404 or us at SBDC@Klamathcc.edu. We look forward to supporting

your business journey. We only have room for a limited number for businesses, so don't delay!

Estella Woodley is the Director of the Klamath Falls Small Business Development Center.



Construction Contractors Board Prep Course and Exam (available in English and Spanish)

This two-day class will help students prep for and take the CCB exam required for initial contractor certification in Oregon.

Smart Start-Up (In-Person and Zoom formats) (available in English and Spanish)

This two-hour workshop will cover all the basic steps ANY small business needs to do to get up and running. After this class free business advising with experienced advisors is offered.

Hiring Your First Employee

Need to hire your first employee but not sure where to start? This two-hour beginner-friendly course will help you navigate the rules and regulations governing the hiring process in Oregon.

Find out more and register at:

www.OregonSBDC.org/Klamath

803 Main Street, Suite 200
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

www.OregonSBDC.org/Klamath

541-205-5404

Oregon Small Business Development Centers are funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, and by the Oregon Business Development Department. Programs and services are provided to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.



Contact Estella Woodley, 803 Main St., Suite 200, Klamath Falls, OR 97601.

Klamath Tribes welcome return of salmon and free-flowing Klamath River now that all four dams have been removed

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

The removal of four Klamath River dams, the largest dam removal in U.S. history, was completed at the end of August ahead of schedule. The breaching of the John C. Boyle dam on Tuesday, July 30, marked a historic achievement as the removal of the four dams on the Klamath River, including Copco 1, Copco 2, and Iron Gate, were nearing completion. The \$450 million project strives to restore the river and its ecosystem to its pre-dam condition with a focus on returning salmon, Chinook, and coho.

If the reintroduction of salmon is successful, it will

once again provide an ancestral food source to the tribal communities that relied on the annual fish returns in the river as one of their first foods.

The Klamath Tribes voiced the need for the dam removals for decades, and now that the project is nearing completion, Klamath tribal leadership and employees in the Natural Resources and Ambodat Departments are working with various state and federal agencies and the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, which is overseeing the project, to assist in the many restoration projects such as revegetation, wetland restoration and the reintroduction of salmon.

“Today, for The Klamath Tribes, marks another culturally significant accomplishment with the breaching of the JC

Boyle Dam, which helps further the eventual return of the c’iyaal’s (salmon), taken away from the Tribes in 1907,” said Klamath Tribes Chairman William Ray, Jr. “The Tribal Nation gives Sepk’eeçà (Thanks) to our Creator, the Lower River Tribes, the Dam Removal Advocates, Collaborators, and all the Personnel who have performed such an instrumental job in making the Klamath River, a natural, free-flowing River again!”

Revegetation work along the river was halted this summer but will resume in the fall. The work to revegetate the banks of the river will involve more than 17 billion seeds of native plants that were collected and

propagated in preparation for the multi-year seeding project. Restoration work is also underway for the Upper Klamath Lake, Sprague and Williamson Rivers, and Upper Klamath Lake tributaries, which will benefit the endangered c’waam and koptu suckers. The Klamath Tribes are directly involved with many restoration projects on the Sprague and Williamson Rivers.

“We have much more essential restoration work to complete on the Upper Klamath Basin headwaters, watershed, wetlands, and riparian areas to produce cold, clean, clear water in order to support all fisheries, aquatic species, subsistence, and medicinal plants and roots all critically important to continue supporting the

Tribes Culture and Traditional lifeways,” Chairman Ray Jr. said.

The Klamath Tribes, along with the Yurok and Karuk Tribes, are working together to reintroduce salmon and assisting directly with the restoration work of the 250-mile Klamath River. The goal is to restore the river and land around it in the Klamath Basin to benefit not only the regional tribal communities but also non-tribal communities that rely on the river and Basin for their livelihoods and recreation.

“Ecologically, salmon are a keystone species that have a disproportionately large effect on its natural environment, affecting many other organisms in the ecosystem in a positive way,” said Klamath Tribes Ambodat Director Mark Buettner.

Budding dentists in action at OHSU School of Dentistry

By Ronda Morin
Special to the Klamath Tribes News

Young people draped in yellow scrubs, face masks, and bright blue gloves bent over a table, a pair of hemostats wedged between their fingers. They quietly and intently threaded the thick and pliable skin of bananas stitch after stitch.

That was one of the dozens of scenes captured during Dental Week, July 8-12, when 16 current high school students and recent graduates from across Oregon were at the School of Dentistry exploring what a career in oral health care would be like.

Suturing the banana skin was a highlight for the young adults. “We sutured in the shape of Ws,” said Logan Ajifu-Santos, a Parkrose High School student.

The 10 young women and six men also experimented with waxing a dental model with faculty member Christina Truong, D.M.D. Each student held a probe like a pencil, heated to 250 degrees, and dipped it into a sticky wax before dripping it onto a tooth model. They were building a tooth cusp ridge.

The experiential part of learning can often be the most rewarding and ef-

fective way to hold someone’s interest. That’s why these experiences are baked into Dental Week, a new initiative intended to draw more young people—especially under-served populations—into the profession.

Diverse Backgrounds

The students were from the Klamath Tribes, Klamath Falls, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Jefferson County, Portland, Parkrose and Woodburn school districts. The Klamath Tribes students attending were from Chiloquin High School.

Of the group, 38 percent identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native, 12 percent as Black African American, 26 percent as Latino/Hispanic, 12 percent as multiracial/other than white, and 12 percent as white.

A local clinician, Thien-Y Hoang, D.M.D., from Permanente Dental Associates, opened the week with an overview of oral anatomy and basic dentistry vocabulary, such as occlusal (chewing surface) and dentin (under tooth enamel).

People get their lower front teeth first by age six or seven and the upper front teeth next. Overall, 20 teeth appear within the first year of life. By the time of adulthood, one typically has 32 teeth, according to Hoang.

The program is a collaboration with the OHSU School of Den-

tistry, Permanente Dental Associates, and On Track OHSU! This was the first of what’s expected to be two annual sessions.

On Track OHSU! is a health and science pathways outreach program working to increase the number of middle and high school students from underrepresented backgrounds in the health sciences and Oregon’s biomedical workforce.

Permanente Dental Associates is an accredited partner of Kaiser Permanente Dental, providing comprehensive, quality dental care in Oregon and Southwest Washington for 50 years.

Some expect to be dentists someday, like Osvaldo Legaria, from Woodburn, who will attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall. Others like Diana Santiago, who recently graduated from Woodburn High School, are still exploring possible career tracks. That’s why she was at Dental Week and taking part in other On Track programs.

Leadership

“Find ways to differentiate yourselves,” said Dean Ron Sakaguchi, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., M.B.A., as he offered words of wisdom about the oral health care field. He suggested the students explore research as one option to stand apart. “Take advantage of opportunities that come to you.



Mazama High School students Daniel Tate (left) and Isabella Lester attended the School of Dentistry for high school students and recent graduates. (Photo courtesy of Oregon Health & Science University)

You can never know how what you learn today — like this Dental Week experience could apply to your career.”

Journeys into the field of dentistry can take many forms. Cyrus Lee, D.M.D., CEO and Executive Dental Director of Permanente Dental Associates and an OHSU School of Dentistry alumnus, didn’t have a direct path after college. Instead, he took two years off.

“This time was an opportunity to look at myself and decide what the next chapter would be,” he said.

Lee had done research projects with OHSU while in college and extended that

work while considering dental school. He also tutored immigrant children and taught at an alternative high school. “Make the most of your detours,” said Lee.

Research shows that diversifying the health care workforce leads to better health outcomes. However, a health care workforce shortage is hampering improvement efforts.

Oregon’s current biomedical workforce is not representative of the state’s demographics. Dental Week is an effort to change the current trajectory for dentistry in the state to the benefit of the profession and the community.

Discover Your Path to Pain-Free Living— 100% Covered by your tribal health plan!

- ✓ Are you tired of living with constant pain and discomfort?
- ✓ Are you searching for a solution that addresses the root cause of your physical ailments?



Dr. James Yewchuk

Look no further than Advanced Chiropractic —the answer to your health concerns awaits!

Step into our state-of-the-art facility and experience the difference firsthand. As proud members of the Klamath Tribes, you deserve the very best in healthcare, which is why **we are thrilled to offer you comprehensive services covered 100% under your tribal health plan.**

At Advanced Chiropractic, we don't just treat symptoms—we provide holistic solutions that target the underlying issues contributing to your pain. Our team of skilled chiropractors utilizes a variety of cutting-edge treatments, including:

- Massage therapy
- Ultrasound
- Electric stimulation
- Laser therapy
- Traction decompression
- Exercise rehabilitation

For an appointment and/or more information:



ADVANCED

CHIROPRACTIC, MASSAGE & PHYSICAL THERAPY

readjust your life.

advancedchiroklamathfalls.com

Phone (541) 273-5433

2950 Shasta Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Landfill hearing indefinitely postponed

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

A public hearing initially scheduled for Aug. 27 concerning a proposed regional landfill near the northwest end of the Klamath Rash has been indefinitely postponed. Jeremy Morris, the Klamath County Public Works/Planning Director, stated in an email to the Klamath Tribes News that a phone conference in early August was conducted with the applicant, Don Jensen, and additional information was requested. Four items were requested.

First, a railroad crossing permit. As stated in the email, the existing crossing appeared to be a private crossing, and a new landfill may not fall within the current railroad crossing permit. Second, Lenz Road, a private road that would access the landfill, requires proof of legal access rights for the existing private road for commercial use. “Not to mention ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) may require major improvements such as turn lanes on Highway 97 to make sure the motoring public is safe at the proposed intersection,” cited Morris.

The location of the landfill in a wetland also requires delineations and plans specific to how state-mapped wetlands

will not be impacted (most of the proposed site is covered by wetlands). Furthermore, Klamath Tribal Water Rights must be considered. “Tribal Water Rights; proof that Tribal Water Rights are not being negatively impacted” was a concern cited. “This will be difficult since the project will undoubtedly impact surface water and groundwater,” Morris stated.

Morris said that the Planning Department had not received any of the requested information as of this writing, “so we have indefinitely postponed the Planning Commission Planning Hearing. We will most likely have another phone conference with the applicant in the upcoming weeks.”

The Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department has also been actively involved in the process. Don Gentry, the Natural Resources Specialist, stated,

“We in the Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department are thankful that Klamath County has informed the proponent of additional requirements that must be addressed if the development of a landfill proposed in this sensitive wetland area in the Klamath Marsh is to move forward. It is our position that there are additional risks and impacts that cannot be mitigated that render this proposed location infeasible.”

Oregon Tribal Student Grant

Subject line: Apply Now for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant

Are you an enrolled Oregon tribal member going to college and need money for college for the 2024-2025 academic year? [Apply today](#) for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant! This new grant program is expected to pay for most or all public college-related expenses—including tuition, housing, books, and other costs not covered by other grants—for eligible Oregon tribal students. It can be applied toward undergraduate or graduate study at Oregon public colleges and universities as well as eligible private non-profit institutions, where award amounts can go up to the public institution maximum level, in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. [See eligible Oregon college or universities here](#). After all federal and state grants and scholarships have been applied, the Oregon Tribal Student Grant can be used toward your remaining cost of attendance.

To be eligible for the program students must be an enrolled member of one of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon:

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- The Klamath Tribes

Students must also be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an Oregon college or university and a valid FAFSA or ORSAA for the 2024-2025 academic year. Additional eligibility information can be found on the [Oregon Tribal Student Grant website](#).

OSAC is accepting applications for 2024-2025 and future terms. Students must have a valid 2024-2025 FAFSA or ORSAA and [submit an application](#).

If you have questions or need additional information you can call (541) 509-7624 or email PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov.

The Oregon Tribal Student Grant is an exciting opportunity to get money for college. Apply today!

State provides over \$35 million to support salmon recovery

More than \$3 million directly heading to Klamath Basin for habitat restoration following dam removal

Oregon’s U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden announced today that Oregon, as well as the Klamath Basin, is receiving \$35,148,287 from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), a federal grant program to help restore Pacific salmon and steelhead. “Oregon’s salmon population is critical in sustaining our commercial and recreational fisheries and empowering the well-being and cultural heritage of Tribes who have been here since time immemorial,” Merkley said. “This federal funding

will support the restoration of Oregon’s vibrant salmon runs by repairing and reviving their water habitat. This critical investment moves us one step closer to a healthier ecological future for the region, and I will continue fighting to protect our waterways and fish populations, including our beloved coho salmon.” “Salmon are synonymous with Oregon, and that historic connection to jobs, recreation and natural treasures deserves protecting and enhancing for generations to come,” Wyden said. “This major federal investment in habitat restoration helps to rebuild robust salmon runs for Tribes

and Oregon communities, and I’ll keep battling for similar resources to achieve that objective throughout our state.” Crucially, over \$3 million in federal funds are heading directly to the Klamath Basin to support recovery and restoration efforts for salmon and ongoing Klamath Dam removal efforts. This funding will be distributed between two grant recipients: the Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish and Water Commission (\$2,427,664) and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (\$640,000). Merkley, as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, secured language in fiscal year 2024 government funding

legislation directing NOAA to provide an update on recovery and restoration efforts for coho salmon and related salmonids in the Klamath Basin, as well as an investment strategy. He has also used his role on the powerful committee to secure robust funding for the protection, conservation, and restoration of salmon and steelhead species for Western states and Tribes via federal programs such as the PCSRF. Created in 2000, the PCSRF is designed to address declining Pacific salmon and steelhead populations by supporting conservation efforts in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska.

The program is essential to preventing the extinction of the 28 listed salmon and steelhead species on the West Coast. This latest PCSRF funding for Oregon was also supported by the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. A full list of the PCSRF grants heading to Oregon—as well as the Klamath Basin include the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: \$22,250,000; Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission: \$6,862,160; Coquille Indian Tribe: \$3,608,463, and the Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish and Water Commission: \$2,427,664.

High Desert Museum Launches Indigenous Speakers Series to Celebrate Native Cultures and Knowledge

The High Desert Museum is set to unveil a brand-new event series, the Indigenous Speakers Series, promising a vibrant showcase of Indigenous voices. The Indigenous Speakers Series will feature an array of Native artists, storytellers, scholars, and more, providing the community with unique opportunities to engage with Indigenous perspectives.

“We are honored to collaborate with Indigenous knowledge holders to bring these vital conversations to our visitors,” said Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D., executive director of the High Desert Museum. “These speakers bring a wealth of knowledge that is sure to invite dialogue and offer a deeper understanding of cultures of the High Desert.” One of the Indigenous Speaker Series events — “Stories are Good Medicine” on Sunday, Oct. 6 — features New York Times bestselling author Angeline Boulley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). Renowned for her acclaimed novels “Warrior Girl Unearthed” and “Firekeeper’s Daughter,” Boulley will share her 38-year journey to publication and discuss the profound impact of Indigenous storytelling. Tickets are \$15,



Charlene “Tillie” Moody (Warm Springs) attends the opening of Sensing Sasquatch in March. She will be at the Artist Mingle on Sept. 13. (Photo by Bill Jorgens)



New York Times bestselling author Angeline Boulley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) (Photo by Marcella Hadden)

with a 20 percent discount for Museum members and free entry for Tribal members. To purchase tickets and find more details, visit highdesertmuseum.org/stories-good-medicine. The “Sensing Sasquatch Artist Mingle” — another Indigenous Speakers Series event happening Friday, September 13 — offers an informal setting with a chance to meet and mingle with the Native artists behind the Museum’s Sensing Sasquatch exhibition. Guests will chat with the exhibition’s creators, delve into interactive sensory experiences, and gain insights into the artists’ interpretations of their encounters with this non-human other. Tickets are \$10 per person, with a 20 percent discount for Museum members and free entry for tribal members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit highdesertmuseum.org/sasquatch-mingle.

On Wednesday, November 6, the Museum will host “Tribal Sovereignty & Water Rights: The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Ongoing Relationship with Place.” During this Indigenous Speakers Series event, Bobby Brunoe, CEO and Secretary/Treasurer for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Josh Newton, Partner at BBK Law, will explore the complexities of tribal sovereignty and water rights. This important discussion will highlight the crucial role of water to the Tribes and their ongoing efforts to assert their rights. Tickets are \$5, with a 20 percent discount for Museum members and free entry for Tribal members. For tickets, visit highdesertmuseum.org/tribal-sovereignty. The Indigenous Speakers

Series is made possible by The Roundhouse Foundation, with additional support from Author’s Unbound for the October event. To continue to engage with Indigenous cultures and perspectives with the High Desert Museum, visitors can explore the Sensing Sasquatch exhibition on view through Jan. 12, 2025, and look forward to the upcoming exhibition Rick Bartow: Animal Kinship, from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation opening Sept. 20, 2024. Renowned artist Rick Bartow (Mad River Band of the Wiyot Tribe, d. 2016) was born in Newport, Oregon, where his family’s roots run deep, and grew up with close ties to the Siletz community. For more information and to purchase tickets for Indigenous Speakers Series events, visit highdesertmuseum.org/indigenous-speakers-series.

ABOUT THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM:

The HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in Bend, Oregon in 1982. It brings together wildlife, cultures, art, history, and the natural world to convey the wonder of North America’s High Desert. The Museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is a Smithsonian Affiliate, was the 2019 recipient of the Western Museums Association’s Charles Redd Award for Exhibition Excellence, and was a 2021 recipient of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. To learn more, visit highdesertmuseum.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Glass artist Kana Tanaka's suspended c'waam, koptu, and salmon display in Boivin Hall was completed at the end of July at the Oregon Institute of Technology. OIT and Art in Public Places/Oregon Arts Commission selected Tanaka to create an art commission at OIT's newly renovated Boivin Hall. Tanaka said her project will represent our fish relatives, koptu, c'waam, and chiyaals. She visited the Klamath Tribes this past winter and met with Ambodat and Public Relations departments and previous Chair. She publicly presented her project to the Tribal Council.

"In the project "Shoal of Returning Hope", I aim to visually represent the hope the Klamath Basin community has held for many years," Tanaka said.

The installation consists of shining salmon-like glass pieces suspended in midair within Boivin Hall, anticipating the ecological recovery of the Klamath River after the removal of four dams in 2024 on the

Oregon-California border, in the country's largest-ever dam removal project.

"Inspired by Coho and Chinook salmon, which change their body color during their journey upstream, I use dichroic glass to create a spectrum of colors, symbolizing the transformative journey of the salmon and the resilience of the river," she said.

Additionally, the sacred and endangered local fish of the Klamath Tribes, c'waam, and koptu, are represented in the installation, reflecting the cultural significance and hope for their preservation.

The installation layout is inspired by the Klamath Basin, the Pacific Ocean, and the broader region. It guides the visual narrative of the fish swimming from the lower (southwest) to the higher (northeast) points. Tanaka explained that a central gray beam symbolizes a dam that salmon must overcome, echoing the community's hope for the river's future.

Crowned 2024-2025 Miss Indian Northwest winner, Leilonnie Wilson, of the Klamath Tribes.



The Miss Indian Northwest pageant is the oldest Native American pageant to represent all Pacific Northwest tribes since 1969 — traditionally the Northwest's largest and most prestigious elite cultural title for young Native Women.

Leilonnie, Miss Indian Northwest 2024-2025 was crowned during the annual City of Roses Delta Park Powwow 2024, over the weekend in Portland, Oregon. As Miss Indian Northwest, she will be a role model to young and old, help to educate and demonstrate the grace, beauty and diversity of Native American Culture, and represent the "Miss Indian Northwest program" throughout her travels across the Northwest etc. *She was one of nine girls competing for the prestigious title.

She was crowned during the Delta Park Powwow, originally founded by Klamath Tribal Elder, Barbara Alatorre - Urban Mukluks Leader.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

NEW KCC DEGREE PROGRAM

SIMULATION LAB

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

HANDS-ON PRACTICE

 **KLAMATH**
Community College
EDUCATION AT THE SPEED OF LIFE

ENROLL TODAY!
WWW.KLAMATHCC.EDU/APPLY

The Klamath Tribes unite in vision of collective healing

By Kayce Womack
Klamath Tribes News

On June 29, the Klamath Tribal community was shaken by the horrific murders of two teenage sisters, resulting in both ripples of sorrow and calls to action. The incident happened in Klamath Falls, Saturday morning on June 29, causing Tashka Qualls to experience the devastating death of his two daughters, Zion and Aleeka Qualls, 14 and 19 years of age, both Klamath Tribal descendants. The murder suspect, 20-year-old Elijah Albert Qinkade Croy, faces multiple charges, including two counts of first-degree murder.

The murder of the sisters sparked immediate action from the Klamath Tribes and other community organizations. Tayas Yawks, a local grassroots organization founded by sisters' great-grandparents, offered grief support groups on July 1 and 2. On July 3, Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services (KTH&FS)

hosted a grief and loss support group in Klamath Falls. Then, on July 7, doves gathered near the Klamath County Courthouse, spilling from the sidewalk and onto Main Street, for the sisters' candlelight vigil.

At the July 3 grief and loss group, a wave of shared sentiment moved throughout the room of approximately 20 participants. The group included Klamath Tribes Council members, Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services and Klamath Tribal Administration employees, Indigenous elders, and parents with their children.

Klamath Tribes Council Member Les Anderson, grandfather to the sisters, told those at the grief and loss group that his son Tashka "wants to help shed a light on the hurt in the community." The recent murders are part of a larger issue requiring greater efforts to expose the higher rates of violence perpetrated on Indigenous people and greater prevention efforts to reduce future acts of violence.

"What has happened to our two girls is a catalyst for change," said Klamath Tribes Council Member Natalie Ball.



A grief and loss support group mourned the murder of Aleeka, 19, (left) and Zion, 14, Qualls.

Discussions during the grief and loss group centered on increasing awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) nationwide movement, finding ways for Tribal members to have continuous grief support resources, and brainstorming ideas to help prevent violence against Indigenous people.

Klamath Tribes Chairman William E. Ray, Jr stated that the recent incident "affects all of us because we're so interrelated."

The MMIP movement started due to Indigenous girls experiencing higher rates of violence and the crimes not being appropriately or adequately addressed. The movement originally centered on female vic-

tims, then later began including Two-Spirit people, and now encompasses all Indigenous people, as males also experience higher rates of violence.

The Klamath Tribes are closely tied to the MMIP movement as several members have experienced direct or indirect involvement in some form. Each year, the Klamath Tribes participates in MMIP awareness events to support the community. Historically and presently, the tribe is a collectivist society, meaning when one family experiences a loss, it impacts the entire group. The opposite is also so, whereas the wellness of the tribe, as a whole, increases when individual members receive support

in their health and healing.

Past Klamath Tribes Chairman Marvin Garcia discussed the correlation between practicing culture and greater health. "We've assimilated in a lot of different ways that aren't all healthy," he said. "We need to disseminate this and live differently."

Both Garcia and Council Member Ellsworth Lang described culture as an imperative component of teaching new generations. "Stand up and say who you are and be who you are," Garcia said.

"As a group, we can be so much stronger if we unite and be as one," said Susan Lawlor, Tribal Health Director of Behavioral Health.



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!

Governor Kotek and the First Lady spend a full day with the Klamath Tribes



Oregon Governor Tina Kotek cuts the ribbon with Klamath Tribal Chairman William Ray Jr. at Melita's Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony July 31.

(Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

Oregon Governor Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson visited the Klamath Tribes on Wednesday, July 31, and attended a full day of tribal events.

The early morning agenda began at 9 a.m. with a buffet breakfast at the Goos Olgi Gowa Community room in Chiloquin. Before breakfast, children from the Klamath Tribes Early Childhood Development Center sang a series of songs for the Governor and First Lady. Following breakfast, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the newly remodeled Melita's Hotel, which now serves Klamath Tribal

elders offering transitional housing. A history of the project was presented by The Klamath Tribes General Manager George Lopez. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Governor and First Lady were presented with gifts and then entertained by the Klamath Tribes Drum Youth Council. The governor also toured the housing facility, which offers furnished one-bedroom and studio rooms.

A catered lunch was provided after the ceremony at Goos Olgi Gowa, and two PowerPoint presentations were delivered by Danita Herrera, Judicial Director for the Klamath Tribes, offering an emotional overview of Murdered and Missing Indigenous People, and then Susan Lawlor, Behavioral Health Director for the Klamath Tribal Youth

and Family Guidance Center, gave an in-depth OPIOID presentation on the impact the drug has had on Native Americans and their communities.

The Governor and First Lady then traveled to the Wood River Wetland in Chiloquin, where they heard from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Manager, who covered various topics about the Wood River Wetland and restoration project, the history of the area, and offered a review of the unique species that inhabit the wetland, including the endangered c'waam and koptu suckers, bull and red-band trout, and the spotted frog.

Representatives from the Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department and Ambodat Department completed the Wood River Wetland pre-

sentation with discussion on the work the Klamath Tribes have been involved in with wetlands restoration and offered an overview of tribal knowledge of the Wood River and its importance historically to the Klamath Tribes as an ecosystem that once sustained them as a source of food from wocus and fish like the suckers, which were once plentiful in the wetland before the arrival of settlers and the onset of agricultural businesses and ranches.

Klamath Tribal Chairman William Ray Jr. stated, "The Klamath Tribes welcomed Governor Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson to meet as two sovereigns on a government-to-government basis to raise the level of understanding concerning how the

Tribes' aboriginal rights have been and are being adversely impacted, which erodes the viability and sustainability to exercising and practicing our culture and heritage. We are hopeful that Governor Kotek's government-to-government consultation processes will be implemented throughout state government, agencies and employees. The Tribes were honored to host Governor Kotek and the First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson in our homelands and look forward to future consultations; we deeply appreciate and Sepk'eeçà. Thank you for listening to all the issues the Tribes are facing."

The Governor and First Lady ended the evening at the Klamato-Ya Casino for dinner with the Klamath Tribal Council.

Chiloquin Youth Bike Program Awarded \$110,000 Grant from CATENA Foundation

Chiloquin Visions in Progress (CVIP) is excited to announce that the Chiloquin Youth Bike Program has been awarded a substantial \$110,000 grant from the CATENA Foundation. This generous funding will enhance the program's efforts to renew and expand its bike fleet, improve biking infrastructure, and establish a structured support system for the youth bike programs.

The Chiloquin Youth Bike Program, affectionately known as "Bike Club," was initiated in 2021 under the direction of Hannah Levine and Richard La China, with

initial funding from local business Ninja Mountain Bike Performance. Both six-year residents of Chiloquin, Hannah, and Richard, are certified mountain bike instructors who are passionate about getting kids on bikes. Richard is the founder of Ninja Mountain Bike Performance, and Hannah serves as the company's Captain of Global Development.

Since the Chiloquin Bike Club's inception, the program has achieved significant milestones, including:

- Acquiring 50 strider bikes for Chiloquin Elementary School.
- Teaching kindergarten

and 1st graders how to ride a bike during PE class.

- Establishing an after-school bike club for students in grades 2 through 12.
- Organizing annual elementary biking field trips.
- Constructing a bike track at Chiloquin Elementary School.
- Building the new Chiloquin Bike Park.
- Participating in community events like the Bike Rodeo at the Chi-Town Family Festival and the 4th of July Parade with over 30 kids.

Grant funds will be directed toward three primary areas:

1. Renewing and expanding the bike fleet and equipment.

2. Enhancing trail features at both the Chiloquin Bike Park and the Chiloquin Elementary Bike Playground.
3. Hiring paid staff to support the program and ensure its longevity.

"We are incredibly grateful to the CATENA Foundation for their generous support," said Hannah Levine, Program Co-Founder & Manager. "This grant will enable us to make biking more accessible and safe for the youth in our community, encouraging healthier lifestyles, improving access to safe biking trails, and fostering stronger community bonds."

The Klamath Tribes News
Website

Read current news,

Listen to
podcasts, and much more.

Go to
klamathtribesnews.org

We welcome your feedback

Email us :

news@klamathtribes.com

Forest Service implements annual temporary closure of Huckleberry Mountain to honor tribal tradition

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest issued a temporary area closure on Huckleberry Mountain, including Huckleberry Campground and the surrounding area, for tribal ceremonial purposes. The Klamath Tribes, with support from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, requested the closure for traditional and cultural use.

The temporary closure will be implemented once per year for approximately ten days within a six-week period spanning between Aug. 1 and Sept. 15. The closure period will vary from year to year. This year, the closure began on Aug. 16 and ended on Aug. 26.

The Forest Service issued the following statement regarding the closure, "Under the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Leadership, the intention of this closure order is to uphold and honor the request from our tribal counterparts as Trustees and acknowledging the government-to-government relationship. This event allows allocated space to honor ceremony that celebrates the relationship tribal peoples have with their ancestral lands in time-immemorial and first foods. The Forest, Region and Agency actively practice

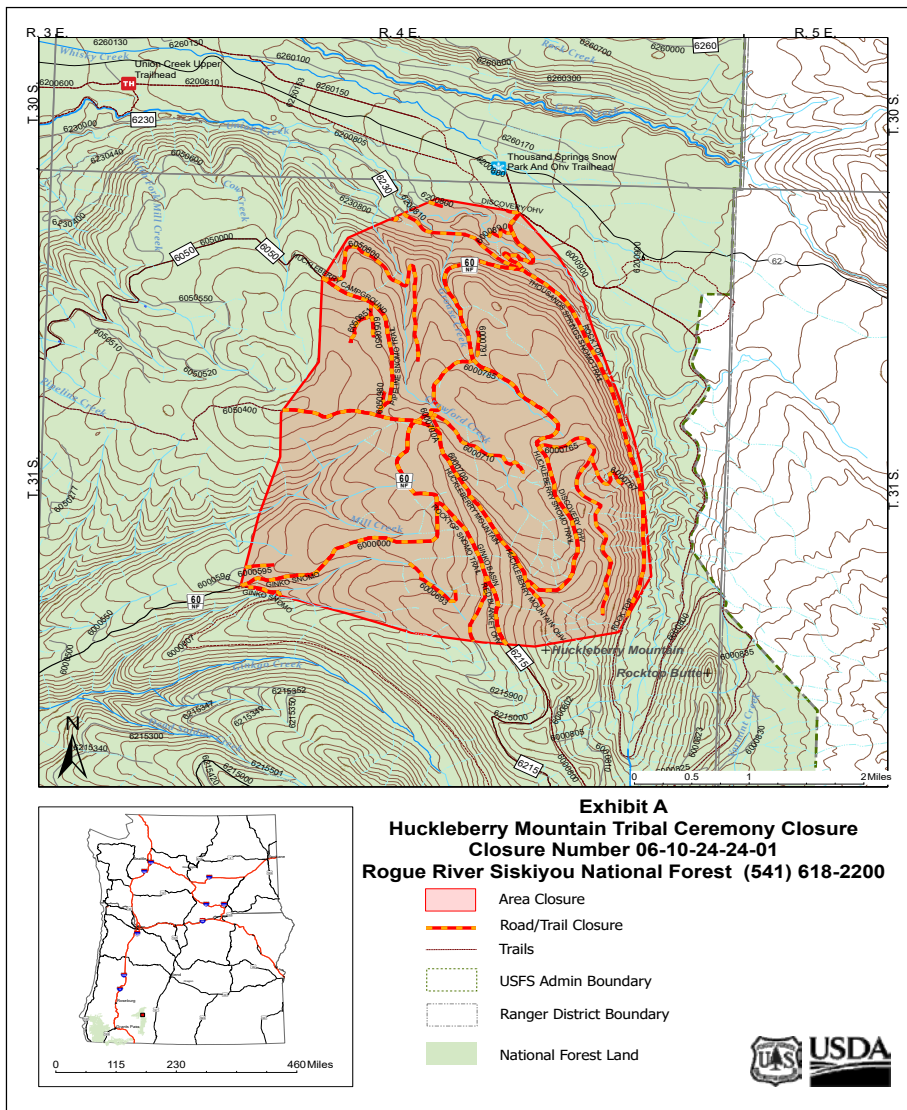
their support by celebrating this relationship along-side the sovereign nation of The Klamath Tribes and show reciprocity through the organization and planning of this closure."

"It's been a long time in making this happen through good coordination efforts between the Klamath Tribe and the Forest Service," said Tribal Council Member-at-Large Les Anderson. "It's great that we're now able to put something together to bloom. We hope this to be a successful event and look forward to working together in future years."

The closure exempts those with a specific authorizing permit, any organized rescue or fire fighting force performing official duty, and any member of the Klamath Tribes or those invited by the Klamath Tribes to participate in ceremonial activities.

Closure notices and road closure signs will be posted in the affected areas. A map provided identifies nearby alternative huckleberry picking and dispersed camping areas.

"By implementing this closure, we are recognizing and celebrating tribal ceremony for our local indigenous tribes," said Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor Molly Juillerat.





KLA-MO-YA CASINO & HOTEL

888.552.6692 • klamoyacasino.com

SLOTS • FOOD • HOTEL • FUN



FORTUNE FRENZY

FRIDAY DRAWINGS

SEPTEMBER 6-27 • 6PM-9PM

WIN UP TO \$500 CASH!

Beginning Sunday, September 1 at 8am, earn one drawing entry for every 10 points. Drawings every half hour.

FALL-IN FREE PLAY

THURSDAY SLOT TOURNAMENTS

SEPTEMBER 5-26 • 4PM-8PM

WIN UP TO \$500 FREE PLAY!

Buy-In Tournament for \$10. Rebuys \$5 (up to two times). Top seven scores win a prize.

WEEKEND WINNERS WHEEL

SUNDAY HOT SEATS

SEPTEMBER 8-29

1PM-5PM

WIN UP TO \$200 CASH!

Winners will spin the Prize Wheel to determine prize. Drawings every half hour.

CAMO DAYS

SATURDAY KIOSK

SEPTEMBER 14-28 • 11AM-7PM

Earn 75 points, go to the kiosk and swipe your card to receive a prize voucher.



September 14:
Canyon Wall Vest



September 21:
Rockford Jacket w/Hood



September 28:
Loma Vista Jacket

May only redeem once per day. While supplies and stock last.

LOOK FOR WICKED WINNINGS ALL MONTH LONG IN OCTOBER!

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 • 7PM-9PM

Scariest Costume: \$500 Cash
 Most Original Costume: \$500 Cash
 Best Pair: \$500 Cash Each (\$1,000 total)
 Best Overall Costume: \$1,500 Cash

Registration begins at 6:30pm at Casino Club. All contestants must be registered by 7:30pm. Contestants must abide by rules of contest. Prizes will be awarded. Contestants must be a Bonus Club member.

Tribal Member High School Graduates



Lila Ruby Barney

Lila Ruby Barney graduated from North Eugene High School in June 2024. She is the daughter of Nicole Barney and Bull Parazoo Sanders, and the late Chase Tague. Her grandparents are Norm and Geneva Barney and Linda Robinson. Lila is a Klamath descendant and a Bishop Paiute Tribal member. After spending the summer with her Pop and Gram, Lila will attend Klamath Community College and plans to pursue a career as a mental health therapist specializing in art therapy.

We are incredibly proud of Lila and her accomplishments. Her dedication, hard work, kind heart, and commitment to her education have been truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing all the great things she will achieve in the future.

Triston Leach

Triston Leach, an enrolled Klamath tribal member, graduated from Mazama High School. Throughout all four years of high school, Triston was recognized as a scholar-athlete. He has received a scholarship and will attend Oregon State University in the fall. He wishes to pursue an education in Kinesiology and work with student-athletes.

Triston's parents, Christy and Billy David, are so proud to have another one of their children join the Beaver Nation!



Naima Angelita Head

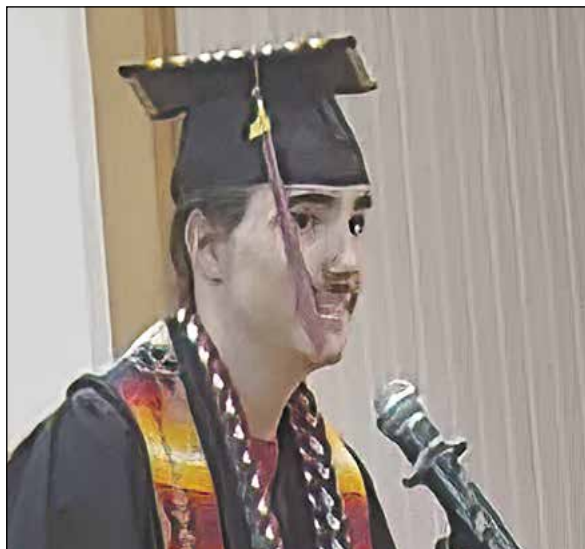
I am currently 18 years old and an enrolled Klamath Tribes member. My tribal affiliations are Klamath, Modoc, and Paiute. I just graduated from Chiloquin High School in June 2024. For three to four years, I mainly kept myself busy as a three-sport athlete. I played basketball, volleyball,



and softball. I love and enjoy playing basketball the most.

During my senior season, I planned for my next steps after graduation. I am an admitted student at Lane Community College and will start this Fall of 2024. I am interested in the Healthcare field and will work my way up based on my interests.

I have worked as a Summer and College Intern at The Klamath Tribes.



Hunter James Parker

Hello! My name is Hunter James Parker. I graduated from Klamath Learning Center - Klamath Falls City Schools - Klamath Falls, OR, on June 8, 2024.

My mother is Jamie L. Parker. My deceased grandparents are James and Dale Barney, and my deceased great-grandparents are Levi and Nora Barney. My aunt Jodie L. Barney.

I'm 16 years old, in the 10th Grade. I completed 14 1/2 credits in my Freshman School Year 2022/2023 and 10 credits in my Sophomore School Year 2023/2024. Technically, I finished High School in January 2024. My GPA is 3.205. My future plans are to attend Klamath Community College in the upcoming Fall of 2024.

This is one of the goals that was requested by my grandfather, James N. Barney, he asked me to do before he passed away to graduate from High School with a Diploma. He will be gone three years this coming up November 2024. Also, I would like to give a shout out to my mom, I would be here today if she didn't encourage me to go to school and study hard every day. She is my main rock in life! Thanks, Mom!



Malakai Rich

We are delighted to congratulate Malakai Rich, a 2024 graduate of Mazama High School. Malakai, son of JaLisa and the late Nickey Rich Jr., demonstrated exceptional dedication and time management skills throughout his high school career. Notably, he balanced academic responsibilities with part-time retail work, nearing his two-year anniversary, and actively participated in golf and basketball.

Recently, Malakai expanded his professional portfolio by securing a position as a wildland firefighter with The Klamath Tribes. His enthusiasm for staying engaged and driven is truly commendable.

Malakai's future aspirations include joining the military, pursuing a degree in nursing, and ultimately retiring from the military. We are incredibly proud of his accomplishments and wish him continued success in achieving his goals.

Please join us in congratulating Malakai on his outstanding achievements and wishing him well on his future endeavors.

Klamath Tribal member Shuína Skó honored by Klamath County DA; poem on display in courthouse

On May 3, the Klamath Tribes held a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Day gathering at the Klamath Tribes Fitness Center in Chiloquin; the initial presidential proclamation was issued three years prior in 2021. Indigenous spoken word poet and member of the Klamath Tribes, Shuína Skó (Kayce Womack), performed her poem titled “No More Goodbyes” to close the gathering.

The Klamath County District Attorney David Schutt expressed his appreciation to Shuína Skó after the performance and his desire to have the poem displayed at the Klamath County Courthouse. On July 9, Schutt presented Shuína Skó with a framed poster of the “No More Goodbyes” poem, which is identical to the piece now being displayed in the courthouse.

Here is Shuína Skó’s poem:

No More Goodbyes
 if we target the violent
 then the violence will cease
 but if we only focus on victims
 then the vultures will stay circling
 circling our women
 circling our children
 circling our Two-Spirit relations
 salivating with greed
 blood dripping from fingers
 lies braided into every other word they speak
 they be bad Spirits dressed as sheep
 my relative, notice your intuition
 then follow where it guides
 this is our internal medicine
 sensing sickness that hides from our eyes
 this sickness needs to die
 our women, children, and Two-Spirit need to survive
 and we need to fight
 so we as a people who make up
 beautiful, peaceful, and powerful Nations
 can heal, practice our ways, and thrive
 stand up
 show up
 speak up
 for the ones we have yet to find
 and bodies who’ve returned to Mother
 let’s move forward with fists raised high
 no more missing
 no more murdered
 no more goodbyes



Kayce Womack holds up her framed poem. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

QUAIL TRAIL PUBLIC TRANSIT BUS SCHEDULE PLANNING DEPT/TRANSIT PROGRAM

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY	LOCATIONS CHILOQUIN/KLAMATH FALLS SCHEDULE	PICK UP (PU) DROP OFF (DO)	DEPART TIMES	MONDAY THRU FRIDAY	LOCATIONS CHILOQUIN/KLAMATH FALLS SCHEDULE	PICK UP (PU) DROP OFF (DO)	DEPART TIMES
ROUTE 1				Route 4			
Chiloquin	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	PU	5:55am	Chiloquin	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	PU	2:10pm
	502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	PU	5:56am		502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	PU	2:11pm
	202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter	PU	6:00am		202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter	PU	2:15pm
K-Falls	Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station	PU/DO	6:40am		Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	2:25pm
	Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St.	PU/DO	7:00am	K-Falls	Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St.	PU/DO	3:25pm
	<i>2220 Eldorado Ave, KBBH Top Parking Lot*</i>	PU/DO	7:15am		Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station	PU/DO	3:35pm
Chiloquin	Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	7:40am	Chiloquin	Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	4:10pm
	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	DO	7:45am		501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	DO	
ROUTE 2				ROUTE 5			
Chiloquin	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	PU	7:55am	Chiloquin	502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	PU	4:55pm
	502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	PU	7:56am		202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter	PU	4:59pm
	202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter	PU	8:00am		501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	PU	5:05pm
	Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	8:10am		Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	5:15pm
K-Falls	Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station	PU/DO	9:00am	K-Falls	<i>2220 Eldorado Ave, KBBH Top Parking Lot*</i>	PU/DO	5:35pm
	Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St.	PU/DO	9:15am		Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St.	PU/DO	5:50pm
Chiloquin	Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	9:50am		Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station	PU/DO	6:00pm
	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	DO		Chiloquin	Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	6:35pm
	502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	DO			501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	DO	
	202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter	DO			502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	DO	
ROUTE 3				THURSDAY ONLY			
Chiloquin	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	PU	11:10am	LOCATIONS SCHEDULE CHILOQUIN/ BEATTY/KLAMATH FALLS		PICK UP (PU) & DROP OFF (DO)	DEPART TIMES
	502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	PU	11:11am	ROUTE 1			
	202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter	PU	11:15am	Chiloquin	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	PU	9:55am
	Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	11:25am		502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	PU	9:56am
K-Falls	Corner of Pine & 7th Down Town Transfer Station	PU/DO	12:00pm		202 Pioneer St. Bus Shelter	PU	9:57am
	Sherm's Thunderbird Parking Lot/BTS Shelter on Street 1877 Avalon St.	PU/DO	12:15pm	Sprague River	Sprague River Community Center	PU/DO	10:28am
Chiloquin	Kla-Mo-Ya Casino & Hotel (Sleep Inn & Suites)	PU/DO	12:50pm	Beatty	Beatty Community Center, Godowa Springs Rd Bus Shelter	PU/DO	11:00am
	501 Chiloquin Blvd, Tribal Admin Bldg.	DO		K-Falls	Klamath Basin Senior Center 2045 Arthur St.	PU/DO	11:45pm
	502 Charley, Congregate Bus Shelter	DO		K-Falls	Sherm's Thunderbirds Parking Lot	DO	11:55pm
	202 Pioneer St. Park Bus Shelter	DO		ROUTE 2			
<i>*STOPS ONLY IN EARLY MORNING AND EVENING</i>				K-Falls	Sherm's Thunderbirds Parking Lot	PU	3:20pm
STOP AT KLA-MO-YA CASINO WILL BE BY THE SMOKING SHED IN FRONT OF BUILDING				K-Falls	Klamath Basin Senior Center 2045 Arthur St.	PU	3:25pm
BUS RIDES ARE FREE OF CHARGE & RIDERS WILL RECEIVE AN ALL DAY BUS PASS TO RIDE THE BUS IN KLAMATH FALLS				Beatty	Beatty Community Center, Godowa Springs Rd Bus Shelter	DO	4:15pm
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				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

Ag Collaborative

From page 1

Collaborative and started on the Sprague River because the Sprague River has some of the more unique problems.”

Nicholson said it’s a win-win for the ranchers to partner with them because improving the river provides a better water supply while improving the water system’s health. “Ultimately, it’s good for both parties, for all stakeholders, to do the restoration work,” he said. “It’s good for Agriculture; we want the groundwater table to rise to store more water within the system that actually flows later in the summer. We want to create a higher water table so grass can access it through the root system for a longer period of time. And also restore the Sprague for the fisheries at the same time. We want the river to be cooler and cleaner.”

He explained that the Sprague River had been changed by the Army Corp of Engineers during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, making river channels that are straight for miles, changing the natural curves of the river so the water flow is “blasting” through regions where it once wound through at a slower pace. “You need to slow it down,” Nicholson said. “You need to spread it out. So those are the kinds of things that can be done. Obviously, it would cost a lot of money, but the money is there to do it. If we can get a consensus and landowner agreement on it, we will have \$6 million to come up with the design and the agreements themselves. And more will be used for the actual restoration of the tributaries.”

Nicholson explained that the Sprague River has been impacted by water over-allocation, river damming, and a lack of understanding of consequences. The collaboration, he said, emphasizes the importance of conserving water, addressing phosphorus pollution, and taking a comprehensive approach to ecosystem restoration. He stressed the need for a holistic approach to restoring the ecosystem. “I’ve been working on figuring out how to for myself, trying to get water to my ranch for decades,” he said. “So, nothing’s worked. It’s just been a really frustrating



Larry Nicholson at his Fort Klamath Ranch entrance: He is the Upper Klamath Basin Ag Collaborative Executive Director.

effort. And so, we have come to this point where nothing is being done at all, and as I said earlier, there’s a lot of money dedicated to the Upper Klamath Basin to find solutions.

“I decided to try to work with landowners, one-on-one, to come up with ways where we could get both ranch resiliency and the benefits of restoration, and so that’s why I worked with others to start the Upper Klamath Basin Ag Collaborative. We started working with landowners pretty quickly. You know, the opportunity for the BIL money, Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Legislation money, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is given yearly in grants. So, we started creating a coalition.”

He said money is available from multiple agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Forest Service. He said droughts, water restrictions, and water resource stress, which cause strict water usage allocations, are a nationwide problem requiring billions of dollars to restore the systems feeding the water supplies. It’s been a combination of man-made changes to rivers as well as climate change, warmer summers, wildfires like the Bootleg fire, less snowpack, and runoff from agriculture into the rivers that have drastically changed the ecology of river systems as a whole – and there’s less water. “There’s less water today than 50 years ago, even 20 years ago,” Nicholson said.

On a tour of the Sprague River with this reporter, he pointed out the changes in the Sprague River near a ranch.

He pointed out the issue of straightening and channeling the river, which caused it to run faster. “You can see here, it’s very blatant,” he said. “You see no willows. You see nothing shading the river. The sun is beating down on the river throughout the day. So, as you can imagine, it just warms the river.”

In its original state, he added, during the spring, the river was allowed to flow out of its banks, but the diking of the river channelized it, so it no longer flows out. He said that even during the diking, the water would breach the bank in past decades, but that no longer happens due to water loss.

Also contributing to the river’s problems is a loss of riparian vegetation along its banks, which acted as sediment and phosphorus filtration for the system. Sedges, rushes, grass, and especially willows once naturally grew along the banks of the Sprague, providing shade, but they are no longer there, adding to the river’s warming. “The riparian area is that buffer between the uplands and the river itself,” he explained. “And what the riparian area does in the Ag world for restoration, you can have both Ag and restoration, but the riparian area filters out the phosphorus and stuff, and that’s why you need that particular area to prevent phosphorus pollutants from getting into the river itself.

“There was no understanding of what the willows did and the benefit of them or any shading,” he continued. “So, you know, people unknowingly removed willows over the decades. During the Corps of Engineers diking project of the Sprague River, they removed willows. There was just no understanding of what happens when you destroy an ecosystem like that; there was no understanding of the impact there.”

“You know now, as we’re understanding this better, and we’re trying to find that nexus between agriculture and restoration, so we can find benefits for everybody.”

With the current \$6 million allocated for the Sprague River Collaborative Restoration Project, the goal is to restore the river and its tributaries through technical assistance, outreach, and collaboration with state and federal programs. Bill Lehman is the Executive Director of the Klamath Watershed Part-

nership, a role he has been in since 2014. He explained their work implementing restoration on four tributaries and emphasized the importance of incorporating traditional ecological knowledge into restoration efforts to address economic concerns. He offered some background on the organization. “The Klamath Watershed Partnership is the Watershed Council for the Upper Klamath Basin of Oregon. Every major river in Oregon has a watershed council, and we’re partially funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The idea is to assist with watershed projects in our region, and has been in that role since 1997.”

He said Nicholson and Becky Hyde contacted him to organize a group to work on the restoration of the Sprague River, and in February of 2023, they began meeting to apply for money to fund the project. He said the Klamath Watershed Partnership has received \$454,000 to conduct their current work. “There are four primary parts,” he explained. “We’re referring to the Sprague River Collaborative Restoration Project. One of the primary parts is implementing restoration on the Sprague River tributaries, sort of expediting that work. For example, over the years, the US Fish and Wildlife Service had restoration money, and we would occasionally apply for funds to help an individual landowner with a small restoration project. In my case, I think \$334,000 is a portion of the money to work on four different tributaries of the Sprague River. Then, there is a design and monitoring portion.

“For example, we’ve hired an engineer who’s going to look at designs for what improvements all along that Sprague would look like, and a big part of the collaborative is to address some of the economic concerns. So, we’re meeting a lot to talk about different funding mechanisms, through the state, through the Feds, through donations or nonprofit organizations or some sort of legislation to support this work.

“How can we collectively as a group, help those individual landowners get access to that money and maintain their operations? In the last part, once we have a toolbox of different options available, we will do a lot of outreach and

technical assistance to put that work on the ground.”

Of the \$6 million allocated, Lehman said \$2 million is being used for restoration. He said they’ve begun projects restoring tributaries, and Trout Unlimited and the Klamath Watershed Partnership are doing most of that restoration work, working on small creeks and streams adjacent to the Sprague River. And then there’s the design and monitoring of all the engineering associated with that design, and a lot of meetings are being held to determine the best way that they can help landowners, reaching out to the landowners, determining what the best funding mechanisms are, and then the time it takes to do the outreach and help people take advantage of the grant opportunities.

Four streams are currently being worked on by the Klamath Watershed Partnership, including Ish Tish Creek, Badger Creek, and Paradise Creeks, where riparian fencing is being built, and structures in the river are being placed to slow the water down and put the creeks back into their natural channels. “You know, at one time some of those streams and creeks were channelized, and there were levees put up, and we have the opportunity to actually put those back into their natural stream channels,” he said.

The Klamath Tribes, through the Ambodat Department, has been partnering with other entities on the Sprague River Collaborative Restoration Project.

“This project is a high priority for improving the ecological health of the Sprague River, which is habitat for tribal trust species including the c’waam, koptu, redband trout, and potentially salmon in the near future,” said Mark Buettner, Ambodat Director.

He added that the Klamath Tribes have received \$365,000 to monitor water quality in the project area to assess changes in water quality resulting from stream and riparian restoration work and other land use practices implemented as part of the Sprague River Collaborative Restoration Project.

Suspect in double homicide shooting evaluated for mental fitness to stand trial

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

A pretrial hearing for Elijah Croy, 20, the suspect in a double homicide shooting of teenage sisters Aleeka, 19, and Zion, 14, Qualls, was held on Wednesday, Aug. 21, at the Klamath County Circuit Court. Judge Alycia Kersey presided over the hearing as Croy appeared on a monitor screen in the courtroom.

It was decided at the hearing that Croy's arraignment date would be postponed to allow him to be admitted to the Oregon State Hospital. Croy will be evaluated within 30 days to determine his mental fitness to stand trial. The defense had an expert evaluate Croy, and the expert said he may not be able to aid and assist. "The state now has the opportunity to have our experts, who work at the State hospital, evaluate him and reach their own conclusion," stated Klamath County District Attorney David Schutt in an email to the Klamath Tribes News.

At the defense's request, the court entered pleas of not guilty to the charges Croy is facing, including two counts of murder in the first degree with a firearm, attempted murder in the first degree with a firearm in the attempt to cause death to Tashka Qualls, and three counts of unlawful use of a weapon with a firearm.

The courtroom was filled with family and friends of Aleeka and Zion, who were killed in a morning shooting on June 29 at the Qualls' family's residence in Klamath Falls. The sisters were Klamath tribal descendants. "The District Attorney's Office has been maintaining contact with members of the victims' families, and the case and investigation are progressing," Schutt said.



The 8th Annual Klamath Tribes Youth Summit took place Aug. 6, 7 and 8 at Oregon Tech. (Photo courtesy of Natalie Ball)

Bedroom Gallery
[Comfort, Quality and all the Rest...]

VOTED #1 MATTRESS STORE IN KLAMATH COUNTY!

Mention this ad for 5% savings off your next purchase.

1204 MAIN ST | 541.884.2373 | BEDROOMGALLERY.COM

Facebook Instagram

39 YEARS
PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER

JOHN 3:16

VOTED #1 FURNITURE STORE IN KLAMATH COUNTY!

Your local source for all your home furnishing needs

Legacy
FURNITURE

Bring this ad in for a chance to win a free recliner!

3250 WASHBURN WAY | 541.882.3217 | LEGACYFURNITUREUSA.COM

Facebook Instagram

JOHN 3:16

Mule Deer Decline

From page 1

ability of several Indigenous first-foods; c'waam and koptu (Lost River and shortnose sucker) have become endangered; c'iyaa's (salmon) are no longer present in the nearby rivers; commonly gathered plants like wocus (pond lily) and boco (wild celery) have reduced in numbers; and mule deer populations have suffered greatly.

Mule deer, known as baagool in the Klamath and Modoc languages and tehekya in the Yahooskin Snake Paiute language, has been a food source for members of the Klamath Tribes since time immemorial. These deer thrive in open habitats with shrubs, wildflowers, aspen, and conifers, like in counties east of the Cascade Mountain range.

"There's just not as many deer as there once was. It's harder to get them, and I don't see as many big bucks," said Don Gentry, the Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Specialist and Klamath tribal member.

The first severe decline of mule deer correlated with the rapid increase in people in the 1800s. Hunting regulations were established in the 1900s, and the mule deer population began to rise. However, this trend did not last.

Today, mule deer are experiencing their second major decline in population.

Since the 1990s, a wave of new residents once again settled within the ancestral homelands of the Klamath Tribes; Klamath County has experienced over a 20 percent increase in residents, and Deschutes County has had an overwhelming 170-plus percent increase.

With more people comes more foot and vehicle traffic, higher consumption of natural resources, and interspecific competition or competition with other animals for the same geographical space.

However, humans are not the sole contributors to the decline of mule deer as it appears that drastic shifts in climate, wildfires, and increases in predators like wolves also factor into the concern of mule deer.

During the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission monthly meeting held in June at the goos oLgi gowa community room in Chiloquin, Klamath Tribes Chairman William Ray, Jr. stated at the meeting that he is "very



Mule deer buck in rut. (Photo by Mary Williams Hyde)

concerned" and that there are fewer mule deer because their habitats have been disrupted.

"Probably the biggest thing is, our climate is getting drier and hotter, and that's resulting in loss of green forage available to these animals on the landscape," said Dr. Don Whittaker, ODFW Ungulate Species Coordinator, in an interview with the Klamath Tribes News.

"What's happening is it's growing earlier, drying out sooner, and the fall green up is later and later."

The warming climate also brings large landscape-changing fires. "The size, intensity, and magnitude of those fires tend to be increasing with the changes in our moisture cycles and our temperature," said Whittaker.

He also stated that the lower-elevation fires have a more harmful impact on mule deer and do not appear to be going away.

Also speaking in an interview with the Klamath Tribes News, Josh Smith, ODFW Mule Deer Coordinator, said the Klamath mule deer issue is range-wide from Mexico to Canada and from the Cascades through Nebraska. Smith said working together with the Klamath Tribes toward reaching shared goals will help preserve the mule deer species.

Smith explained that mule deer population growth is

a lot slower than the rate of decline. For change to occur, there needs to be consistent growth. "I think an important thing is that all of us collaborate in supporting the directions we need everybody to take on the landscape," Smith stated.

The Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department has worked collaboratively with outside entities and engaged in various efforts to preserve natural resources and improve wildlife habitat.

In 1975, the Klamath Tribes established the Klamath Indian Game Commission (KIGC) allowing the enforcement of hunting regulations for enrolled members or enrolled tribal descendants of the Klamath Tribes.

"If tribal members are following our regulations and killing bucks, we're still hunting in a sustainable way even though the populations are down, said Gentry. "What we really need to do is increase fawn survival to bring the populations back. That's the key thing. Address poaching, and don't be killing the does. So, follow our regulations because it's key to maintaining the populations and giving us an opportunity to build."

How tribal members hunt mule deer has shifted over time. Yet, it remains a traditional practice passed down from generation to generation, gifting countless positive experiences along the way.

As a boy, Gentry would go on hunts with his father, and

as an elder, he would bring his grandson on hunts. His life is full of happy memories of hunting with relatives and community members.

Gentry continues to welcome his young relatives and tribal members on hunts with him; however, these hunting excursions have decreased over time due to fewer deer being available.

"It's just kind of a heartbreaking thing," Gentry said. "People aren't doing it (hunting) anymore; it's just too hard when you spend a lot of effort and don't even get a chance to kill a deer."

Gentry said that when deer populations were higher, he would hunt for his family and other tribal members, such as elders and those unable to hunt. Gentry also recalled hunting for special gatherings like Tribal Council meetings.

This cultural custom of generosity has been imperative to the Klamath Tribes' survival because, as Gentry noted, some members are physically unable to harvest for themselves.

Even with the availability of

her homelands, taught to honor traditional values and beliefs, and passed these on to her children.

She explained that deer is a natural source of nutrition, making it "the healthiest food for us," along with the other first foods. Compared to other red meat, mule deer is a much healthier nutritional option due to being rich in essential amino acids, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, iron, and zinc and less fatty.

Declining mule deer numbers are drastically impacting Indigenous communities that have relied on this lean meat for generations.

The survival of this species is a tribal member issue as it directly impacts the continuation of traditional cultural practices and the ability to exercise treaty rights. It is also a community-wide issue as mule deer play a crucial role in western North American ecosystems.

DeLorme stated that each tribal member can make a

*"If tribal members are following our regulations and killing bucks, we're still hunting in a sustainable way even though the populations are down. What we really need to do is increase fawn survival to bring the populations back."
- Don Gentry*

first foods lessening, sharing resources remains a common application amongst tribal members. This cultural practice reinforces interpersonal relationships, teaches necessary values and skills, and enriches the overall health of the tribe.

Concerns of overexploitation or overconsumption of resources within the tribal community are not a major issue because these are not practiced; any actions not in alignment with environmental conservation and sustainable living go directly against tribal values and traditional ways of being.

While some people hunt for sport, "Natives hunt for sustenance, or subsistence because we're Indigenous to this area," said Camille DeLorme, enrolled Klamath tribal elder and hunter herself.

DeLorme was raised in

positive difference by taking individual responsibility to preserve herds through honoring tradition, following tribal and state laws, and reporting poaching. "Poaching is stealing and is something we should all be on the lookout for," DeLorme stated.

"The majority of hunters are ethical and try doing the right thing," said Smith. He added that efforts should be made to ensure mule deer are available for future generations.

Whittaker stated that everyone can support mule deer by participating in efforts to recover struggling landscapes, being conservative on harvest rates, and giving the deer space. And he offered one important piece of advice, "Don't feed the deer; let them forage and find food naturally."