

Coronavirus – COVID-19

I hope you are all well and staying reasonably occupied during these trying times. The COVID-19 virus has the Tribe in an emergency state that can't be compared to any other.

The Tribe has taken the epidemic very seriously and taken all the precautions to protect the Tribe and our communities. Essential personnel remain on duty in the office/clinic while others remain working at home. Program funds have allowed us to pay employees of the Tribe to be on paid leave.

The clinic remains open but prefers that patients call in to receive advice before going to the clinic. They are taking all precautions to protect patients.

The Tribe has not had any confirmed COVID-19 cases at this time. Lincoln County has a very low rate of cases, however, Washington, Multnomah and Marion counties lead the state in confirmed cases.

The Indian Health Service has provided personal protective equipment and funds to purchase additional supplies dealing with the virus.

Conference and consultation calls have been many to keep Tribes informed of the latest news covering this issue.

With the exception on the Navajo Tribe, other Tribes have not been hit hard with the virus.

Chinook Winds Casino Resort

Chinook Winds was closed in mid-March. All employees were paid for the first two weeks of closure of the casino. Essential staff remain on duty to complete

deep cleaning, repair and replacement, facility enhancement and security duties for the entire facility.

Seven hundred twenty (720) employees have since been furloughed until further notice. On April 15, the golf course re-opened with new rules in place to protect clients. Aces Sports Bar & Grill remains closed at this time.

Plans are being considered for the day when the casino can reopen. That date is unknown.

With the three legislative acts passed by Congress to assist Tribes in dealing with the layoffs and all the bad effects of the virus, no funds have been allocated to assist with the closure of Tribal gaming operations.

Staff and council have been involved in many conference calls and collaboration with the Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and various other state and government organizations.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown holds conference calls with the Oregon Tribes and has been extremely helpful in assisting Tribes through this pandemic.

The White House hosts calls to keep Tribes across the nation informed.

Congressman Kurt Schrader has reached out to our Tribe to determine our status, provide assistance and ask for recommendations for help.

Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have supported Tribal efforts to provide guidance on how the \$8 billion distributed to Tribes under the CARES Act will be allocated. It is not clear at this time how that will happen, but the Treasury should have started to distribute funds as early as April 17. The money must be used to assist in disease-related expenses.

Employment benefits

Filing and receiving unemployment claims has been extremely slow. We were informed that several hundred state employees have been hired to speed up the process, but they are working with an antiquated system.

\$1,200 payment

Several thousand Treasury payments have been processed for folks who have



Delores Pigsley

direct deposit. Some of our membership have reported receiving those payments; hopefully all will get paid as funds are very much needed.

We will keep you informed of any new developments with regards to opening up for business. The news has been very busy keeping all informed.

Stay home, stay healthy.

Notice to members regarding the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 25, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, to keep our membership safe, the May 25, 2020, Memorial Day Ceremony will not be held this year. The decision was not an easy one to make, but during this challenging time the health and welfare of the membership had to be taken into consideration.

Families may still attend to their family gravesites, but we strongly encourage social distancing measures. We want to ensure the membership that the council is doing what is best to keep you safe and healthy.

Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley

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Name: _____

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Change of address: Tribal members – contact the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258; 800-922-1399, ext. 1258; or enrollment@ctsi.nsn.us. All others – call the newspaper office.

Send information to:

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Deadline for the June issue is May 11.

Submission of articles and photos is encouraged.

Please see the Passages Policy on page 20 when submitting items for Passages.



Member of the Native American Journalists Association

Tenas Illahee Childcare Center Board of Directors Vacancies

Résumés are being accepted for the Tenas Illahee Childcare Center Board of Directors. Currently, there are two vacant board positions.

If interested, please submit your résumé to Siletz Tribal Council, c/o Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549.

Vacancies are open until filled.

National Congress of American Indians Call to Artists!

NCAI is holding its 77th Annual Convention & Marketplace on Nov. 8-13, 2020, in Portland, Ore., and is seeking artwork for the conference program cover from local Native artists in the Northwest region.

The artwork will be featured on the program cover with the artist's biography appearing on the back cover and in the marketing email broadcasts. One thousand nine hundred+ copies of the conference program will be printed, providing for broad exposure of the winning submission.

In addition, the winning artist will be offered a complimentary booth at the NCAI Marketplace.

Please submit original art in digital form by July 17, 2020.

If you have any questions, contact Amy Gay, director conferences and events, at 202-466-7767 or agay@ncai.org.

Submit to:

NCAI
 C/O Amy Gay
 1516 P St. NW
 Washington, D.C. 20005

Or agay@ncai.org