



Tribe continues to respond to COVID-19 challenges with help for membership

We're sure that Tribal members are curious about what is happening at the Tribe in response to COVID-19. The numbers in the state of Oregon continue to climb and while this is ever-changing, we continue to monitor these numbers and work hard to keep both staff and Tribal members safe.

Offices remain closed to the public and most staff continues to work remotely while we work on installing safety measures within our Tribal offices for the time when we can bring staff back and, eventually, open back up to the public.

Some of the safety measures include installing air scrubbers in our HVAC systems to continuously clean the air, placing portable units in buildings that do not have centralized systems, installing touchless light switches and faucets, and installing glass barriers to protect staff and the public once we reopen.

We've had questions about the funding we've received from the federal government. The Enrollment and Planning departments recently mailed out a group of surveys to gather information from the membership. Some of the information we are asking for is how the membership has been affected by the pandemic.

We are using this information to help us frame programs and services to meet the needs as expressed in that survey. Early on, we developed several programs to help meet the needs of the membership.

Here is a list of available programs and the applications can be found on the Tribe's website at www.ctsi.nsn.us. If you don't have a printer, please reach out to



Photo by Andy Taylor

Mindy Wyles (left), Shantel Hostler and Fish Martinez (right) show the proper way to wear the Tribe's new 2020 Census masks and stay socially distant. See a close-up photo of the mask on page 2.

the contact person and they will mail or email one to you.

These programs are ongoing and continue to be available to the membership. Where possible, we have widened the eligibility to anywhere in the United States, depending on the funding source.

- Rent Relief – Brett Lane, 541-444-8317, brettl@ctsi.nsn.us; or Kerry Short, 541-444-8310, kerrys@ctsi.nsn.us
- Mortgage Relief – Jeanette Aradoz, 541-444-8316, jeanettea@ctsi.nsn.us; or Casey Godwin, 541-444-8311, caseyg@ctsi.nsn.us

- Energy Assistance – Casey Godwin, 541-444-8311, caseyg@ctsi.nsn.us
- Water/Sewer Assistance – Catherine Ray or Jenifer Jackson, 541-484-4234, or catheriner@ctsi.nsn.us, jeniferj@ctsi.nsn.us
- Food Assistance – Kurtis Barker, 541-444-8247, or 477SSP@ctsi.nsn.us

Elders receive a weekly or bi-monthly call to check on them. Staff developed a resource line for Tribal members to call if they have unmet needs – 541-444-9613.

Please stay home and stay safe, wear a mask when going outside the home, practice physical distancing and wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation sees historic win as Supreme Court confirms original reservation boundaries

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), along with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), applauds the July 9 decision in the recent U.S. Supreme Court case, which confirmed that the treaty-defined boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation still remain in full force today.

Through treaty, the United States “solemnly guaranteed” the Muscogee (Creek) Nation its reservation as a “permanent home” in exchange for leaving its eastern homelands (Treaty with the Creeks (1832) and Treaty with the Creeks (1833)). In a later treaty, the United States reaffirmed that the reservation was “forever set apart as a home for said Creek Nation” (Treaty with the Creeks (1866)).

Today's historic decision by the United States Supreme Court reaffirms that understanding. In issuing the opinion of the court, Justice Neil Gorsuch said, “Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law. Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word.”

“Through two terms of the United States Supreme Court, and as many cases and fact patterns, this question has loomed over federal Indian law. This morning, NCAI joins the rest of Indian Country in congratulating the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and proudly asserting that its lands remain, and will forever be considered, Indian country – as guaranteed in their treaty relationship with the United States,” said NCAI President Fawn Sharp.

NARF Executive Director John Echohawk responded to the decision, “In this case, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation had to fight long and hard to protect their homelands, which were promised in their treaty agreements with the United States. In holding the federal government to its treaty obligations, the U.S. Supreme Court put to rest what never should have been at question. We congratulate the Nation on its success.”

CTSI Resource Call Line

We are here to connect Tribal members and their families to local resources. This includes food, housing, and other essentials. In addition, we are providing households with hard to find hygiene and sanitation items.

**Disclaimer: Supplies are limited but we will do our best to meet your needs.*

Call us at 541-444-9613.
We will be taking calls Monday through Friday between 9am-3pm.

