

Shutdown message from Finance

As stated by the Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Executive Officer, our top priority is the health and safety of our employees and community members. The Tribal Council took action last week to close the tribal organization from March 30 through April 10. The closure applies to all non-essential personnel.

During this two-week closure, Finance will provide limited services that are essential to this organization and community. Employees will work from home as much as reasonably possible, but we will maintain a small workforce in the office during this period of time. The building will be closed to the public, but we will have staff available via email or phone, and if necessary, by appointment.

First off, any Finance employee with underlying medical conditions is encouraged to work from home (or stay home) and not report to the office during this time period.

Secondly, we will institute thorough cleaning processes to ensure areas are disinfected multiple times daily. I will explain what the plan is for each area in regards to this two-week closure:

Payroll

We understand that employees will need to be paid during this two-week closure, so Payroll's top priority will be processing the bi-weekly payroll. Timesheets are due no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020.

During the week March 30-April 3, the Payroll staff will be checking time sheets and entering time into payroll. Normal payroll activity will occur until the bi-weekly payroll is processed.

We encourage you to submit payroll electronically whenever possible. If you can scan your payroll and email to payroll@wstribes.org, that would be the preferred

method. If you are not able to scan and email, then you may submit paper copies at the Payroll office.

Accounts Payable

The tribe still has financial obligations to employees deemed essential by the Secretary-Treasurer/CEO or your respective general manager or director. Accounts Payable will maintain a skeleton crew during the closure. Invoices, payment authorizations and other A/P documents should be submitted electronically. Scan and send invoices to invoices@wstribes.org

Invoices can also be faxed to 553-3256. Check runs will continue to run on Thursdays. All checks will be mailed out to limit foot traffic, and because the building will be closed.

Warehouse

The tribal Warehouse will provide limited services during this time. Somebody will remain at the Warehouse to receive shipments, and will provide delivery service to the tribal organization. The Warehouse will be closed to the public. They will only provide service to the tribal organization. The only exception will be for funerals.

All Warehouse orders should be sent electronically. You can send and email order forms to Clint Smith:

clint.smith@wstribes.org
Or fax 541-553-3256.

Budgets, Contracts and Grants

We will have limited services provided during this two-week shutdown. One staff will work each day to help ensure paperwork is routed for processing, especially for emergency and essential services to the tribal government and tribal membership. The following will be implemented:

Purchase requisitions,

budget modifications, grant applications, and other documents should be sent electronically. Please scan and send to budgets@wstribes.org

You may fax to 541-553-3256. If you need to submit in person please contact Dennis Johnson at 541-553-3479.

Cash Management

There will be limited Cash Management services provided during this two-week period. We understand there is still a need to collect payments for various things (bail/bond, child support, Three Warriors Market, etc.). The following will be implemented:

Deposits will be accepted daily from 1:30 to 3 p.m., or by appointment. To schedule an appointment call 541-553-3479 or 553-2595.

When you arrive at the building, please wait outside by the north entrance (not the Council entrance). A staff member will allow you in the building to complete your payment or deposit.

Deposits not accepted after 3 p.m. Tribal Court payments can also be made online at warmspringsnsn.gov

There is a \$5 processing fee for paying online. If you use this option, please be sure to include your case number or citation number in the description.

Office of Information Services

OIS will perform essential support and address emergency work orders. All non-essential work orders may be delayed. The staff will work remotely, but can be on-site if needed.

Alfred Estimo, Director of Finance.

Oregon considers unemployment benefits for parents off work with kids

With students staying home while school is canceled due to coronavirus concerns, a lot of parents are forced to stay home too. And that may keep some of them from working.

As of this printing, parents in Oregon are not receiving any assistance from their state governments, the employment office said it is working on a plan.

The statewide closure of schools in Washington and Oregon started last week, with the start of

spring break. The closure will remain in place until April.

With kids out of the classroom, some parents may have no other choice but to stay home from work to care for their children.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said the state is considering offering unemployment insurance or workers' compensation to parents caring for children.

"We want to ensure that Oregon families have the resources they need to pay their rent," Brown said,

"and they can buy basic essentials: food, medicine and toilet paper."

Currently, Oregon doesn't offer resources for those parents.

Several schools in California have also closed in response to the coronavirus outbreak. California is offering unemployment benefits to qualifying families.

Brown has a task force working on a plan. She said the group will meet Tuesday.

Portland Area IHS positive test

Last week Michael Toedt, the chief medical officer for the Indian Health Service, confirmed three "presumptive positive" cases of COVID-19 within IHS.

According to Toedt, the three cases are in the follow-

ing areas of IHS:

Portland Area. Great Plains Area (Charles Mix County/Yankton Sioux Tribe). Navajo Area.

Very little other information was available, as patient privacy is respected.

"The individuals who

tested positive were referred to higher levels of care with our partner institutions," Mr. Toedt said.

"All contacts are being thoroughly investigated as appropriate testing is being done."

Native Helpline continues service

StrongHearts Native Helpline knows this is a very difficult time for all Native people.

We are very concerned about those most vulnerable including those who may be in unhealthy or abusive relationships; therefore, we will continue to operate and offer our services as long as possible.

At the StrongHearts office, we are taking the directed social distancing

protocols very seriously. As such, callers may experience longer call wait times. Callers may press one at any time to be transferred to The National Domestic Violence Hotline, a non-Native Hotline. The Hotline is also responding to the directed protocols so callers may experience extended call wait times.

Please note that the StrongHearts website and social media sites are not equipped for support ser-

VICES.

We hope that this situation is temporary. Again, we will continue to operate and offer our services daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Daylight Time. We apologize for any disruptions in service and thank all of our Native communities for your patience and understanding.

We are here. We are ready to listen.

1-844-7NATIVE

Declaration

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Medical professionals will be standing by and available to talk to your and help determine whether you should be seen by a doctor at the clinic; or if someone needs to potentially come to you.

If you are showing signs of COVID-19, please express those concerns on the phone to the staff so we can triage you properly and safely.

We will continue to assess our community and keep you informed of any changes that are recommended, and how we will operate as the situation progresses.

Stay safe,

Raymond Tsumpti Sr., Tribal Council Chairman, March 15, 2020.

Na-ha-shnee Summer Institute June 14-June 26, 2020

Na-ha-shnee is a free 12-day career exposure and college preparation experience for Native American who have completed 9th-12th grade and are interested in health careers.

Students engage with life on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus, stay in a dormitory at Gonzaga University, gain exposure to health care professions, and participate in health care courses training. The courses range from basic science, leadership, to Native American Education.

For more information please visit: spokane.wsu.edu/about/community-outreach/na-ha-shnee-summer-institute

Or contact the Native American Health Sciences Coordinator, Evanlene Melting Tallow at e.meltingtallow@wsu.edu or 509-358-7833



Census Kick-off in Warm Springs



Jonie Wallulatum distributes the Census t-shirts at the March kick-off.

Unemployment

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Such people are not usually eligible for benefits under current law—though state and federal authorities are considering changes.

However, the Employment Department encourages people staying away from work to avoid exposure to file a claim anyway.

The department says it will gather information to see if any benefits apply.

If I'm getting paid during the layoff, or using vacation pay, can I receive benefits?

Generally not.

If I contract the

coronavirus disease, COVID-19, on the job, am I eligible for benefits?

In that case, file a workers' compensation claim.

If a doctor or government authorities order me to stay home, can I collect unemployment benefits.

Yes, usually.

How much do unemployment benefits pay?

The state has an online calculator for making an estimate.

How long do the benefits last?

Generally speaking, 26 weeks.

I have more questions. Who do I ask?

Write to the Employment Department: OED_COVID19_Info@oregon.gov