

Save Our Skookum team

'We look forward to working with you'



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

From left, Sydney Clark, Certified Applications assister, Tauni McCammon, Contract Health specialist, Erica Mercier, Contract Health specialist, Barbara Steere, Health Benefits specialist, Tresa Mercier, Health & Wellness Business Office manager, Loretta Meneley, Certified Application assister, and Melody Baker, Senior Contract Health specialist, are the Tribe's Save Our Skookum team.



Important tax exemption information for Native Americans

Affordable Care Act – Requirements for Individuals

ALL AMERICANS	IHS ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
1 must have HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	
Qualifying health insurance coverage includes: - Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, VA, TRICARE - employer sponsored health insurance - Marketplace health insurance - other qualifying health coverage	- The same health insurance coverage types apply - The IHS is <u>not</u> a type of coverage that meets this ACA requirement
2 must get a COVERAGE EXEMPTION	
You may qualify for an Exemption if: - You are not required to file taxes - Cost of coverage would exceed 8% of your income - You are ineligible for Medicaid because your state did not expand eligibility - Certain other exemptions identified on healthcare.gov	The same exemptions apply <u>plus</u> : - Individuals eligible for IHS can get an exemption by: - claiming this exemption on IRS tax forms or - Applying once through the Marketplace and filing the certificate # on annual IRS tax forms

Otherwise, pay **PENALTY** when you file your 2014 taxes

An important announcement was made recently by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell that individuals eligible to receive health care from an Indian Health Service, Tribal or urban Indian health care provider will be able to claim an exemption from the shared responsibility payment through the tax filing process starting with the 2014 tax year.

This benefit gives individuals who are eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider, including the IHS and Tribal clinics, the same filing option as members of federally recognized Tribes (including Alaska Native shareholders). Both groups will continue to have the option of submitting the exemption application through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Before the announcement, exemptions were available both to individuals who were members of a federally recognized Tribe and to individuals who are eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider. But members of a Tribe were able to claim an exemption through the federal tax filing process while individuals who are eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider were required to obtain this exemption through the Health Insurance Marketplace by filing a paper application.

The availability of the tax filing process to apply for the Indian health care exemption will save time and reduce the duplication of effort. Individuals intending to claim this exemption through the tax filing process should retain the same documentation that they would otherwise submit to the marketplace as part of their exemption application. Above is a diagram to illustrate how to meet Affordable Care Act requirements for all Americans and individuals eligible for IHS.

If you have questions about the exemption, call Loretta Meneley, Certified Application Assister, at 800-775-0095 or 503-879-1359. ■

Walking On...

Sharon Rae Norwest

Dec. 11, 1942 – Dec. 26, 2014

Sharon Rae Norwest of Grand Ronde died Dec. 26, 2014, at the age of 72. She was born on Dec. 11, 1942, in Forest Grove, Ore., to Roscoe and Eleanor (McLeod) Lilly. In the 1970s she married the love of her life, Marcellus J. Norwest, in Nevada. He died in 2011.

Mrs. Norwest lived most of her life in Grand Ronde and worked as a secretary for the Tribal committee for the Grand Ronde Veterans Honor Guard. When she wasn't working, she enjoyed reading and collecting her various piggy banks, and she loved watching TV, especially "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy."

Sharon is survived by her sons, Johnny, Lyndel and Robin Norwest, and her daughters, LaDonna Norwest and Daniele Powley.

She was preceded in death by her sons, Lyle Johnson, Lonnie Norwest, Marcellus Norwest Jr. and Andrew Norwest; her daughter, Carmen Norwest; brother, Roscoe Jr.; sister, Patricia Parren; and granddaughter, DeAnn Norwest.

A funeral service was held Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, at the Grand Ronde Tribal gymnasium.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center cared for the family.



Thomas Elery Leno

March 25, 1949 – Dec. 31, 2014

Tribal Elder Thomas Elery Leno was born on March 25, 1949, in Tillamook, Ore., son of Arnold and Maxine Leno. He walked on on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, in Salem Hospital with his loved ones by his side. He was 65.

He was a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and lived most of his life in the Willamina area. He attended Willamina High School and later earned his GED. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He worked for many years as a logger until he was injured in the woods. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, wrestling and spending time with loved ones.

He is survived by his daughters, Tara, Lacy and Lisa Leno of Willamina; sons, Marlyn Connelly, Jeremy Galloway and Keith Guardiola of Willamina; brothers, David Leno of Roseburg and Robert Leno of Grand Ronde; sisters, Dorothy Leno of Grand Ronde and Denise Harvey of Tualatin; and grandchildren, Kitana, Kai, Kazsia and Nya, who he adored.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Gary Leno. Services were held Friday, Jan. 9, at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde gymnasium.

Arrangements were made by Dallas Mortuary Chapel.



2015 Portland Area Office Gathering/Potluck

Tuesday, Feb. 10 11a.m.-2p.m.



Come in and get your Tribal ID/same day card Do you need to get signed up for health insurance...Loretta will be here to assist you. Bring in your favorite dish for lunch.

Contact Lisa 503 879-1881