



Smoke Signals screenshot

**Health & Wellness Executive Director Kelly Rowe gives an update on Tribal vaccinations and vaccination events to combat COVID-19 during a Facebook Live event held on Wednesday, April 21.**

## Health & Wellness Clinic has vaccinated more than 18,000

COVID-19 continued  
from front page

the coronavirus and almost 100 students were exposed and asked to quarantine at home. The district returned to some in-person instruction on Tuesday, April 27.

Rowe told attendees that April 21 also was likely the last mass vaccination clinic to be held by the Tribe.

"We have 1,000 doses and a lot of capacity open," she said. "People are getting it elsewhere or are not ready yet. We believe we can now reach enough people through our clinic."

Rowe said that all Tribal members and those who live in their households, other Natives and their household members, as well as employees and their household members 18 and older can get scheduled for a vaccination by calling the clinic at 503-879-7032.

"I fully support and implore people to get this vaccine," she said.

Rowe added that the Tribe has had one confirmed death of an enrolled member from COVID-19, but that person did not live in the community.

Kennedy said she wants to send a clear message about the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine if eligible to do so.

"I want to appeal to our community members who aren't sure yet to take the vaccine," she said. "Our bodies are not equipped to combat this disease and are not able to acclimate to it. It affects older people aggressively because there is no immunity to it built in. Now we know it also affects younger people so we need to deal with it in a very aggressive and thorough way. My

goal is to make sure we are all OK and my message is to please vaccinate. We will be OK if we consider each other's health."

Since the pandemic began, the Health & Wellness Clinic has tested 2,148 people for COVID-19. Of those, 82 have been positive results, including the 13 active cases.

The clinic also has vaccinated more than 18,000 people and 9,300 of the shots have been given to those 55 and older, Rowe said.

During the Facebook Live event, Dillon said that due to the combination of vaccinations and public health measures such as sanitizing, social distancing and mask wearing, there have been a very low number of positive COVID-19 cases despite thousands of people visiting the casino every day.

Dillon said there are thermal imaging cameras that automatically scan people's temperatures throughout the casino, along with security cameras that track their movements. Employees are temperature checked before the start of every shift, just as they are at the Tribal government campus.

"Masks and vaccinations are a huge benefit," Dillon said. "There has not been an outbreak at any casino table even though there is a dealer and customers together and they are all touching cards, due to mask wearing and using hand sanitizer."

Kennedy closed the Facebook Live event by again imploring people to adhere to public safety measures and to get vaccinated.

"We want each of us to work together so we can come together and enjoy each other's company again," she said. "We do have the answer and it is the vaccine." ■

## Health & Wellness Center entrance

**Reminder:** The drive-through entrance at the Health & Wellness Center is for loading and unloading only. The entrance was built with our Elders and those with mobility issues and their ease of access in mind.

If you are coming to the center to pick up prescriptions, please park in one of our regular parking spaces.

**Thank you,  
Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Administration**

## Watchlist: The 'Indian Problem'

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

*(Note: To supplement the coverage Smoke Signals provides, we are going to start sharing a video from our "Watchlist" with each edition of the paper. On the first and the 15th of every month, we will share a short summary and a link to a Native American-themed video we think you should watch. We are leaving the content and sourcing for our "Watchlist" open-ended; sharing historical documentaries from museums, current events from other news sources or features from Native organizations. The only factor being it's a Native American story we want to share.)*

The "Indian Problem" was controversially known in the 19th century as "Native nations getting in the way of white settlers acquiring all the land."

This "problem" and its ramifications were explored as the central video in the 2016 "Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations" exhibition in the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The "Indian Problem" video is narrated by actor Robert Redford and shares the historical tactics used in stealing Indigenous homelands; mainly one-sided treaty deals and the Removal Act of 1830.

This 12-minute video produced by the National Museum of the American Indian and Interface Media Group recounts the experience of removal from Sallie Farney (Muscogee) along with commentary from historians and reflections from contemporary Native voices.

The video cites that at the time, the tragedy of displacement was felt in every Native nation in America and through the use of animations of historical events, documents and images, viewers can sense the heartbreak of displacement for themselves. To watch the video, simply search for "Indian Problem" on YouTube.

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/if-BOZgWZPE>



## Fee assistance

Enrolled Tribal members can request assistance with test fees (i.e. GRE, SAT, LSAT, ACT) and admissions application fees.

Contact Higher Education for more information at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2275. ■

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**UPDATE FROM:  
ANGEL BOOKKEEPING LLC – Karen Case**

**The Federal Tax Deadline to file is May 15, 2021**

You are valued and please be assured we continue to be available to care for all your tax needs during this time of encouraged social distancing.

**Due to the impact of Covid-19, we will not be scheduling any appointments in person at the Confederated Tribes in Grand Ronde, but will be available in the Willamina home office location.**

We will continue to be doing taxes and accepting your documents via email, mail, drop-off, or by appointment at the Willamina home office location.

We are sorry for this inconvenience and encourage you to stay safe and healthy.

You may contact us at 971-237-1230

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