

COVID-19

K'wen Update

Special Edition: Thursday, March 26, 2020

Help The Mill (and help yourself!)

With the casino and restaurants closed, The Mill needs to dispose of its perishable food. Tribal families are invited to come and get it.

Here's how:

- Elders first, as always. Elders can come to The Mill between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 28.
- All tribal families will be welcome between 1 and 2 p.m.
- Park in the valet driveway, and walk through to the Salmon Room.
- To maintain safe distances for everyone, please send in only one person per family.

We'll try to provide a list of available foods in Friday's update.

Administration building is closed, period

Yesterday's message about the Admin building in North Bend is already out of date. In order to minimize contact, the Admin building will not be open Fridays for check pick-up. For the time being, all checks will be mailed.

If you need to talk to someone at Admin, dial the usual numbers: (541) 756-0904 or (800) 622-5869. Most employees are working from home, but your call will be transferred to the right person's cell phone.

Need a tribal ID? Here's how to get it

With tribal offices mostly closed during the pandemic, tribal IDs are no longer available in person. All documents must be delivered electronically or by U.S. mail.

When you request a tribal ID card, we will do our best to print and mail it to you within 48 hours. If there's a delay, we'll do everything we can to let you know.

Here's what you need to request an ID card:

- **Current picture** – a head shot, color if possible, in focus. Cell phone pictures are OK.
- **Signature** – black ink on a 3x5 sheet of blank white paper. A cell phone picture of the signature is OK.
- **Your mailing address**
- **Your phone number**

Mail your documents to:

Coquille Indian Tribe
Jon Ivy
2355 S. Pacific Hwy.
Medford, OR 97501

Or email them to:

jonivy@coquilletribe.org

Oregon update

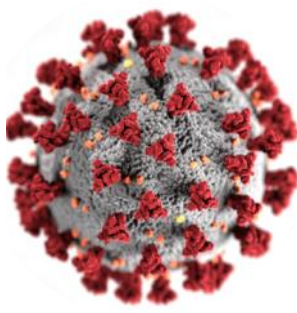
COVID-19 has claimed another life in Oregon, raising the state's death toll to 11 as of Thursday.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 50 new cases of the virus, raising the state's total to 316.

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email the tribal staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Friday, March 27, 2020

Details on The Mill's food giveaway

Here's a list of foods that will be available for pick-up at The Mill on Saturday:

Fruits: apples, avocados, cantaloupe, honeydew, juice containers, lemons, limes, pears and pineapples.

Vegetables: arugula, asparagus, bell peppers, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, butternut squash, cabbage, carrots, shredded carrots, cauliflower, celery, cherry tomatoes, large tomatoes, cubed potatoes, garlic, lettuce, mushrooms (lots of them), onions, potatoes, spinach, sugar snap peas, yellow squash and zucchini.

Dairy: cottage cheese, half-and-half, eggs, hard-boiled eggs, liquid egg (lots of that), milk, individual milk containers, ricotta cheese, shredded cheese, sour cream and yogurt.

Bread products: various breads including wheat, rye, sourdough, sweet cinnamon spiral and others; and lots of tortillas.

Other: Ham, beef sliders (not many), olives, pesto, relish and salad dressings.

Why it's happening:

With the casino and restaurants closed, The Mill needs to dispose of its perishable food.

How it works:

- Elders first, as always. Elders can come to The Mill between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 28. (Elders who can't make the trip themselves can send someone on their behalf.)
- All tribal families will be welcome between 1 and 2 p.m.
- Park in the valet driveway, and walk through to the Salmon Room.
- Please bring your own bags — and egg cartons, if you have them.
- To maintain safe distances for everyone, please send in only one person per family.

Tribe ends lunch program for kids

The Learning Center no longer will provide grab-and-go lunches for students, but lunches are available through the Coos Bay public schools.

The Learning Center is mostly closed.

Elders: You still can pick up frozen meals on weekday afternoons.

[Get Learning Center details here](#)

News about COVID-19 in Oregon

- Health officials identified 98 more coronavirus cases in Oregon today. That brings the state's total to 414.
- The Oregon Health Authority also reported the state's 12th known death from COVID-19.
- New projections say if Oregonians obey Gov. Kate Brown's social distancing order, the state could see 700 to 3,800 cumulative infections by May 8.
- On the other hand, if Oregonians suddenly went back to normal behavior, we'd be looking at 6,000 to 26,000 cases in the same time frame.
- So stay home to save lives!

You could win \$\$\$\$\$

While the coronavirus has you sitting at home, take some time to complete your 2020 Census form. Be sure to follow the right steps to qualify for cash prizes from the tribe.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Take care of YOU!

Here's a great wellness resource. The Native Wellness Power Hour appears live each day at noon PDT. (You also can catch up with recordings of previous videos.)

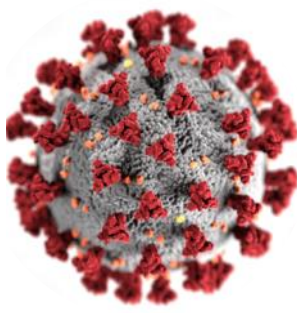
[Click here for the Facebook page](#)

[Click here for a Power Hour schedule](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and KFG for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Monday, March 30, 2020

Despite closure, Medford still has Elder meals

Jon Ivy, who normally staffs the Medford office, will work remotely until further notice. But meals are still available for Elders in the Medford area.

Please call (800) 622-5869, extension 1217, to schedule a time to meet Jon at the office for pick-up. He expects that he can do same-day appointments.

It was a great giveaway

The Mill's food giveaway on Saturday was a big success. Representatives of about 100 tribal families turned out to pick up perishable food that the casino's closed restaurants can't use. They collected about 4,500 pounds of food.

The word is, only a few carrots and celery stalks remained at the end of the day. Thanks to the culinary team at The Mill for making this possible.

You can see photos of the event on MyTribe. Go to <https://portal.coquilletribe.org/>. (And if you don't already have a MyTribe account, there's never been a better time to sign up!)

Oregon update

- Oregon reported 192 new cases of COVID-19 over the weekend. That brings the state's total to 606 as of Monday morning.
- The pandemic claimed the lives of four more Oregonians since Friday, bringing the death toll 16.
- In the Coquille Tribe's five-county service area, new cases were reported in Douglas, Jackson and Lane counties. So far no cases of the virus have been confirmed in Coos or Curry counties.
- President Donald Trump approved a major disaster declaration for Oregon on Sunday. The declaration orders federal assistance to aid state, local and tribal recovery efforts. We'll let you know how it affects the Coquille Tribe as soon as we learn more.
- You know things are serious when Oregonians start pumping their own gas. The state fire marshal announced on Saturday that self-serve gasoline would be allowed, temporarily, to reduce contact that might spread the coronavirus. (Just remember to sanitize your hands after touching the pump nozzle.)

MyTribe: Your COVID-19 info source

We've temporarily redesigned the MyTribe homepage to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic. You'll find notices about the Coquille Tribe's response along with links to additional resources.

But don't worry: All the usual MyTribe goodies are still there, too.

Manage your COVID-19 stress

Stress associated with the coronavirus can upset your sleep pattern, worsen chronic health problems and cause other issue. You can find help [here](#).

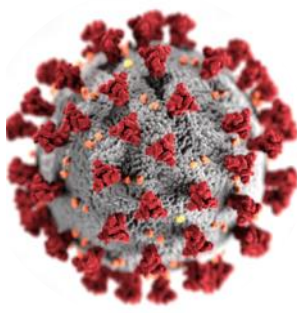
Should you be wearing a mask?

See the answer [here](#).

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and KFG for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Education help for tribal families

It's a challenging time for students and parents, and the tribe's education staff wants to help our families. Wherever you live, if your local school district is adopting a remote digital education plan, please do these two things:

1. Send us a copy of your school's plan.
2. Tell us about any technology needs related to remote education that remain unresolved by your school district.

Please send your information to one of these staff members:

Grades K-8: Jennifer Viksnehill, jenniferviksnehill@coquilletribe.org

Grades 9-12: Laura Angulo, lauraangulo@coquilletribe.org

Educating our youth will always be a priority for the Coquille Indian Tribe. We can't solve every issue, but we'll do our best to help you connect with resources.

Also for families ...

A newly created tribal staff and parent team is working to expand outreach to tribal youth and families. They'll be in touch about some new ways to access cultural education resources and academic materials.

We're also developing opportunities to post photos and video of your family's at-home education activities.

And watch for a new version of Rez Runners next week: "Rez Runners for All."

Will tribal events go forward?

Our Tribal Council members and staff are hearing questions about this year's tribal events. Will we hold a Restoration Celebration? What about Family Camp?

We don't have answers yet. We know that the tribal Constitution requires at least two General Council meetings each year. Beyond that, the Tribal Council is reviewing options and hopes to make an announcement soon.

News about COVID-19 in Oregon

- State health officials announced two COVID-19 deaths on Tuesday and one more today, bringing the total to 19.
- With 130 new cases since Monday's K'wen Update, the statewide count stands at 736.
- Coos and Curry counties still have no confirmed cases. (But that doesn't mean the disease isn't among us. Keep practicing social distancing and other precautions.)
- And here's an inspiring story: A 104-year-old Oregon veteran has recovered from COVID-19. [See it here.](#)

Take care of YOU!

The World Health Organization has helpful suggestions for parenting in the age of coronavirus. [Click here.](#)

Happy Census Day!

Here's a welcome break from COVID-19 news. April 1 is America's official Census Day. But you still have some time to fill out your form.

Please be sure to identify your family as "Coquille Indian." You could win a cash prize for helping our tribe maximize federal support. [See the details here.](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
 - Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
 - Watch MyTribe and KFG for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
-

COVID-19

K'wen Update

Special Update: Thursday, April 2, 2020

A message from Chairman Brenda Meade:

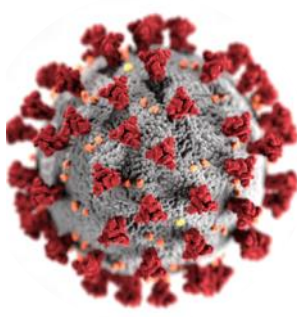
Like every large or small organization in America, the Coquille Indian Tribe must make hard decisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of lengthening closures of our business and government operations, your Tribal Council and our executive team are making plans to focus our tribal funds on essential services for our tribal members: health care, education and Elders services.

We are looking at our operating budgets and considering adjustments for the coming year. I expect to share more details with you soon.

While our tribal government considers these decisions, our excellent executive team at CEDCO has been evaluating the path forward for The Mill Casino-Hotel & RV Park. It is important that you know your Tribal Council is receiving frequent reports from CEDCO as these decisions unfold, and the CEDCO executive team has our full support. The managers of The Mill are working to balance our current labor needs with our future need for a quick and efficient reopening once the crisis ends. They also are taking steps to help our employees access all the unemployment benefits and other resources that are available to them.

This process is painful for everyone involved, but I am proud of the Coquille Tribe's thoughtful, measured response to the COVID-19 crisis. As a proud and resilient people, we will come through this challenge together, and we will emerge healthy and strong.

—Brenda Meade



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Friday, April 3, 2020

Uncle Sam suggests wearing masks

This just in: As of this afternoon, the federal government says we all should wear cloth masks face when entering public spaces such as grocery stores. The main reason is to keep people who have the virus (but may not know it) from spreading it to others.

The guidelines suggest using homemade cloth masks rather than medical-grade coverings. Wearing them is voluntary.

The Coquille Tribal staff will look at the guidelines Monday and start figuring out ways to help tribal members participate.

Beware of scams and myths

- If you see a miracle coronavirus treatment on social media, don't fall for it. [Click for details.](#)
- And watch out for scammers trying to steal your COVID-19 relief payment. [Click here.](#)

Help for small-business owners

If you own a small business, you need to be aware of the government's brand-spanking-new Paycheck Protection Program. It provides money for up to eight weeks of payroll costs. You also can use it for some other expenses. [See it here.](#)

Here are some other resources that may come in handy:

- [How to apply for help \(Portland Oregonian\)](#)
- [List of resources \(Forbes\)](#)

Reminder for parents

Wherever you live, if your local school district is adopting a remote digital education plan, please do these two things:

- Send us a copy of your school's plan.
- Tell us about any technology needs related to remote education that remain unresolved by your school district.

Please send your information to one of these staff members:

- Grades K-8: [Jennifer Viksnehill](#)
- Grades 9-12: [Laura Angulo](#)

Laura and Jenn can't solve every issue, but they'll do their best to help you connect with the resources you need.

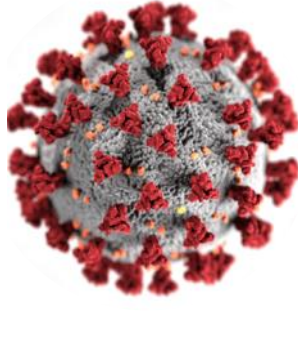
Oregon update

- Oregon has reported 163 new cases since our update on Wednesday. That brings the state's total to 899. Three more deaths were reported, raising the total to 22.
- Still no reported cases (hurrah!) in Coos and Curry counties.
- Some more good news: You may have seen news reports this week about a coronavirus case being reported in Reedsport. Turns out, that was old news. The person was diagnosed in mid-March and has since recovered.

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
- [Oregon response \(Oregon Health Authority\)](#)
- [U.S. response \(Centers for Diseases Control\)](#)
- [Global response \(World Health Organization\)](#)



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Monday, April 6, 2020

Health center has new rules

In an effort to continue to provide services in a safe environment for all, the Community Health Center has a new building access protocol:

For all CHC patients, vendors and visitors:

- Upon arrival at CHC, do not enter the building. Wait in your vehicle.
- Call the front desk upon arrival at (541) 888-9494.
- A CHC employee will come to your vehicle to perform a screening, which will include a temperature check and a brief series of questions about your current health status in relation to fever, cough, respiratory symptoms and exposure.
- Upon entry, please sanitize your hands and put on a mask, both located immediately to the right of the first front door entrance.
- If you do not have a vehicle to wait in, let the front desk know prior to your arrival for accommodation.
- If you do not have a mobile phone to call upon arrival, let the front desk know prior to your arrival for accommodation.

Help for high school seniors

We are in unprecedented times, and the situation is especially confusing and overwhelming for high school seniors. We want you to know that the Coquille Tribe's education staff is here to support you.

We have created a Senior Support Team, and we need to hear from seniors and their parents/guardians. We want to ensure that the Coquille Tribe is advocating for your needs, and that government agencies and schools are upholding their commitment to our Native students.

Please contact our Senior Support Team ASAP:

Laura Angulo

lauraangulo@coquilletribe.org, (541) 331-3623

Molly Hockema

mollyhockema@coquilletribe.org, (541) 217-1850

Bridgett Wheeler

bridgettwheeler@coquilletribe.org, (541) 297-8669

Learn to braid beargrass (via video)

Beargrass braids traditionally have highlighted regalia on the southern Oregon Coast. Beargrass is shiny and white, and when braided together it adds detail to any piece.

If you would like to learn beargrass braiding, our culture team can send you supplies and then teach you how in a Zoom conference call at **10 a.m. PST Tuesday, April 14**. (Don't worry if you've never used Zoom. Joining the conference call is simple.)

Please call or email Cultural Activities Coordinator Jennifer ViksneHill by Wednesday, April 8, to have supplies sent in time to attend: Jenniferviksnehill@coquilletribe.org or (541) 252-0251.

Be safe: We have taken steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, by sterilizing the inside of each package and letting it sit sealed for more than seven days. But we suggest that you take precautionary measures when receiving any package, including this one.

Need help with your rent?

If you're experiencing income loss because of the COVID-19 outbreak, you may qualify for rental assistance from the Coquille Indian Housing Authority. You can learn more and fill out an application on the CIHA website:

www.coquilleiha.org.

Face masks: the why, when and how

The Centers for Disease Control recommends wearing do-it-yourself face coverings. [See the details here.](#)

Want to join the mask-making mania?

Want to help the national fight against COVID-19? Fire up your sewing machine and join fellow Coquille Tribal members in a mask-making project. [Details.](#)

Oregon update for April 6

- Seven more Oregon deaths have been reported since our Friday update, raising the total to 29.
- The number of diagnosed cases of COVID-19 has risen to 1,132, an increase of 233 since Friday.
- Two of those cases were reported in Curry County. Still none in Coos County.

Questions about child care?

Christina Vazquez-Ledesma is taking the lead as our child-care resource point for the tribe. If you are experiencing critical child-care issues, or if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to her at christina.vazquez-ledesma@coquilletribe.org or (541) 217-5760. She'll do her best to assist you.

Meanwhile, here is an update from the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Care Program. These changes are effective immediately:

- Eliminating co-pays for eligible families.
- Providing access to more families by increasing the income limit from 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$4,040 per month for a family of four) to 250 percent of the federal poverty level or 85 percent of the state median income, whichever is higher for the family size (\$5,899 per month for a family of four).
- Ensuring more certainty for providers. Child-care providers are able to continue to receive payments from DHS, even if children are unable to attend or if they have to temporarily shut down during the state of emergency.

Providers and parents/caretakers may contact the DHS Direct Pay Unit with questions Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at (800) 699-9074.

Is fishing affected?

NOAA Fisheries is asking us for information on the impact of COVID-19 on tribal commercial fisheries. NOAA wants to know about marine finfish and shellfish fisheries, as well as anadromous fisheries.

If you're a commercial fisherman, and if your livelihood has been affected by the pandemic, please contact tribal biologist Helena Linnell at (541) 217-8477 or helenalinnell@coquilletribe.org.

Enroll now for Nasomah Health Group

April is open enrollment month for Nasomah Health Group. If you're a member living outside the Coquille Tribe's five-county service area, this is your chance to enroll or make changes in your coverage. [Details are here.](#)

Some helpful tips from our health team

Our Community Health Center recommends these online articles:

[Caring for Yourself at Home](#)

[Caring for Someone at Home](#)

[Not All Heroes Wear Capes](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

Cutbacks can't be avoided

A Message from Chairman Brenda Meade:

The Coquille Indian Tribe, like the rest of America, is feeling a greater financial impact from the COVID-19 pandemic than anyone could have imagined. We now know that The Mill Casino-Hotel & RV Park will be a catch-up game for the remainder of the year, if not longer. The longer the closure, the more time we'll need to catch up.

Your Tribal Council and executive team have been working hard to make responsible budget cuts to see us through these difficult times. We must prepare for the possibility of no revenue coming to the tribe from The Mill for the remainder of 2020 and perhaps beyond. We are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.

We intend to uphold health care, education and Elder services, but in order to support those benefits, we have to make cuts elsewhere. Following is a list of events and programs that will be deferred for this year:

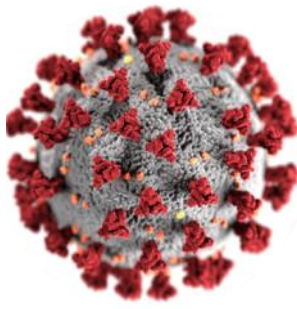
- One of the biggest cuts will be Family Camp. Canceling this summer's event will save us more than \$370,000. Please look for a refund check for your deposit.
- Camp Ta Nae
- Elders Fishing Trip, Elders Honor Day and other Elders activities
- Holiday dinners and gifts for tribal youth
- Kilkich Youth Corps and the Little Feathers children's program
- Various consultants, donations, sponsorships, travel, training and supplies

Together, these cuts will save us an estimated \$1.15 million over the course of 2020. As you might imagine, the Tribal Council agonized over these decisions. These cuts affect some of the Coquille Tribe's most beloved events and programs. In the face of a global emergency, however, we have little choice.

I wish I could say these are the only cuts we will have to make, but I can't promise that. Depending on how long this crisis lasts, we may be forced to make even deeper cuts in programs, services and staff salaries. We simply don't know how long this will last. Your Tribal Council and our executive team are making careful evaluations of our options amid the challenges that we face. Each decision is being made carefully and thoughtfully.

We are grateful for everyone's patience and resilient spirit. For now, stay home and stay healthy.

—Brenda Meade



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Health center is here to help

The Coquille Tribe's Community Health Center remains fully operational to care for you and your family. That includes new patients, pain management, wellness, well-child checkups, lab work and other needs. You have access to all of the Community Health Center's resources.

The only things that have temporarily changed are the method of delivering services and how the CHC building is accessed. To meet COVID-19 recommendations for safety, the clinic is mostly providing health care through technology such as computers, phones and the patient portal.

If an office visit is needed, it will be scheduled as usual. Please follow the new procedure: When you come to the clinic, call (541) 888-9494 and wait in your vehicle. We'll meet you there.

We are here for you! Please reach out to us at (541) 888-9494.

Elders meals are moving

To better serve our Elders, we are moving the Elders frozen meals to the Yaalaak Haws (Elders House) as of Monday, April 13. You may pick up frozen meals and your one-time allocation of beef or pork at 2606 Mexeye Loop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

Here's the process:

- When you arrive at Yaalaak Haws, please stay in your vehicle.
- Call Elders Coordinator Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897. Tell her you are there and what you would like.

Our staff will gather your meals and bring them out to you. (We'll do our best to get you what you want!)

Rrrrrring! PRC calling ...

If your phone is ringing, the tribe's Purchased and Referred Care (PRC) team may be on the line. COVID-19 is affecting everyone's life — so PRC is screening tribal members who might have become eligible for alternate resources such as Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

If you're eligible for OHP, Indian Health Service regulations require you to make a good-faith effort to apply.

Fortunately, your PRC staff is trained to help . They can help you apply online, and they have exclusive tribal contacts at OHP to help with any issues that may arise.

Please contact PRC at (541) 888-4405 or by email at:

trudysimpson@coquilletribe.org
brendaborchman@coquilletribe.org

Oregon update

- Gov. Kate Brown announced today that in-person classes in Oregon's public schools have been canceled for the rest of the school year. [Read more](#)
- The governor also ordered restaurants to stay closed indefinitely. (They're allowed to offer take-out service only.) A previous order had been set to expire on April 15, but the governor said that's too soon.
- Oregon is up to 1,259 diagnosed cases of COVID-19. That's 127 more since our Monday update. Still none in Coos County.
- Nine more deaths have been recorded, bringing Oregon's death toll to 38.
- Health officials say social distancing seems to be holding back a surge of COVID-19 cases. Good job, Oregon! But don't ease up now. We're still vulnerable.

Keeping kids active at home

With schools closed, kids are missing out on recess and gym class. The American Heart Association has some suggestions: [Active Kid Tips](#)

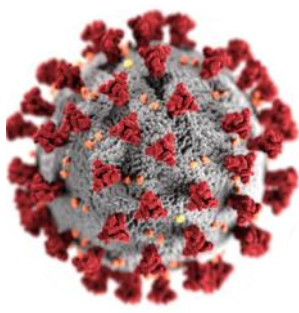
The magic of masking

Here's the skinny on using do-it-yourself face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19: [DIY Face Coverings](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
- Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Friday, April 10, 2020

Coos County gets its first patient

- Coos County recorded its first positive test for COVID-19 on Thursday night. The patient is reportedly an inmate at the Shutter Creek Correction Institution.
- As of Friday, Oregon had 1,371 diagnosed cases. That's an increase of 112 since our Wednesday update.
- Oregon has had 10 fatalities from COVID-19 since Wednesday, bringing the total to 49.

Keep up that social distancing!

With COVID-19 reaching even rural areas, we need to stay vigilant about safety precautions. These precautions will help contain the disease and protect our most valuable resource, our Elders:

- Keep up that social distancing!
- With COVID-19 reaching even rural areas, we need to stay vigilant about safety precautions. These precautions will help contain the disease and protect our most valuable resource, our Elders:
- Stay home unless going out is truly necessary.
- In public places, stay 6 feet away from others.
- Wear a mask if you're around others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If you feel sick, call ahead before visiting your health-care provider.
- If you come to the Community Health Center, please park and call (541) 888-9494, and then wait in your vehicle. A staff member will meet you there.

Need Internet for schoolwork?

Charter is offering free Spectrum broadband and wi-fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students.

The offer is good for service levels up to 100 mbps, for households that don't already have Spectrum broadband subscriptions. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

Call (844) 488-8395 to enroll.

Don't believe everything you hear

Do 5G mobile networks spread COVID-19? Does hot weather protect you from the disease? Will whiskey keep you healthy? Find the answers here:

[COVID-19 Mythbusters](#)

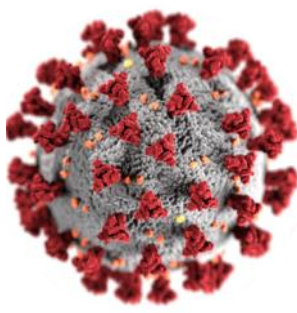
And here are some good tips for taking care of yourself:

[Social Distancing and Mental Health](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
- Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.



COVID-19 K'wen Update

Monday, April 13 , 2020

Tribal Council is on Zoom

The Tribal Council is holding its meetings during the pandemic via Zoom video conferencing. Tribal members can log in to watch, listen and/or contribute comments. (You don't need a video connection to participate. Any phone will do.)

The next meeting is at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 23. Login information will be included in the meeting agenda. Or contact Kay Collins at (541) 751-0904, (800) 622-5869, or kaycollins@coquilletribe.org. She'll email you a link.

Construction safety

Kilkich residents will be pleased to know that all our subcontractors and construction workers have been briefed on COVID-19 safety. The policy on the wellness center job site is to practice social distancing. Additionally, the workers don't leave the job site except to come and go. You shouldn't see them anywhere else at Kilkich.

Oregon update

- Oregon health authorities reported 213 new cases of COVID-19 over the weekend. That brings today's total to 1,584.
- The state also recorded four more deaths since Friday, raising the death toll to 53.
- Governors of Oregon, Washington and California joined today in announcing a "shared vision" for reopening businesses and managing the coronavirus. Their main message: Health comes first. [See details here.](#)

Extra, Extra!

With so much COVID-19 news going on, the Tribal Council has authorized a special edition of The K'wen. Watch for it in your mailbox, early next week.

Learning Center is closed

Now that the Elders' frozen meals have been moved to Yaalaak Haws (Elders House), the Learning Center is closed to the public. A few staff members may continue working inside, at least part of the time. But please don't try to come in. If you need to talk with the Learning Center staff, please call (541) 888-7737.

Going out? Be smart

Here's some good advice about running errands during the pandemic: [Click here](#)

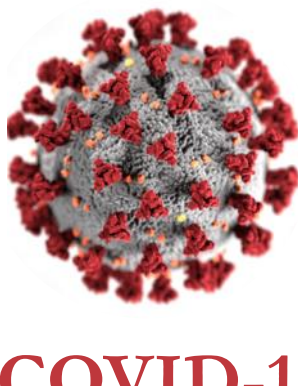
And here are some related safety tips: [Click here](#)

Be careful out there!

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
- Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.



COVID-19 K'wen Update

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Looking to the future

Coquille Tribal leaders are coping with the pandemic's current challenges while planning for the tribe's financial recovery. Read that story and more in a special mid-month "extra" edition of The K'wen.

[Click here.](#)

Drop off masks at Learning Center

If you're making masks that you want to donate, you can drop them off at the Learning Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Some supplies are available there, including a few sewing machines to borrow.

But please note: Except for these mask donation hours, the Learning Center is NOT open for business. If you need to talk with the Learning Center staff, please call (541) 888-7737.

Oregon report

- Oregon is reporting a total of 1,663 confirmed cases of COVID-19, as of Wednesday. That's an increase of 79 since our Monday update.
- Five more deaths due to the pandemic were reported in that time, bringing Oregon's official death toll to 58.

Heading for the great outdoors?

As part of the "Stay Home. Save Lives" campaign, Oregon has some special advice for outdoor recreation.

[Read it here.](#)

Crisis counseling is available

If the stress of the pandemic is wearing you down, crisis counseling is available on the Disaster Distress Helpline. Call (800) 985-5990.

[Or click here to learn more.](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.



The K'wem

EXTRA

Mid-April 2020

Newsletter of the Coquille Indian Tribe

Volume 27, Issue 5



Hope springs anew!

Tribal members Zade Futch, left, and Makyra Meade revel in the new life that comes with the spring season. Zade laughs with one of his new baby turkeys that he named, "Hawkeye." Makyra holds one of her new chicks.

With school buildings closed for the rest of the school year, kids are finding more time to indulge in hobbies and celebrate change. Adults are, too!

For more photos of what tribal members have been up to during the stay-at-home order, turn to pages 4-5.

Photos by Crystal Futch and Brenda Meade

Past tribal leaders' forethought provides benefits today

Dai s'la! (Greetings, friends!)

I hope you and your family are finding the silver lining in this time together. I know it is challenging to be told to stay away from loved ones and friends, but I still encourage you to stay close and social in the many other venues we have available today.

Amid the unforeseen changes we have witnessed, I want to recognize how blessed we are by the vision of our past tribal leaders. Their decisions many years ago, to create our Permanent Funds and to prioritize acquisition of our Coquille Tribal Forest, help support some of our most important benefits today.



FROM THE CHAIR Brenda Meade

Many other tribes, which rely entirely on gaming, are now unfortunately unable to support their tribal members. Today's situation reminds us of the importance of continued diversification and growth of our businesses.

Playing catch-up

The closure of The Mill Casino-Hotel & RV Park puts us in a catch-up game for the remainder of the year, if not longer.

We must prepare today for the possibility of no revenue coming to the tribe from The Mill for the remainder of 2020 and perhaps beyond. Even with expected timber revenue and this year's limited Permanent Fund distributions, we have to make significant cuts to support essential benefits.

Your Tribal Council and executive team have been working hard to make responsible budget cuts that we hope will see us through these difficult times. I have never been so proud of our team. As they work under the pressure of these uncertain times, we are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.

Necessary sacrifices

Following is a list of events and programs that will be deferred for this year:

- Family Camp (saving more than \$370,000)
- Camp Ta Nae
- Elders Fishing Trip, Elders Honor Day and other Elders activities
- Holiday dinners and gifts for tribal youth
- Killich Youth Corps and the Little Feathers children's program
- Various consultants, donations, sponsorships, travel, training and supplies

Please see Chair, page 7

What's next? Tribal leaders turn toward recovery and renewal

By Clark Walworth
CIT Communications Director

While Coquille Tribal members cope with the daily challenges of COVID-19, tribal leaders are looking toward the tribe's future.

"Now more than ever, we have to look at new revenue sources," said Chairman Brenda Meade.

The financial effect of temporarily closing The Mill Casino-Hotel & RV Park may be felt for years to come. Tribal leaders foresee a "new normal" for tribal programs, along with an added urgency to diversify the tribe's business ventures.

"We've known for a long time that The Mill couldn't sustain our needs forever," she said. "COVID-19 has just emphasized the importance of diversifying."

The most immediate project is the

Ko-Kwel Wellness Center. Contractors are getting down to business, and April's songbirds now compete with the pile driver's rhythmic ping-pong. (See page 3.)

Meanwhile, the Tribal One ventures of the Mith-ih-kwuh Economic Development Corp. are relentlessly pursuing continued growth, and The Cedars at Bear Creek development team is working to establish new businesses on the tribe's Medford properties. Team members are evaluating several development opportunities for the site, performing their due diligence and conducting market studies. (See Tribal One story, page 6.)

These emerging ventures, though promising, won't bring immediate cash flow. The wellness center's opening is still more than a year away, and it probably will need another year after that to ramp up operations before it hits its financial

stride.

Nor can the tribe count on The Mill for a quick rebound. The casino and hotel may have to reopen on a limited basis, as the tribe balances its financial goals with potential risks to employees and customers.

When The Mill does reopen, the tribe may not see any money for a year or more. Loan covenants may stop The Mill from delivering any funding to the tribe in 2020 and potentially most of 2021.

The Coquille Tribe is hardly alone in facing budget cuts.

"It's happening all across the country," Chairman Meade said.

Indian tribes can count on the federal government for limited help. The Coquille Indian Housing Authority will get some extra money to subsidize tenants

left jobless by the pandemic. The Federal Emergency Management Administration and the CARES Act also may help. Small tribes in rural areas are anxiously pressing the feds for a fair share.

"We're on all those calls," Chairman Meade said. "We're giving input."

Given the many uncertainties, the drive to develop new and emerging ventures is more important than ever. Chairman Meade said the Tribal Council is looking at COVID-19 implications three to five years ahead.

"We have to look to our tribal members to be patient," she said. "We all will make sacrifices, but we all will share the benefit in the long term."

The tribe, like America, has formidable tasks ahead.



COVID-19 updates

Do you qualify for OHP?

COVID-19 is affecting everyone's life — so our Purchased and Referred Care team is screening tribal members who might have become eligible for alternate resources such as Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

If you're eligible for OHP, Indian Health Service regulations require you to make a good-faith effort to apply. The PRC staff can help you apply online and find help for any issues that may arise. Please contact PRC at (541) 888-4405 or by email at: trudysimpson@coquilletribe.org brendaborchman@coquilletribe.org

Family Camp refunds soon

With Family Camp canceled, Events Coordinator Nichole Howe is working on refunding your deposit.

If you paid with PayPal, your refund will be processed April 13-17, using the

same email account that you used to sent your deposit.

If you paid by cash or check, your refund will be mailed Friday, April 24. Or, if you prefer a PayPal refund, please send this information to nicholehowe@coquilletribe.org by Friday, April 17:

- First and last name
- Your PayPal email address
- Amount and date of your deposit

Nichole may contact you if she has questions. You can email her or call (541) 294-8965.

Meals for Elders

Elders may pick up frozen meals at Yaalaak Haws (2606 Mexeye Loop) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. When you arrive, please stay in your vehicle and call Elders Coordinator Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897. Tell her you are there and what you would like. Our staff

will gather your meals and bring them out to you.

Elders in the Medford area should call Jon Ivy at (800) 622-5869, ext. 1217. Although the Medford office is closed, Jon will make arrangements to meet you there to pick up meals.

Visiting the health center?

If you're feeling ill, please call ahead before visiting the Community Health Center. Don't just drop in, please. (When you do come to the Health Center, please park and call (541) 888-9494. Then wait in your vehicle. A staff member will meet you there.)

Learning Center is closed

Now that the Elders frozen meals have been moved to Yaalaak Haws (Elders House), the Learning Center is closed to the public. A few staff members

may continue working inside, at least part of the time.

One exception: Donations of face masks will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays. Otherwise, please don't visit. To contact the Learning Center staff, please call (541) 888-7737.

Tribal Council is on Zoom

The Tribal Council is holding meetings during the pandemic via Zoom video conferencing. Tribal members can log in to watch, listen and/or contribute comments. (You don't need a video connection to participate. Any phone will do.)

The next meeting is at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 23. Login information will be included in the meeting agenda. Or contact Kay Collins at (541) 751-0904, (800) 622-5869, or kaycollins@coquilletribe.org. She'll email you a link.

Pile driving signals Wellness Center progress



Clockwise from top left:

- A worker on the ground directs a colleague to position a pile for correct placement.
- The view through the trees of the Wellness Center construction site on Kilkich.
- A construction sign reminds people to wear safety equipment while at the site.
- The piles, which arrived at the construction site looking like a truckload of logs, resemble a forest of tree stumps at the end of the day. The protruding tops will be cut off near the ground, and plates will be fitted to support the grade beams of the foundation.

Stay-at-home order inspires creative projects inside and out



Top left: Tribal spouse Scott Felton constructs a dove condo that his wife Alison painted.
Above: JoNi Wasson shows off her new KitchenAid mixer. She has been making bread.
Right: Charlotte Betts helps make a birthday cake.

Left: Tribal Elder Terry Doyle helps out in the kitchen, processing food.
Top: Tribal Elder William Murphy takes advantage of the beautiful weather and gets busy in the garden.
Above left: Kara Perez shows off a delicious treat of fry bread.
Above right: Molly Hockema has used some of her time at home to repaint and distress a dresser.

Photos contributed by Alison Felton, JoNi Wasson, Molly Betts, Katelyn Doyle, Robin Murphy, Kara Perez and Molly Hockema

Tribal One keeps working during the pandemic

By Ray Doering
Tribal One Director of Public Affairs and Compliance

Maintaining social distances and often working remotely, the Tribal One team continues its efforts to seek out and complete federal government projects.

Tribal One Construction completed a two-month project to upgrade data communications technology cable plant upgrades on two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) dredges – the Essayons and Yaquina. The two vessels serve the waterways of Washington, Oregon and California that make up the USACE Portland District. The team will continue working on a second project for the Portland District.

Completion of the project on the dredges brought Tribal One an unexpected letter of appreciation from the customer's technical experts.

"The work was complex and challenging from a logistical, staffing, and maritime regulation perspective, but our team of dedicated professionals were able to achieve the results we were hoping for," the letter said. "Based on the exceptional work conducted on the vessels and the critical support behind the scenes, the crews of both ships now have access to a modernized network infrastructure that

directly supports their vital command and control systems."

The letter concluded, "As the Government Technical Lead for these projects, I am compelled to provide the very best solutions for our organization. The partnership between Tribal One and the United States Army Corps of Engineers enabled us to accomplish this objective in an exemplary fashion."

While some of the work on the Cheyenne Mountain project was temporarily halted, the Tribal One Construction team was able to land a new USACE contract for work right next door at Fort Carson in Colorado. The project will have the team working at the U.S. Army base's airport facility demolishing pavement and removing lighting on the taxiway and installing new and temporary pavement sections, new pavement markings and new lighting.

Tribal One Professional Services also remains on the job providing services to Tribal agencies and businesses and outside clients. The team also has been working on project proposals in response to several federal and state opportunities. Corporate office team members have assisted in these efforts as well as seeking federal support for Tribal businesses that have closed during the pandemic.



Tyson Cochran works below deck of an Army Corps of Engineers dredge, testing cable for final certification. The Tribal One team upgraded the entire communications systems for two dredges.

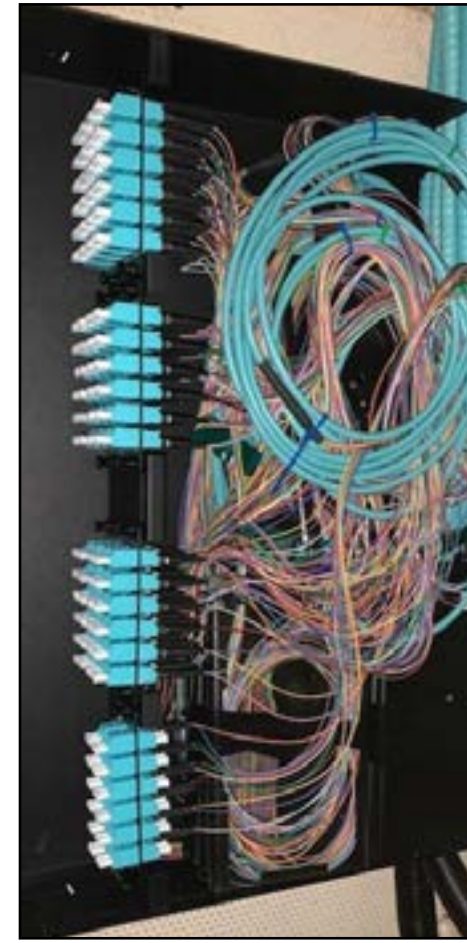


Photo contributed by Tribal One

Market advice for the tribe: Hold on during the rocky ride

By Clark Walworth
CIT Communications Director

"Don't panic."

That's the soothing voice of Mark Gagnon. As the Coquille Tribe's chief financial officer and Investment Committee chairman, he's the numbers guy who looks after the tribe's money. Despite Wall Street's coronavirus swan dive, he offers this calm advice to tribal leaders and individual investors alike:

"Don't get out of the market at the

bottom. Follow your investment policies and participate in the recovery."

From Jan. 1 to late March, the tribe's Permanent Fund lost 22 percent of its value. By April 8, it had recovered nine of those 22 lost points, though Gagnon calls the April comeback a false recovery.

"I don't think this is the end of it," he said.

Regardless, he plans to stay the course, wait for the pandemic's eventual end, and watch the tribe's investments grow once

more. He offers the same wisdom to tribal families.

"If you've got your own personal investments, this is what the experts tell us," he said. "I'm not touching my own 401(k) either."

The experts definitely agree. LPL Financial, adviser for the tribal government's 401(k) plan, tells its clients that "selling solely because the stock market has suffered a big decline over a very short period of time may be the worst thing you can do."

A recently published LPL flier says:

"For many people, a retirement account is their largest investment asset. And that's probably the asset you are most concerned about right now. Keep in mind that if you are investing for a long-term goal such as retirement, which may not begin for two or three decades — and could last two or three decades — you will have plenty of time to ride out this current market downturn."

In other words, don't panic.

Forethought

Continued from page 1

Together, these cuts will save us an estimated \$1.15 million over the course of 2020. I wish I could say these are the only cuts we will have to make. Depending on how long this crisis lasts, however, we may be forced to make even deeper cuts in programs, services and staff salaries.

Our priority in this difficult time is to uphold health care, education and Elder services. Some of these programs may change as time goes on, but these services are designated as essential.

Please stay in touch

We will continue to send you updates as things change. Please stay in touch, with emails, text messages, MyTribe, this newsletter and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group. Your input is invaluable as we look for how we might support the needs of our tribal members and community.

I look forward to talking soon about our plans for the future and when we will get together again. For now, I send out prayers to our family members who are sick or hurting, or who have recently lost loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of sadness and loss.

Take care for now, and please, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call. The Administration office number is (541) 756-0904 or (800) 344-8583. More information is also available on the MyTribe section of our website.

Thank you,
Brenda Meade
Chairman

News on your phone

For digital COVID-19 updates, text CITCOVID to 888777.

Council will revisit election rules

By Clark Walworth
CIT Communications Director

The future of Coquille Tribal elections is still unclear, after the Tribal Council rejected a proposal for preliminary elections that would narrow the candidate field.

The council voted 3-2 against a proposed ordinance amendment during an April 9 video conference meeting. The proposal would have altered the tribe's election rules to allow a preliminary vote when more than two candidates run for a seat. The proposal would have ensured just two candidates for each race on the annual October ballot.

Tribal Chairman Brenda Meade promised that the council would revisit the issue in hope of reaching a conclusion by the end of April.

"The General Council wants us to look at this process and make it better," she said. "So that's what we're going to do."

The rejected proposal resulted from two years of discussion and study, after several tribal members at General Council

meetings proposed holding runoff elections. The members expressed concern that a crowded field could result in electing a Tribal Council member with a thin plurality of the votes cast.

As proposed, the new rules would have set a preliminary election if more than two candidates were nominated for a position. The two top candidates in the preliminary vote would appear on the final ballot in October.

The council had instructed a task force in February to draft the preliminary election proposal. On April 9, however, council Secretary Linda Mecum advocated an alternative system known as "ranked voting." That system calls for each voter to rank the candidates in a given race by preference. Then, if no candidate wins a clear majority of votes, the Election Committee calculates the winner based on voters' backup choices.

"In my opinion, the ranked vote is a more streamlined process," Mecum said. A ranked voting system, sometimes known as an instant runoff, offers the advantage of deciding the election with a single ballot

rather than voting a second time.

Mecum was joined by Chief Don Ivy and Vice Chair Kippy Robbins in rejecting the runoff proposal. Members Don Garrett and Randy Hunter voted in favor. (The council chairman votes only in the case of a tie, and one seat has been vacant since the death of member Toni Ann Brend.)

At the close of the meeting, the chairman offered reassurance that the council had not abandoned its quest for an improved election process. She said the council "has had a rough time trying to decipher" how to respond to requests for a change.

"That is the sausage mill," she said. She promised the council would "come back and tackle the issue and talk about it in a different way."

Hunter said he was "significantly disappointed" in the proposal's rejection and "adamantly opposed" to ranked voting.

The council will meet again April 23.

Head Start program receives high marks

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

The Head Start program has moved to the head of the CLASS – literally.

At the end of March, federal officials visited the tribe's Head Start program for four days and performed a Classroom Assessment Scoring System review, or CLASS for short. When the results came in, our Head Start program finished in the top 10 percent in the nation.

"Our staff should be commended for their hard work and preparation," said tribal Head Start Director Kristina Simpson.

The reviewers look at three domains when reviewing the program:

1. Emotional support – positive interactions between the teachers and students, teachers' sensitivities (how aware they are of student needs) and regard

for student perspectives

2. Classroom organization – behavior management, productivity and instructional learning format

3. Instructional support – concept development, quality of feedback and language modeling

The tribe's program scored in the top 10 percent in the first two domains and narrowly missed that distinction in the third. This was a big improvement from the tribe's previous review four years ago.

Simpson said the tribe's Head Start program is marked by a lot of positivity and praise.

"I think one of the strengths of our program is that ... you are rewarding the good behavior instead of focusing on the negative."

Simpson said the staff went through training to prepare for this year's review. Head Start is one of the most heavily regulated programs in the nation, with more than 1,300 rules to follow each year.

Simpson said many factors went into earning a great review. Compatibility among staff members was a big one.

"The teachers are supportive of each other, because part of it is that ease of flow in the classroom."

Simpson couldn't say enough about the hard work her teachers and staff have done to earn high marks. Their work is reflected in a quality program.

"Our classroom is a place where students can grow," she said.

Struggles strengthen worms, turtles and humans

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

I'll be honest, I felt for the worm.

It was little. It was thrashing all over the place. Based on its movements, I gave it about a 12 percent chance of survival. Make that 8 percent. Poor thing

It was another day in the endless blur of the pandemic twilight zone. I had brought my boys to the local middle school track to get in some running time.

I'll admit, spending time at the track with my boys each morning is a definite upside to the whole stay-safe-at-home era we're in.

Normally, three of my four boys were already off to a morning workout or sports practice at the high school by the time I woke up and got ready for work. I didn't have a chance to enjoy a run with them.

COVID-19 has changed all of that for us. With schools closed, my boys needed a new place to sweat. I got instant running partners.

It was during the first couple of minutes of my warmup, when I was walking, that I noticed the worm.

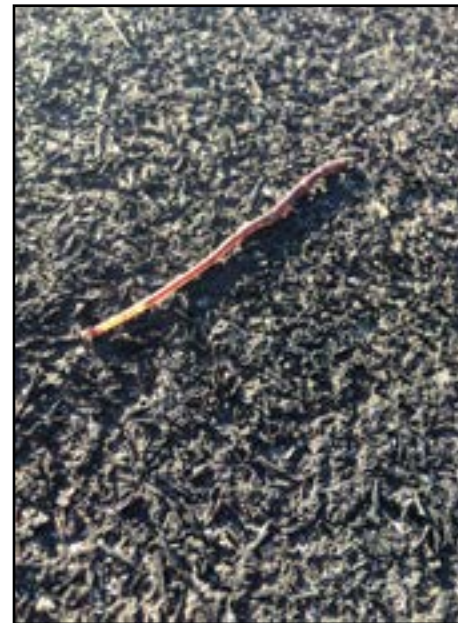
It obviously didn't know where it



At left, Canyon Niblett works on improving his mile time. At right, an earthworm makes its way across the running track in search of a friendlier environment.

was going. It had wandered away from the safety of the grassy soil, probably because of a morning sprinkler, and it had squirmed onto the black track. But now the sun was out. If it didn't move, it was doomed.

As I did the full loop around the track, I noticed other worms were struggling, too. Some, stranded the previous day,



Photos by Anne Niblett

had already given up and were lying there dead – fried by the warm spring sun. Some were still fighting, their instinct to survive strong. A couple seemed to be headed in the right direction.

I remembered a video I had watched on Facebook about a recently hatched baby turtle. The narrator said that one out of 1,000 hatchlings actually makes

it to adulthood in the ocean. The footage showed a tiny newborn struggling through the sand, trying to avoid predators and pitfalls, as it made its way to the water.

The man warned that we might be tempted to help the little hatchling, but we actually wouldn't do the creature a favor. It needed the struggle to toughen it up and prepare it for its new life in the sea.

I kind of felt like that hatchling or the worms I was seeing. The endless black track with the radiating heat felt like the challenges of life at home, trying to avoid the coronavirus. It wasn't easy. My character was being tested in my relationships, and I didn't always like what I saw.

But maybe, like the turtle hatchling, I needed this time to strengthen me and prepare me for what was coming next. Maybe I didn't need a rescue, just the determination to make it through the heat of the situation.

I looked down and saw a slightly bigger worm, heading toward the safety of good ground. It obviously had been "around the track a few times" and had figured out the lesson. It had what it takes. I smiled and started running.

Coquille Indian Tribe

Tribal Council

Chairman Brenda Meade

(541) 297-8803
brendameade@coquilletribe.org

Vice Chair Kippy Robbins

(541) 297-9876
kippyrobbins@coquilletribe.org

Chief Don Ivy

(541) 297-4967 donivy@coquilletribe.org

Secretary-Treasurer Linda Mecum

(503) 508-3000
lindamecum@coquilletribe.org

Don Garrett

(541) 297-3376 dongarrett@coquilletribe.org

Randy Hunter

(541) 707-7194
randyhunter@coquilletribe.org

Administration

3050 Tremont St. North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 756-0904, (800) 622-5869
cit@coquilletribe.org

Executive Director Mark Johnston

Human Resources – Mike Frost
Operations Director – Fauna Larkin
Finance – Mark Gagnon
Tribal Member Services – Jon Ivy
Natural Resources – Darin Jarnaghan
Information Technology – Robert Goldrick
Communications – Clark Walworth

Tribal Court

Chief Judge Donald Owen Costello
Clerk Lynda Payton
(541) 756-0904, (800) 622-5869

Culture, Education & Learning Services

Director Bridgett Wheeler
(541) 751-2004, (800) 622-5869

Tribal Police

Emergency: 911

Chief Scott Lafevre
2602 Mexeye Loop Coos Bay, OR. 97420
(541) 888-0189

Nasomah Health Group

Director Rod Cook
PO Box 921 North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 751-0940 rodcook@coquilletribe.org

Community Health Center

Health & Human Svcs. Admin. Kelle Little
PO Box 3190 Coos Bay, OR. 97420
(541) 888-9494, (800) 344-8583
541) 888-4405, (866) 862-7506

Learning Center

Assistant CELS Director Becky Cantrell
(541) 888-7737; (800) 344-8583

Housing Authority

CIHA Executive Director Anne Cook
2678 Mexeye Loop Coos Bay, OR. 97420
(541) 888-6501, (800) 988-6501

Mith-ih-kwuh (Tribal One)

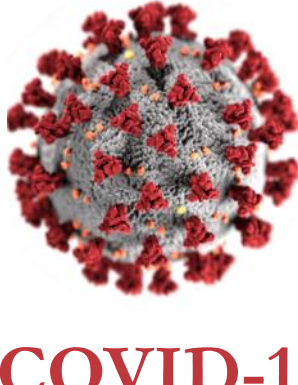
Chief Executive Officer Judy Duffy-Metcalf
3201 Tremont St. North Bend, OR. 97459
(866) 442-3326

Gaming Commission

(541) 756-5664, (800) 953-4800

Medford Office

2355 S. Pacific Hwy
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 779-1501, jonivy@coquilletribe.org
8-4 Mon-Fri, or by appointment



COVID-19 K'wen Update

Monday, April 20, 2020

Lose income? Rent help is available

If you're experiencing income loss because of the COVID-19 outbreak, you may qualify for rental assistance from the Coquille Indian Housing Authority. You can learn more and fill out an application on the CIHA website. [\(Click here\)](#)

If you're already a participant in a CIHA program, be sure to provide updated income information so your rent or subsidy amount can be adjusted accordingly. Use the update form that was mailed to all program participants on March 27, or contact CIHA for another copy.

Oregon update

- A second case of COVID-19 has been reported at the Shutter Creek Correctional Facility in Coos County. The World newspaper in Coos Bay reported today that the Oregon Department of Corrections had confirmed the positive test at Shutter Creek.
- Although the Corrections Department lists two cases at Shutter Creek, the Oregon Health Authority reports only one case in Coos County so far. (We're not sure why.)
- Elsewhere in the Coquille Tribe's congressionally established service area, Curry County has had four cases; Douglas County has had 23; Jackson County has had 48; and Lane County has had 48 cases and one death.
- Across Oregon, the total of coronavirus cases has risen to 1,956 as of Monday, with 171 new cases since Friday. The state recorded five more deaths over the weekend, raising Oregon's death toll to 75.

Bored? How about sewing a mask?

If you're sitting around the house with nothing to do, why not help the COVID-19 response by joining the Mask-a-Thon? We're sewing simple face masks for our health-care workers, essential staff, Elders and others who need them?

You don't need fancy materials. Old shirts, sheets or pillow cases will work.

[Here are some instructions.](#) (You can find other patterns online. Google "mask pattern.")

The tribe also has some supplies to share, and a few sewing machines to lend. Call Jennifer ViksneHill at (541) 252-0251.

You can drop off finished masks at the Learning Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

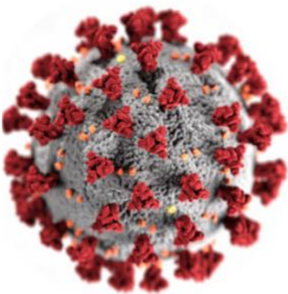
Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.

COVID K'wen



Help with rent

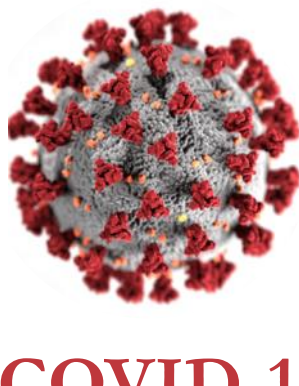
If you've lost income because of COVID-19, you may qualify for rental assistance. Read the Monday, April 20, K'wen Update to learn about that and other coronavirus news from the tribe. [Click here](#)

Payroll cutback

The Coquille Tribe is making further spending reductions in response to the pandemic's effect on casino revenue. Read about that and other tribal COVID-19 news in the Friday, April 17, K'wen Update.

[Click here](#)

- Adult Education and Enrichment Program
- Adult Merit Scholarship
- Adult Retreats
- After School Program
- Annual Reports
- Athabaskan Language Book
- Baby Equipment
- Boards and Committees
- Borrowing Tribal Property
- Burial Fund



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Feel the need to talk?

There's a new virtual support group for women of the Coquille Tribal family. The first digital meeting of the "Wawa Sisterhood" is tonight. [Click here for more.](#)

Native-owned business loans

- Emergency Forgivable Loans are available to help Native-owned small businesses with COVID-19 relief efforts.
- This program comes courtesy of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corp., with support from the Oregon Small Business Stabilization Fund.
- Emergency Forgivable Loans will range from \$1,000 up to \$5,000. Funds are limited, and most loans will likely be \$1,000 to \$2,000.
- [Click here for a loan application and more information.](#)

Tribal checks may take longer

Some tribal members have asked why reimbursement checks seem to be taking longer than usual. We asked, and here's the answer:

- With staffing reduced during the COVID-19 crisis, the tribe's Accounting office has cut back to one check run per week.
- All checks are printed on Thursdays and mailed on Fridays.
- To have your check processed on a Thursday, the request has to come to Accounting the previous Friday.
- Other tribal offices are also operating with reduced staff. So a reimbursement request may take longer to be processed and sent to Accounting.
- Worst-case scenario: If you turn in your request on a Monday, your check will go out 12 days later.
- The Accounting staff and program teams regret any inconvenience. They're doing their best in a difficult time.

Family Camp refunds

- Nichole Howe, our travel and events coordinator, reports that all Family Camp deposits received through PayPal have been processed for refunds.
- If you paid by check, your refund may take a little longer. As noted above, the tribe's Accounting office can only run checks one day a week.
- The first batch of camp refunds will be mailed out Friday, April 24. The second batch will go out Friday, May 1.
- If you have not received your refund by Friday, May 8, or if you have any questions, please contact Nichole at (541) 294-8965 or nicholehowe@coquilletribe.org.

Update on Meals for Elders

- Elders may pick up frozen meals at Yaalaak Haws (2606 Mexeye Loop) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.
- When you arrive, please stay in your vehicle and call Elders Coordinator Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897. Tell her you are there and what you would like.
- Or you may call in advance. Your meals will be ready for pickup when you arrive.
- Our staff will do their best to get you the choices you ask for.
- If these days or times do not work for you, please call to make other arrangements.

Oregon report

- A third inmate at the Shutter Creek Correctional Institution near Coos Bay has tested positive for COVID-19. The two previously diagnosed Shutter Creek inmates have been transferred out of the area.
- If you live in near Coos Bay, be alert to the possibility of exposure by Shutter Creek staff or other inmates who have yet to show symptoms. The Corrections Department is working with Coos Health and Wellness to trace contacts.
- Oregon has seen 103 new cases of COVID-19 since our Wednesday update, and three new deaths. That brings the total cases to 2,059, and the death toll to 78.
- A "Coos County Reopen Rally" has been scheduled for the first weekend in May. Local public health officials are concerned about possible contagion. [Read news story](#)

The other epidemic: cabin fever

Staying home can help you avoid COVID-19, but you may come down with cabin fever instead. [Here's some advice to help you cope.](#)

Talking to kids about Covid-19

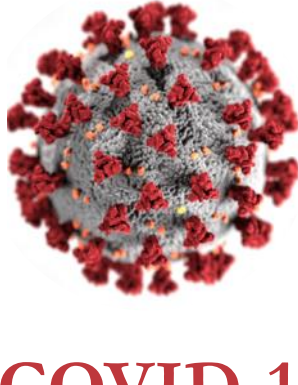
It's a tough time for everyone, but especially for kids. [These tips may help.](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.



COVID-19

K'wen Update

Friday, April 24, 2020

We're cashing out our idle bogs

The Coquille Tribe has been out of the cranberry business for a while now, and we don't need all our former bog property. This week the Tribal Council decided to sell two parcels in Coos County:

- The Seven Devils property — 87.62 improvements
- The Four Mile Property — 101.36 acres and improvements

The plan is to sell both properties for cash at the highest possible value, and then use the proceeds to address budget concerns due to COVID-19.

Potlatch during the pandemic

Our Emergency Management Team demonstrated the potlatch spirit this week. After discovering we had a surplus, the team donated 5,010 medical masks to Coos Health and Wellness, to be shared with local health agencies that need them.

As our Elders taught us, we take only what we need, and we leave some for the others.

[See the news story](#)

About the antibody test:

You may have heard that Coquille Valley Hospital is offering coronavirus antibody tests as part of a clinical trial. Some insurance plans, including the Nasomah Health Group, will cover this test.

The Coquille Tribal Community Health Center makes no recommendation about whether you should undergo this test. Scientific evidence is inconclusive about the value of antibody testing for COVID-19.

Please understand:

- A positive antibody test tells you only that you have been infected with the virus at some time in the past.
- The test can't tell you whether you are infected now.
- It can't tell you how long ago you became infected.
- It can't tell you whether you have immunity, or how long any immunity might last.

Our advice: Get the test if you want. Just don't read too much into the result.

For more information, contact the tribal clinic at (541) 888-9494, or your primary care provider.

Reserved parking for clinic patients

If you're visiting the medical clinic at the Community Health Center, please know that the procedure has changed.

To provide easier access to the lab and exam room, we're reserving three parking spaces at the back door for patients' use. So please follow these steps:

1. Call ahead before visiting the health center.
2. If possible, park in one of the three designated patient spaces.
3. Call us at (541) 888-9494. A staff member will meet you at your vehicle.

Oregon report: 8 at Shutter Creek

- Eight inmates have been diagnosed with COVID-19 at the Shutter Creek Correctional Institution, according to the Oregon Department of Corrections. The number has doubled since our Wednesday report.
- One local media outlet reports that three Shutter Creek inmates have been released since the first COVID-19 case was confirmed there. [Details](#)
- Oregon reports 118 more confirmed cases of COVID-19 statewide and eight deaths since our Wednesday report. That brings the totals to 2,177 cases and 86 deaths.

Taking care of your family

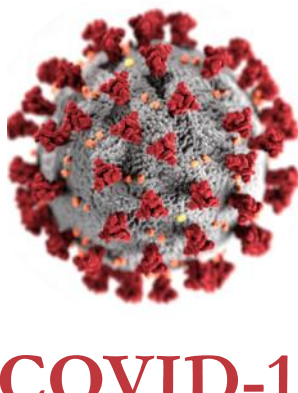
Here are two useful fact sheets on the coronavirus:

- [What Tribal Members Need to Know](#)
- [Stay Home Heroes](#)

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
- Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.



COVID-19 K'wen Update

Monday, April 27, 2020

We have no COVID-19 news from the Coquille Tribe today. Just the worsening situation in a local lockup, and some useful tips.

Oregon report

- The outbreak at Shutter Creek Correctional Institution continues. Today Coos Health and Wellness reported the Hauser-area facility is up to 13 infected inmates and two infected staff members.
- Across Oregon, officials report 227 new cases over the weekend, bringing today's total to 2,354. Six more patients died over the weekend. The death toll is now 92.

Helping children cope

The COVID-19 pandemic is stressful for everyone, and especially for children. For tips to help little ones cope, [click here](#).

COVID-19 and pregnancy

No one knows whether pregnant women are more susceptible than other people to COVID-19. But protecting yourself while pregnant is always prudent. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Keeping you informed

Have questions about coping with the coronavirus? Need help from your tribe?

- You can post questions and comments on the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group (KFG).
- Or email your questions to our staff: [Email us](#)
- Watch MyTribe and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group for coronavirus updates each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
- Prefer to get your tribal COVID-19 news on your phone? Text CITCOVID to 888777, and we'll get you set up.