



K'wen Weekly

June 19, 2020

Restoration 2020

Our event this year looks different due to COVID-19 safety protocols. Find all the details and the agenda

[here](#).

Free groceries on Saturday

Another delivery of food is coming to Kilkich. Tribal families, Kilkich residents, casino employees and tribal staff are welcome to pick up boxes of food at the Kilkich Community Plankhouse parking lot this Saturday, June 20, between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

[Details](#)

Traffic meeting: June 23

You're invited to a Zoom meeting about traffic safety around the Kilkich Learning Center on Tuesday, June 23. [Details](#)

3 salmon events canceled

People didn't sign up to receive salmon at some of scheduled pickup locations. So these events have been canceled: Portland, on June 23, Medford on June 24, and Brookings on June 25.

Zoom into General Council

This year's General Council meeting, during our Restoration event, will utilize the Zoom digital platform so people can attend online. For information on how to use Zoom, please attend one of the following online classes:

Saturday, June 20 – 2 p.m.

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 889 0609 4545

Password: 138312

Connect by phone: (669) 900-6833, (253) 215-8782

Tuesday, June 23 – 6 p.m.

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 841 8843 2545, Password: 709026

Connect By Phone, (669) 900-833, (253) 215-8782

For a basic introduction to Zoom, click [here](#).

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. Here's how:

- When you arrive, please stay in your vehicle.
- Call or text Elders Coordinator Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897. Tell her you are there and what you would like.
- Or you may call or email loriaustin@coquilletribe.org in advance. Your meals will be ready when you arrive.
- If these days or times don't work for you, please call or email Lori to set up another option.

Auction oops!

If you received a notice reminding you about a payment for an auction ending mid-month for MyTribe, please disregard it. This was an error.

Beware of COVID-19 scams

- The Oregon Department of Justice warns about an unemployment scam: [DOJ Alert](#)
- Watch for contact tracing scams via text, the Federal Trade Commission says. [FTC Alert](#)

Chairman's report

Your copy of the June 2020 Chairman's Report to General Council should arrive by email next week. If you didn't receive today's K'wen Weekly [by email](#),

you're not on the list. Please send your address to

jonivy@coquilletribe.org.

Summer program for kids

Applications are being accepted for the tribe's summer youth program. [Here's the form](#).

Speak your mind

The Tribal Council wants members' input on three proposed changes to tribal ordinances:

- One would establish preliminary elections for Tribal Council races.
- One would write a tribal hiring preference into law.
- And one would establish forest management procedures.

All three can be found in the "Notices" section of the MyTribe homepage.

Rebar-a-rama

Here's this week's update on the Ko-Well Wellness Center construction project. [Click or tap](#)

Get your K'wen how you like it!

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K'wen Weekly

Friday, June 26, 2020

Let's celebrate!

This weekend is our 31st Restoration Celebration. It's a virtual party this year, including a General Council meeting via Zoom. You can see all the details on MyTribe.

If you don't have a MyTribe account, you can get login details for General Council from Kay Collins:

kaycollins@coquilletribe.org

Kay also can send you an agenda and a copy of the Chairman's Report if you don't have them already.

A little bit of reopening

The K-Dub is pleased to announce a phased reopening of some tribal community facilities.

The plan could change, based on conditions with COVID-19. But here's where we're heading as of today:

- The fitness center and Omashi's Haws are scheduled to open July 6, or as close to that date as possible.
- The restrooms on the Plankhouse grounds can be reserved for outdoor activities starting July 13, or as close to that date as possible.
- The Plankhouse kitchen can be reserved for outdoor activities starting July 20, or as close to that date as possible.
- The Plankhouse itself will be open for tribally sponsored activities starting July 27, or as close to that date as possible.
- The Elders House will open at the Elders Committee's discretion.

That's as far as the plan goes, for now. Most tribal offices will remain closed for the time being. But employees are working from home, and they'll be available to help you via phone or email.

Seeking nominations

The Election Board is looking for nominations to fill the Tribal Council seat vacated by the passing of Toni Ann Brend. [Details](#)

Fill your RX needs early

In observance of national and tribal holidays, the tribal pharmacy will be closed Thursday, July 2, and Friday, July 3. Remember to call in your prescription refills early: (541) 435-7039.

Health center closures

The CIT Community Health Center will have a modified holiday schedule for the week of Monday, June 29 – Friday, July 3.

These departments will be CLOSED all week, June 29 through July 3:

- Purchased & Referred Care (PRC)
- Family Support Services
- Transportation
- Elders Program

These departments will be open Monday, June 29, through Wednesday, July 1. They will be CLOSED Thursday, July 2, and Friday, July 3:

- Tribal Clinic
- Tribal Pharmacy

All departments will reopen Monday, July 6. If you have an emergency, go to the nearest hospital or dial 911.

For the 24-hour nurse hotline, PRC patients should dial (844) 829-0166. Nasomah members should dial (866) 883-4486.

Other office closures

Non-medical Coquille Tribal offices will be closed next week (June 29-July 3). Chairman Brenda Meade tells why in [this letter](#).

Census drawing Saturday

Winners of the Coquille Tribe's Census Sweepstakes will collect \$100, \$250, \$500 or even \$1,000 on Saturday, just before the General Council meeting. Watch on Zoom as we draw the winning names from among those who completed their Census forms and sent in verification.

Even if you missed out on the drawing, it's still vital that you fill out your form and identify yourself as a Coquille Indian. Failing to do so could cost the tribe an estimated \$3,000 per person in federal support over the next decade.

Here's how to do it: Click or tap [here](#).

Kilkich construction update

The Ko-Kwel Wellness Center's first foundation slab was poured on Wednesday. Read about it and see photos [here](#).

Fire season is here

The start of fire season activates restrictions on both public and private lands. It also means the end of unregulated burning for rural Coos County, Curry County and western Douglas County. [More](#)

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K'wen Weekly

Friday, July 10, 2020

Grant money for your small biz

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians has grant money available to help Native-owned small businesses and nonprofits. (This is separate from any aid that the Coquille Tribe might provide to member-owned businesses.)

Here are details and an application form:

[Announcement](#)

[Application](#)

Tribe loses Elder Roy Gilkey

Chairman Brenda Meade distributed this message on Monday:

"It is with a sad heart that I share with you that Tribal Elder Roy Gilkey has passed away.

"Roy was one of our oldest Elders and was deeply involved with our Tribe's Restoration efforts for many years. He was also on the Tribal Council for a time and continued to support our Tribe with input in some of our programs and some of our earlier projects as well.

"Today we send out our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends in their time of loss."

Nominations July 25

The Coquille Tribal Election Board will accept nominations for Tribal Council on July 25. The nominations include a special election to fill the vacant seat formerly held by Toni Ann Brend. [See the notice.](#)

Fruits and veggies for our Elders

If you're a Coquille Tribal Elder, you can get a \$25 monthly subsidy for fresh fruits and vegetables.

[Details](#)

Here's the latest on masks

- Oregon now requires face coverings in every county. [June 29 notice](#)
- We're requiring masks in tribal government buildings, too. Basically, if you're in an area where you can't maintain a 6-foot physical distance from others, you must wear some kind of face covering.
- The Tribe has masks if you need them. Call Elders Coordinator Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897 or email loriaustin@coquilletribe.org.
- A lot of bad information is circulating about face coverings and COVID-19. [The facts](#)
- Here's a simple checklist to remind you: [List](#)

Wellness center starts to rise

The steel skeleton of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center is starting to take shape. See this week's construction update [here.](#)

Museum spotlights racism

The Coos History Museum will host a panel discussion about racial discrimination on the South and throughout Oregon. It happens Tuesday night, July 14. [Details](#)

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K'wen Weekly

July 17, 2020

Tribal Council nominations

There will be a nominations meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 25, for the following positions on Tribal Council: Vice Chair, Representative No. 2 and Representative No. 1. (For position 1, it's a special election for the completion of Toni Ann Brend's term.) [Agenda](#)

Directly following the meeting, the Elections Board will be appointed. [Agenda](#)

New fence to protect fish

A 6-foot chain-link fence is going up along Cape Arago Highway to protect the Fourth Creek salmon hatchery program. It will run from just north of Miluk Drive to Tarheel Lane. Funding for the fence comes from a Bureau of Indian Affairs grant.

West Coast Fencing Co. will begin construction at the end of July, and it will take about two weeks to finish. [See map](#)

Elders Committee is Zooming

The Elders Committee meets by video conference on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 11.

Any Elder who'd like to participate should email annachavez@coquilletribe.org or loriaustin@coquilletribe.org for the Zoom login information.

Kilkich Fitness reopens

The CIT Community Health Center has announced the Kilkich Fitness Room will reopen on Monday, July 20. However, due to COVID-19 health risks, each registered user or guest must complete an online Health and Safety Waiver before entering the facility. Complete the online waiver [here](#).

For the waiver in a paper format, please call (541) 888-9494, ext. 2211, or email annachavez@coquilletribe.org.

Contract tracing questions

The CIT Community Health Center (CHC) is a member of the Oregon COVID-19 Contact Collaborative, which is a statewide effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 through contact tracing. The CHC has trained contract tracing specialists on staff to assist tribal members and patients in the event of positive test results or second-hand exposure to COVID-19.

Here is what to expect from a contact tracing phone call: [What will I be asked?](#)

Mask-up outside too

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has issued new requirements for face coverings and social get-togethers. Check out the latest [here](#).

Wellness Center update

The first wall of the future pharmacy just went up. Read the story and see the photos [here](#).

Fishermen wanted

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife wants help from local anglers to catch smallmouth bass in the Coquille River system. Check out the details [here](#).

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K'wen Alert

Friday, July 17, 2020

A Coquille clinic in Lane County

(The following is a special message from Coquille Tribal Chairman Brenda Meade.)

Dai s'la!

I'm delighted to announce some great news – especially great for our members in Oregon's Lane County. We've received approval for a federal grant that will let us open a Lane County health clinic.

This news may seem surprising, given the Coquille Tribe's financial difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic. We've had to hit the "pause" button on many programs and services because of lost revenue from our casino. Now may seem like an odd time to invest in anything new.

But COVID-19 is precisely why we can take this exciting step forward.

The federal CARES Act includes grant money to help tribes prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. We got word today that we've been approved for a \$900,000 grant. This money will let us provide vital services to Coquille Tribal families and other Native Americans in the Lane County area.

This project will take a lot of hard work over the next few months. We have to move fast to qualify for the money. We'll need to evaluate our options, purchase the property, and design a clinic operation that makes sense for our people and our organization.

But it's worth the effort. While COVID-19 is the immediate target, the clinic will be a long-term asset to our people.

Lane County has a large concentration of Coquille people. Additionally, Lane County has many other Native American and Alaska Native people who need health care. Our clinic will even have capacity to treat some non-Native community members.

And the benefits may not be limited to Lane County. Like our new Ko-Kwel Wellness Center in Coos County, our Lane County clinic should more than pay for its own operating costs. Its surplus revenue can help defray the cost of providing health care to Coquille Tribal families both near and far.

I want to give credit to our amazing staff for spotting this opportunity amid the fine print of the CARES Act. As I have said many times, providing health care to our members – regardless of where they live – is our No. 1 priority. Opening a clinic in Lane County is the right thing for us to do, and COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to do it.

Masi!

Brenda Meade

Chairman



K'wen Weekly

July 24, 2020

Nominations on Saturday

If you've never attended a Tribal Council nominations meeting, here's your chance. Tribal members can "Zoom" to a Saturday morning teleconference, where nominations will be accepted for three Tribal Council positions.

The meeting starts at 9 a.m. PDT. The positions on this year's ballot are:

- Vice Chair
- Representative No. 2
- Representative No. 1. (A special election to complete Toni Ann Brend's term.)

Afterward, the Tribal Council will hold a special meeting to appoint this year's Election Board.

Agendas for both meetings are available in the "Notices" section of the MyTribe homepage. The agendas have Zoom log-in information. Just copy the Meeting ID and Password, then go to zoom.us to join the meeting.

Vice chair won't run again

Vice Chair Kippy Robbins announced at this week's Tribal Council meeting that she won't run for re-election. She thanked everyone for her time in office and was wished well by many tribal members after her announcement.

Two-step voting adopted

The Tribal Council adopted a significant change in the Elections Ordinance this week. Starting with this year's election, if more than two candidates run for a position, a preliminary vote will pick the top two candidates to run in October.

See the amended ordinance [here](#).

Construction update

The Ko-Kwel Wellness Center is starting to take shape. See this week's update and photos [here](#).

Supporting social justice

The Tribal Council adopted a proclamation this week, reminding everyone that "better times and better ways can happen when those who care to make things better will, in fact, just stand up." [Read the proclamation](#).

COVID-19 safety tips

- For teens: [Protect yourself and your friends](#)
- Stay safe at the [pool and beach](#)

Be safe with campfires

The Forest Service reminds us all to do our part to prevent wildfires. Here are some [safety tips](#).

Do you MyTribe?

From infant car seats to burial benefits, MyTribe is the place to learn what your tribe can do for you — and what you can do for your tribe!

Signing up has never been easier. Just go to www.coquilletribe.org, click or tap "MyTribe" in the top navigation bar, and follow the simple instructions. You'll be MyTribing in no time.

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K'wen Alert

July 25, 2020

Tribal Council nominations

Nine tribal members were nominated today for this year's Tribal Council election.

Four candidates were nominated for Vice Chair, two were nominated for Representative No. 2, and three were nominated to complete the late Toni Ann Brend's term as Representative No. 1.

Vice Chair

- Paul "Rocky" Doyle was nominated by Linda Mecum.
- Derek Mollier was nominated by Michael Mollier.
- Scott LaFevre was nominated by Shelley Estes.
- Jonathan Ivy was nominated by Bridgett Wheeler.

Representative No. 2

- Selena Kelly-Irvin was nominated by Annie Summers.
- Don Garrett was nominated by Brady Metcalf.

Representative No. 1

- Laurabeth Barton was nominated by Ryan Brady Scott Sr.
- Dustin Beauvais was nominated by Lyman Meade.
- Jennifer Procter Andrews was nominated by Mariah Epps.

The candidates have until July 31 to accept their nominations. Under new election rules adopted this week, a preliminary vote will be held in September for Vice Chair and Representative No. 1. The top two candidates in each race will advance to the October ballot.

After the nomination meeting, the Tribal Council appointed this year's Election Board:

- Nichole Howe (chair)
- Jackie Chambers
- Ruth Jimenez

Alternates:

- Brady Metcalf
- Kim Cuevas

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K'wen Weekly

Friday, July 31, 2020

Census: Do it for your tribe

The Coquille Tribe seriously needs you to fill out your U.S. Census form.

Forty percent of Coquille members reportedly are still uncounted as of this week. Each uncounted member could cost the tribe as much as \$3,000 in federal funding over the next decade.

That adds up to **\$1.3 million** in potential budget losses!

So please reply to the Census **TODAY!**

- **Online:** 2020census.gov
- **Phone:** (844) 330-2020
- **Mail:** If you still have your paper form, you can still send it in.

[Here's how to identify yourself as a Coquille Indian.](#)

COVID-19 update

- Oregon had a good week. [Details](#)
- But Umatilla County (home of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) is shut down again. [Details](#)

Show love by wearing a mask

See a great tweet from a Native American leader [here](#).

Reduce the spread with face coverings

Even asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus, because symptoms may take 14 days to appear after you've been exposed. The Native Project offers valuable tips [here](#).

Flexibility on school supplies

To ensure that tribal youth have the supplies they need this fall for distance learning, onsite learning or hybrid learning, the School Supply program will be more flexible this year.

The funding cap remains the same. But the program will be flexible about supplies to better support home schooling.

Questions? Please contact Rhonda Ferguson at rhondaferguson@coquilletribe.org.

Need to access Rasler?

The lock on the Rasler Gate is being changed temporarily. The new combination is 4113.

Construction is going well

See this week's Ko-Kwel Wellness Center Construction Update [here](#).

K'wen from Indian Country

If you're interested in news about Native Americans across the country, Indian Country Today is a great resource. [Find it here](#).

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K'wen Weekly

August 7, 2020

Council Oks CARES act spending

The Tribal Council has approved spending more than \$12 million in CARES Act money for a variety of projects and programs. Details are on [MyTribe](#).

You can help the tribe

Want to know an easy way to help your tribe? [Follow this link](#).

Meals for Elders change

Beginning on Monday, Aug. 10, Elders may pick up frozen meals at Yaalaak Haws (2606 Mexeye Loop) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays. When you arrive, please stay in your vehicle and call or text Elders Coordinator Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897. Tell her you are there and what you would like.

If you would like your order ready when you arrive, call or email loriaustin@coquilletribe.org in advance and your pick-up order will be ready. Staff will do their best to get you the choices asked for.

We don't want to miss you! If these days or times don't work for you please call, text or email to make an appointment with staff.

Elders: face shields available

A limited number of face shields have been made available for Elders and Veterans at Yaalaak Haws. Contact Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897 or loriaustin@coquilletribe.org if you'd like to make arrangements to pick one up.

Protect your kids

Vaccinating children on time is the best way to protect them. Call the tribal clinic for an appointment at (541) 888-9494, opt. 1. Ask about the safety measures in place for a worry-free visit. Read more at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/growing/>

Got cell service?

Check to see if you qualify for discounted cell and internet service: <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/Documents/LifelineBrochure.pdf>

Job openings

The Mill Casino and RV Park is hiring. Check out the job list [here](#).

The tribe is looking to hire a new police chief. Look here for [details](#).

Jobs are also available with the tribe in other areas of the country. Find the information [here](#).

TC Meetings and minutes

Read the minutes for the nominations meeting [here](#) ,

the July 23 minutes [here](#) and minutes for July 25 meeting [here](#).

The walls are rising

Look at the latest news on construction of the Wellness Center [here](#).

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YOU can help your tribe!

If you've already filed your U.S. Census form, thanks! Please do us one more simple favor:

**Ask all your relatives
to file, too!**

We need every Coquille Tribal member to get counted. Each uncounted member equals **\$3,000 in lost federal revenue** over the next 10 years.

We're behind the curve:

- ⇒ More than 40% of us are still uncounted.
- ⇒ That could cost us \$1.3 million.
- ⇒ **And time is running out.**
(The deadline just changed to Sept. 30.)

Please file if you haven't. Then please contact your whole extended family. Tell them filling out the form is simple, quick and secure.

How to file

Online: 2020census.gov

Phone: (844) 330-2020

Mail: You can still send in your paper form.



IMPORTANT

**Be sure to identify
as "Coquille Indian"**

[See full instructions](#)



K'wen Weekly

Friday, Aug. 14, 2020

Help for businesses

The Tribal Council has allocated CARES Act money to help tribal members whose small businesses were affected by COVID 19. See details [here](#) or in the [MyTribe](#) Highlights.

A online application and a downloadable W-9 form are available on [MyTribe](#).

Work day at camp

Camp Myrtlewood (where the tribe holds Camp Ta Nae) just had materials delivered for a new water tank. Morgan Woods, the general manager, tells us they need help hauling the wooden planks up the mountain.

A volunteer work day has been set for Wednesday, Aug. 26, starting at 9 a.m. Lunch and dinner will be provided.

If you can help, please call Jennifer ViksneHill for directions at (541) 252-0251.

Run for fun!

This past solstice, Jan Doyle, organized a fun run on the Kilkich Reservation. It was such a success, she's doing it again. Join her and others for an Equinox run on Saturday, Sept. 19. [Details](#).

Fresh produce for Elders

Elders can get reimbursement for fresh produce by sending in receipts. [Details](#).

Get vaccinated

HPV vaccinations for cancer prevention are available for 11- and 12-year-olds. [Details](#)

Vaccinations also support healthy living for diabetes patients. [You can learn more online](#). Or call the Community Health Center for an appointment at (541) 888-9494, option 1. Ask about the safety measures in place for a worry-free visit.

Cars, laptop for sale

Another round of auction items is here. This time two Hondas and a MacBook are for sale. Go to the [MyTribe](#) homepage and select the Auctions tab.

Dust in the wind

The tribe and our construction contractor are taking additional steps to control the dust on the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center site. See more information and photos in this week's [Construction Update](#).

Honoring the Brends

Many people have contacted Toni Ann Brend's family, wondering when there will be a service honoring Toni Ann and Orlin. Toni Ann's daughter, Shelley Estes, would like people to know that there will be a service, but probably not until next year.

The health of everyone during this pandemic is their top priority. They hope that near the time of Restoration next year, the world will be a safer place, and they can honor their parents then.

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