



# K'wen Weekly

August 21, 2020

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## Computers for kids and more

Thanks to funding from the federal CARES Act, the Culture, Education and Learning Services Department (CELS) has announced two new programs that will help kids get computers and appropriate clothes for outdoor activities.

CELS is also going to begin hosting an educational support group. [Details.](#)

## Vandals deface cemetery

A Summers family gravesite atop Battle Rock was vandalized recently. The tribe repaired and updated the site with protective fencing on Tuesday, Aug. 4. Sometime after 2 p.m., vandals carved words and symbols into the still drying cement.

If you have any information about who committed this crime, please contact tribal police, or call Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Kassie Rippee at (541) 808-5554.

## Pine nuts and regalia class

Would you like to take a Zoom class to learn about pine nuts and their use in traditional Coquille regalia? Look [here](#) for more information.

## Zoom in to workshops

You can stay in touch with what is going on in tribal government by attending Tribal Council workshops and meetings. Details for next week's workshops and Tribal Council meeting are [here](#).

- Log-in information for a council meeting can be found on the official agenda. (On MyTribe, go to "Tribal Council" on the "Tribal Government" tab. Then select "Agendas and Minutes.")
- Log-in information for workshops is available from Executive Management Coordinator Kay Collins at (541) 756-0904 or (800) 622-5869. Or email [kaycollins@coquilletribe.org](mailto:kaycollins@coquilletribe.org).

## Frozen meals for Elders

Frozen meals are available for Elders in the five-county service area of southwestern Oregon. [Details](#)

## Jobs with the tribe

Need work? Tribal government has an opening for an [IT Tech Support Specialist II](#) and a [Medical Receptionist](#).

The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park also has several [openings](#).

## You are valuable. Be counted

It's important that every Coquille tribal member is counted in the [U.S. Census](#). It could mean \$1 million or more for the tribe. Please do your part today.

## Walls are going up

The Ko-Kwel Wellness Center is taking shape. Check out this week's construction [update](#).

## Election issues?

If you have questions or concerns about this fall's tribal election, please email the Election Board at [ElectionBoard2@coquilletribe.org](mailto:ElectionBoard2@coquilletribe.org).

Using the board's group address assures that the whole board will see and discuss your question.

Please do not reach out to these volunteers through their personal email or social media. Thank you for respecting their personal space while they provide an important service to the tribe.

If you need an immediate answer, please call Election Administrator Danielle Summers at (541) 756-0904, ext. 1247. She'll contact the board chair.

## Got a face mask?

Face coverings are available for tribal families that may need them. Call Elders Coordinator Lori Austin at (541) 217-9897 for details.

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# K'wen Weekly

Aug. 28, 2020

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## New programs for you

The Coquille Tribe is using federal CARES Act money to enhance programs and services. Visit MyTribe to learn about:

### Child care

Child care assistance is now available for members, regardless of where you live. (In the past, this program was available only within the tribe's five-county service area. CARES Act funding is allowing a one-year expansion for members everywhere.)

### Tutoring

Remote, virtual tutoring is available for tribal students.

### Small business aid

The tribe has grants available for member-owned businesses that have been affected by COVID-19. For details, check [MyTribe Highlights](#).

## Youth program registration

Parents can register eligible tribal youth for this fall's in-person educational support at the Learning Center.

[Register online](#)

[Printable form](#)

More information will be provided later regarding hours and services. Plans are being developed for an individualized approach to services. We look forward to working with the youth again in our facilities.

Registration forms and any questions should go to:

Becky Cantrell

[beckycantrell@coquilletribe.org](mailto:beckycantrell@coquilletribe.org)

Office: (541) 888-7737, ext: 2235

Cell: (541) 217-1350

Fax: (541) 888-2561

## Elder Joe Thomas passes away

We regret to report the passing of tribal Elder Joe Thomas. Joe was a storyteller, a musician, a teacher, a law giver (instrumental in creating the Coquille Tribal Constitution), a leader of his tribe, and a much-loved friend and family member. Watch a future edition of The K'wen newsletter for remembrances of Joe.

## General Council Sept. 19

The Coquille Tribal General Council will meet via Zoom at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. All tribal members 18 and older are welcome to participate.

Watch K'wen Weekly, MyTribe and Facebook for more details and log-in instructions as the event gets closer.

To ask for a spot on the agenda, email [Kay Collins](mailto:Kay.Collins@coquilletribe.com), or call her at (541) 756-0904 or (800) 622-5869, ext. 1242.

## The Cen\$u\$ truly matter\$

September is the final month to fill out your U.S. Census form. Please do it today!

Future federal funding for the tribe depends on filling out your form correctly. That means listing your identity as "Coquille Indian."

It's easy to do. Here are instructions and a link to the form:

[Census form](#)

[How to fill it out](#)

## Could you be a tutor?

We are looking for remote, virtual tutors to help our youth throughout the upcoming school year. You can help tribal students build academic skills and confidence while working variable and flexible hours. High school and college students are encouraged to participate. Math and science lovers especially welcome!

[Details](#)

## Defend your health

The Coquille Tribal Community Health Center offers two suggestions for staying physically and mentally healthy during the pandemic:

[COVID-19's worst enemy](#)

[Managing stress during COVID](#)

## Construction update

This week's Ko-Kwel Wellness Center construction report focuses on the internal courtyard.

[Read it here](#)

## In September's K'wen

The September edition of The K'wen monthly newsletter will arrive soon in your mailbox or inbox. Watch for

these great stories:

- Building the tribe's future prosperity
- Update on Jordan Cove
- Tribal Council candidate statements
- Learning Center remodeling
- Plans for Toni Ann Brend's memorial

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# K'wen Weekly

Sept. 4, 2020

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## Personal fight against COVID

Watch a Native American's first hand account of the toll the flu has taken on him <https://youtu.be/vBkJ5vc42Q>

## Clinic and pharmacy closed

### for Labor Day holiday

The Community Health Center will be CLOSED on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. This includes the tribal clinic and pharmacy. For emergencies, dial 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital. The 24-Hour Nurse Line is always available. For PRC Members, call (844) 829-0166. For Nasomah Members, call (866) 883-4486.

## Safety reminder for holiday

Over the Labor Day Weekend, please continue to demonstrate vigilance in protecting yourself and other in minimizing the risk of transmitting COVID-19. There has been a recent increase in positive cases in the region, prompting concern preceding a holiday weekend. Please remember the following guidance.

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Do not travel.
- Avoid gatherings greater than 10 people
- To avoid exposure to COVID-19, people who are at risk for severe complications (over age 60 or have underlying medical conditions) should stay home even if you feel well.
- If you become symptomatic (cough, fever, shortness of breath) while in public, please return home and self-isolate immediately. Contact your health care provider if you need medical attention.
- Practice good hand hygiene with frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content).
- Cover coughs/sneezes with elbow or tissue. If you use a tissue, immediately discard tissue in the garbage and your wash hands.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Practice physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between you and people who you do not live with.
- Use a cloth, paper, or disposable face coverings in public.
- Flu season is fast approaching, symptoms are similar. Plan on getting a flu shot this year.

## Census: Time's running out

If you haven't filled out your U.S. Census form, the Coquille Tribe needs you to do it TODAY.

Many Coquille members remain uncounted, and each uncounted member could cost the tribe as much as \$3,000 in federal funding over the next decade. It could add up to \$1 million or more!

So please reply to the Census before Sept. 30.

- Online: [2020census.gov](https://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.](#)

## Stay informed

Read the [meeting minutes](#) for the Aug. 6 Tribal Council meeting.

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- K'wen is on [MyTribe](#).
- Questions? [Email us](#).

September 20, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Election Board, with a quorum of 3 Board members and 2 Alternates present, and assisted by an Independent Election Watcher, tabulated the Preliminary ballots for the position of Vice Chair and Representative Number 1 on the Coquille Tribal Council.

The results are as follows:

**Vice Chair:**

*Doyle, Paul "Rocky"* 48  
*Ivy, Jonathon* 80 \*\*\*  
*LaFevre, Scott* 78 \*\*\*  
*Mollier, Derek* 34

**Representative 1**

*Barton, LauraBeth* 104 \*\*\*  
*Beauvais, Dustin* 60  
*Procter-Andrews, Jennifer* 75 \*\*\*

**"Write-in Candidate"**

*Robbins, Kippy* 1  
*Scott, Brady* 1  
*NO VOTE* 1

**"Write-in Candidate"**

*Ivy, Jon* 1  
*Richards, Norman* 1  
*NO VOTE* 2

**\*\*\* indicates candidate moves on to final election**

Total eligible voters: 724

Total number of valid ballots: 243

Total number of write-ins: 4

Total number of spoiled ballots: 3

Total ballots mailed: 712

Total Returned Packets: 0

Total Re-Mailed Packets: 6

Total Unknown mailing addresses: 12

**CERTIFICATION  
COQUILLE TRIBAL COUNCIL  
PRELIMINARY ELECTIONS  
September 11, 2020**

Election Watcher

Sean Suppes, \_\_\_\_\_

Coquille Indian Tribe's  
2020 Election Board Members

Nichole Howe \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member

Jackie Chambers \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member

Ruth Jimenez \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member

Alternates

Brady Metcalf \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate

Kimberly Cuevas \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate



# K'wen Weekly

Sept. 11, 2020

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## Preliminary ballot results

Jonathon Ivy and Scott LaFevre will compete in the October election for Coquille Tribal Vice Chair. They were the top two finishers for that seat in today's preliminary election.

For the Representative No. 1 position, Laurabeth Barton will face Jennifer Procter-Andrews.

Also on the October ballot will be the Representative No. 2 race between Donald Garrett and Selena Kelly-Irvin. That race wasn't on today's preliminary ballot, because only two candidates filed.

[See full details here.](#)

## Wildfires: Here's help

If you've been affected by wildfires, the Coquille Tribe wants to help. We've opened an Emergency Operations Center, and staff members are responding to calls from families that have evacuated their homes.

Here's information you need:

**This weekend:** If you've been affected by the wildfires, these people are available all weekend:

Yvonne Livingstone, Family Support Services Director, (866) 200-0744

[yvonnelifivingstone@coquilletribe.org](mailto:yvonnelivingstone@coquilletribe.org)

**Or:**

Derek Mollier, Emergency Management Coordinator, (541) 808-4116

[derekmollier@coquilletribe.org](mailto:derekmollier@coquilletribe.org)

### More help

- The Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples is offering emergency funding to Native families impacted by the wildfires in the West. These one-time disbursements will be coordinated through the Flicker Fund to provide help during evacuations, loss of homes, escape from heavy smoke events, and other emergencies. Taking applications through Sept. 25. [Look here](#)
- The Red Cross has additional resources. [Look here](#)

### Where to get information

- Please monitor local news, emergency broadcasts, and sign up for local EAS notifications. As fire is dynamic, it is in everyone's best interest to stay on top of information. Please pay attention to local fire bans and restrictions.
- The latest information from the Coquille Tribe can be found on [MyTribe](#) or the [K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group](#).
- Or [go here](#) for a list of resources.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and watch out for each other.

## Merrit will head tribal police

The tribe announced yesterday that Jerry Merrit has been named the new chief for the Coquille Tribal Police Department, effective immediately. He replaces Scott LeFevre, who retired this week.

Jerry started his career in law enforcement in 1997 working for the city of North Bend. He began working for the tribe in 2014. Congratulations, Jerry!

## Updates on COVID-19

Here is the [latest info](#) on a vaccine for COVID-19.

Check out information on herd immunity [here](#).

## Transport group will meet

There will be a Zoom meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 7. For more information or to get a link to the meeting, please contact Lauren Morris at (541) 888-9494, ext. 2251, or [laurenmorris@coquilletribe.org](mailto:laurenmorris@coquilletribe.org).

Topics will include grant spending in light of COVID-19 and shaping a volunteer driver program.

## Casino has job openings

Here is a note from Quila Doyle, Recruitment Specialist at The Mill Casino-Hotel & RV Park:

*"Hello everybody. We have some really great and varying opportunities at The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park, Tribal One Construction, and Bear Creek Golf Course!"*

*"Please take a look at [these opportunities](#) and share this information with any job seekers. Up-to-date job postings and our application can be found [here](#)."*

For more information you can contact Quila at (541) 217-2292 or [qdoyle@themillcasino.com](mailto:qdoyle@themillcasino.com). Or contact Kara Perez, Tribal Development Specialist, at (541) 756-8800, ext. 1236, or [ktowner@themillcasino.com](mailto:ktowner@themillcasino.com).

## Business aid deadline

Reminder: The deadline to apply for a Tribal Business Emergency Relief Grant (TBERG) is Sept. 30. No applications received after then will be processed.

See MyTribe for details about TBERG.

## Construction update

Here is the [latest](#) on the new Wellness Center.

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# K'wen Weekly

Sept. 18, 2020

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## General Council meets at 9 Saturday

Tribal members are invited to a General Council meeting via Zoom at 9 a.m. PDT on Saturday, Sept. 19. Go to [MyTribe](#) for login information.

## Tribal Council action

The Tribal Council will gather next week (via Zoom) for workshops and a formal meeting. [Schedule](#)

## Vote in tribal elections (again!)

The first round of ballots for open Tribal Council positions has been counted. Round Two has begun, and we need your ballot. Please send in your vote! The candidates are listed below.

### Vice Chair

- Jon Ivy
- Scott LaFevre

### Representative 2

- Don Garrett
- Selena Kelly-Irvin

### Representative 1 (one year)

- Laurabeth Barton
- Jennifer Procter Andrews

## Coos fire danger eases

As of this morning, the Coos Fire Protection Association has lowered the fire danger to High. But restrictions are still in place. [Details](#)

## Help for fire survivors

If you've been affected by wildfires, here are some potential sources of help:

[FEMA Disaster Aid](#)

[Willamette Action Collective](#)

[Oregon Wildfire Info](#)

## Breathe easier with tribal help

A portable air purifier with a HEPA filter can help protect your family's health during wildfire season. The Coquille Indian Tribe will reimburse each eligible tribal household up to \$500 for the purchase of portable air purifiers with HEPA filters, or for HEPA filters for your central air systems.

This offer is for tribal families living in areas with the following Air Quality Index (AQI) listings:

- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (orange)
- Unhealthy (red)

- Very Unhealthy (purple)
- Hazardous (maroon)

To qualify for reimbursement, each portable air purifier must have a HEPA filter. One reimbursement (maximum \$500) per tribal head of household. (Apply now. Funding is limited.)

After you have purchased your purifier and/or filters, please email your receipt (or a photo of it) to [yvonnelivingstone@coquilletribe.org](mailto:yvonnelivingstone@coquilletribe.org). Include your contact information and full details on the items you purchased.

(Note: We're able to pay for this program because of CARES Act money for COVID-19 response. [Here's why.](#))

## What to know about wildfire smoke

Here's what to do when [smoke is in the air](#).

Here's what to know about [wildfire smoke and public health](#).

There are differences between wildfire smoke inhalation and COVID-19 symptoms. [Here they are.](#)

## Wawa Sisters are here for you

Times are stressful, and now more than ever, we need one another for community and support. The Wawa Sisterhood wants the women of the tribal community (tribal members, staff, spouses and even friends) to know we have your back.

Join us Wednesday, Sept. 23, via Zoom, to talk about what self-care really looks like and how to do it. We'll also be meeting on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Plankhouse parking lot for Halloween bingo.

Questions? Contact Anne Niblett at (541) 808-5758 or [anneniblett@coquilletribe.org](mailto:anneniblett@coquilletribe.org).

## Free PPE for small businesses

Oregon's governor Brown announced a new program to help small businesses with [personal protective equipment](#).

## Register to vote

Oct. 13 is deadline for Oregon residents to register for the November general election. [Here's how.](#) Information for all states and territories is available [here](#).

## Clinic hires receptionist

We are pleased to announce that Christina Vazquez- Ledesma has been hired as the new Medical Receptionist at the Health Center, as of Sept. 15.

Christina has been filling in at the clinic since March and also working in her current position with Family Support Services. She has been working for the tribe for two years and three months.

**Be counted!**

You are an important member of our tribe, and we want you to [be counted](#). Please fill out the census if you haven't already done so. Sept. 30 is the final day. Your participation helps ensure that the tribe receives federal funding we deserve.

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