

Kilkich Residents Association Board of Directors

Chair: Shelley Estes
Vice-Chair: Alison Felton
Treasurer: Pam Lenox
Secretary: Scott Felton

Rocky Doyle · Sheldon Chase · Helen Howard



Date : February 12, 2024

Regular Meeting CIHA Office and Zoom AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Board Members and Introduction of Residents and Guests
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2024 meeting
4. Amendments to Agenda
5. Treasurer's Report – Current balance is \$1,378.05.
6. Business
 - Board Protocols – Discussion.
 - Winter Gathering – Recap.
 - Coffee & Cocoa with a Cop – Recap.
 - Event Planning – Discussion of 2024 events.
 - Easter Egg Hunt – Update.
 - Tribal Small Donations Fund Application – Spring Fling mini-golf event.
7. Sea-Ha Runner Notices/Additions
8. Public Comment
9. Next KRA Board Meeting – March 11, 2024
10. Adjournment



Killich Residents Association
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minutes

January 8, 2024

Call to Order

- Chair Shelley Estes called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. via Zoom and in person at the CIHA office.

Roll Call

- Board members in attendance: Alison Felton, Pam Lenox, Rocky Doyle, Shelley Estes, Scott Felton, and Sheldon Chase. Helen Howard was absent/excused. Also, present was CIHA staff member Tracey Mueller. Tribal Police Chief Jerry Merritt was in attendance by Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes for November 13, 2023, were approved.

Amendments to Agenda

- Easter Egg Hunt and Winter Gathering.

Treasurer's Report

- KRA's funds are currently \$1,239.12.

Committee Reports

- N/A.

Business

- Holiday Décor Drawing Recap – The holiday décor drawing was successful, and two \$50.00 cash prizes were handed out to the drawing winners. 641 Miluk Drive and 2679 Mexeye Loop were the drawing winners.
- Coffee and Cocoa with a Cop – Alison gave information about the event, refreshments, promotional materials, budget, and activities that would be happening. Alison also shared the Certificates of Appreciation that would be given to the three police agencies that would be attending. Jerry was also online to answer any questions and talk about the event. Alison asked the Board for \$100.00 to supplement the amount the police department had budgeted. Rocky moved to donate \$100.00 to Coffee with a Cop, seconded by Pam. Motion carried, Alison abstaining.

- Letter from Jan Doyle regarding Little Free Libraries – Alison had some discussion with Marsha Frost about taking care of the books and maintenance of the libraries. Marsha said she would look into a grant for stocking with some books and taking care of them. It was suggested by Pam, Alison, and Scott that KRA not take on the maintenance and books at this time. Rocky suggested we give CELS time to work on the libraries and see if there are any changes in the next six months and, if not, maybe KRA could look into taking on the project. Scott said he would switch out the library at the corner of Mexeye and Miluk with the one at the playground because it was larger and would accommodate children’s picture books better. It was agreed that the subject would be tabled to July.
- Easter Egg Hunt – Alison offered to work with Jerry on the Easter Egg Hunt. It was agreed that KRA would partner with CITPD to help out. Jerry suggested maybe Rocky or Sheldon wear the bunny suit this year.
- Tribal Small Donations Fund Application – KRA still needs to come up with a specific event, an amount for the event, and mission statement for the application. Discussion was held about doing another barbecue like last year. Rocky brought up contra dance, Alison proposed bingo night, and there was some discussion about a movie night. Pam said she would contact Community Services about any events that they may have planned for the Kilkich community and maybe KRA could add to that. This discussion would be continued later.
- Tribal Emergency Preparedness Classes – Shelley wants to invite Lon Matheny back for some discussion about the Self-Rescue Classes for the board to take, and then for the community. Rocky suggested we reach out to Lon to let him know that KRA would support him with this. Rocky made a motion to reach out to Lon Matheny to invite him again to find out how KRA can support him for the classes, Pam seconded. Motion carried.
- Winter Gathering – It was discussed that KRA would be attending and have a table set up at the Elders’ lunch and the information fair. We would be doing a 50/50 raffle along with a Pendelton blanket raffle. All KRA Board would be volunteering to help out with this event.

Sea-Ha Runner Notices/Additions

- Alison will add the Easter Egg Hunt for March.

Public Comment

- None.

Next Meeting Date

- **February 12, 2024** at CIHA and on Zoom.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at **6:34 p.m.**



10 South First Avenue
 P.O. Box 907
 Walla Walla, WA 99362-0265
 bannerbank.com

Statement of Account

Statement Date	01/31/24
Page	1 of 2
Account Number	XXXXXXXXXXXX2862

(509) 527-3636 | (800) 272-9933 Toll-Free

Coquille Indian Housing Authority
 Kilkich Residents Association
 2678 Mexeye Loop
 Coos Bay OR 97420-7713



SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Basic Business Checking	XXXXXXXXXXXX2862	\$1,378.05	Effective 2/1/24, we are eliminating several fees. Details are available at: www.bannerbank.com/fee-schedule
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CHECKING ACCOUNT XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX2862

Basic Business Checking

Account Title: Coquille Indian Housing Authority
 Kilkich Residents Association

Account Number	XXXXXXXXXXXX2862	Statement Dates	1/01/24 thru 1/31/24
Previous Balance	1,239.12	Days in the statement period	31
1 Deposits/Credits	250.00	Average Ledger	1,338.59
Debits	.00	Average Collected	1,338.59
1 Checks	111.07		
Service Charge	.00		
Interest Paid	.00		
Current Balance	1,378.05		

Deposits and Additions

Date	Description	Amount
1/17	Deposit	250.00



10 South First Avenue
P.O. Box 907
Walla Walla, WA 99362-0265
bannerbank.com

Statement of Account

Statement Date	01/31/24
Page	2 of 2
Account Number	XXXXXXXXXXXX2862

(509) 527-3636 | (800) 272-9933 Toll-Free

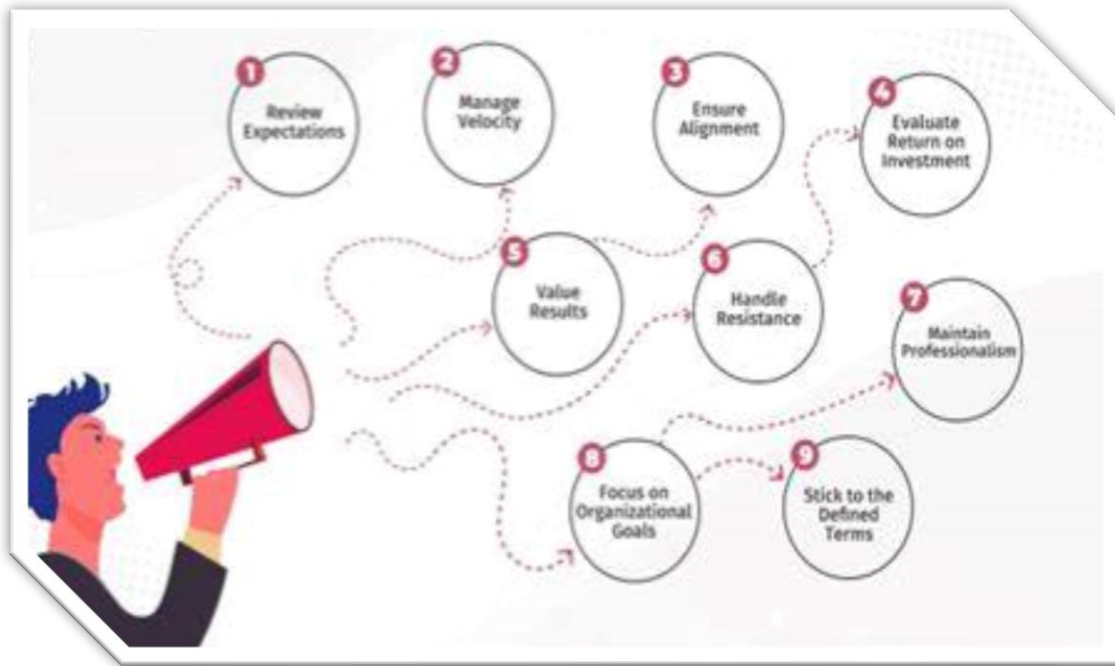
Checks In Number Order

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1/26	1009	111.07
<i>*Denotes missing check numbers.</i>		

Daily Balance Summary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
01/01	1,239.12	01/17	1,489.12	01/26	1,378.05

* * * * * **END OF STATEMENT** * * * * *



The mission of the Killkich Residents Association Board is to create a happy, judgement free environment for all Killkich community members.

Through fundraising and partnering we want to empower community members by providing events throughout the year that offer social, cultural and leadership opportunities. KRA gives back to its community and KRA wants to be a positive role model.

As a KRA Board member remember you are always responsible for how you act whether it is in a meeting or in the community. Our goal is to present honesty, integrity, maturity, and courage.

The protocols I would like board members to think about are:

1. Be Clear About Expectations. If there is a problem or misunderstanding voice it to the Board as a whole, don't single out one person.
2. Managing Velocity. Manage Velocity means we all have different speeds and directions. Realize the difference between individuals. This is why I think creating committees is important. Some people are not going the same speed or direction. This will help alleviate a lot of anger and resentment.
3. Ensure Alignment. KRA Board should have one alignment. Positive alignment. "With the right alignment, everything you want makes its way into your experience. You are the keeper of your own gate." Esther Hicks
4. Evaluate Return on Investment. If your investment is not getting a positive return, you are not happy & feel you are not being heard. It is your choice to keep going on this investment or find one that is more aligned with your ideals.
5. Value Results. Let's value each other's opinions and the results that occur from each of our contributions. We all are valuable on this team.
6. Handle Resistance. This is hard for me. I feel someone attacking me, I automatically go into defense mode. So, my protocol for resistance or personal attacks is this. Talk to me like you would talk to a friend. Talk to me like you would talk to your father or mother. Remember the saying, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."
7. Focus on organizational goals. I think streamlining our goals to 4 events a year with 3 partnerships is enough. We all have busy lives. Let's give our community quality over quantity.
8. Stick to the defined terms. Do not re-invent the wheel.
9. Maintain professionalism. "If you make your business about helping others, you'll always have plenty of work." Chris Guillebeau



The K'wen

February 2024

Newsletter of the Coquille Indian Tribe

Volume 31, Issue 2



Winter Gathering brings smiles and stories

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

Colder days reminded the Tribal family to come together for warmth, cheer and the good medicine we find in one another's company.

The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park did another outstanding job in hosting the Tribal family for its annual Winter Gathering.

"I'm so thankful for the Mill Casino's incredible hospitality," said the Tribe's Events Coordinator Nichole Howe. "They always do an outstanding job. Nobody gives us better service than what we get at our house."

This year, due to bad weather, the schedule had to pivot at the last minute and a breakfast and storytelling event that was supposed to be held at the Community Plankhouse on Kilkich, got moved to The Mill Casino's Salmon Room on short notice.

The casino staff came through for the Tribe and got a nice breakfast together for everyone who attended.

And the story telling event was a success too! Several Tribal family members showed up to share traditional coyote tales, family memories or personal anecdotes.

An especially rewarding memory was shared by Tribal Elder Tom Younker. He told how his mother, Nellie Younker, taught him not to judge others.

"She looked at you with compassion. She didn't judge. That was the way of our Tribe," Tom said. He recalled a relative asking his Grandma Lolly, Nellie's mom, to bake a pie for them.

"Would you make me a salmon berry pie? And she looked at him and she says, 'OK.'"

"And she kneaded out the dough. And

Please see Storytelling page 10



Photo by Anne Niblett

Tribal sisters Kristi Myers (left) and Julie Goff get snuggly at Winter Gathering this year as they make some necklaces for giveaways. For more photos of the Tribal family, see pages 8 & 9.

Our Tribe makes a strong showing at ATNI this year

Dai s'la! (Greetings friends!)

I hope you are finding time to enjoy the winter season as, traditionally, we are meant to slow down and spend time with family and friends.

Winter Gathering storm

January brought us together for Winter Gathering and our first General Council meeting of the new year, but sent many of us home to a terrible winter storm. Here on the coast, we found ourselves in high water and torrential rain



**FROM THE
CHAIR**
Brenda Meade

but our Tribal families heading home to the Willamette Valley, Eugene, Springfield and even Portland were met with what some are saying was the worst ice storm they have seen.

Many people were stranded, sitting

in their vehicles for hours trying to get home due to road closures, and many more were left without power for over a week. It was a terrible time for those families. Our Community Services and Emergency Management staff reached out immediately, and we were able to reach most of our families with help.

Please get in touch with Tribal Member Services at 541-756-0904 and ensure that we have your correct contact information. We don't have accurate phone numbers for some of you. I know life

gets busy, but we want to ensure we can reach you, especially in cases of emergencies.

Our Tribe at ATNI

ATNI Winter Conference was back in Portland and all of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes were present. I was happy to have Vice Chair Jen Proctor Andrews and some of our Tribal members join me this year. There were many great presenters including the Assistant

Please see Chair, page 15

Council meetings and workshops

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., main office.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., main office.

Thursday, Feb. 15

Tribal Council meeting, 2 p.m., main office.

Tuesday, March 3

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., main office.

Wednesday, March 6

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., main office.

Friday, March 8

Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., main office.

Join in via Zoom

You can take part in Tribal Council meetings via Zoom. The link is listed in the meeting agenda on MyTribe. You also can get it by calling the Tribal office at (541) 756-0904.

Video

Video recordings of the Tribal Council are available on MyTribe.

Community Events

Drumming at the Community Plankhouse

The Nasomah Singers drum group meets at 6 p.m. Wednesdays at the Community Plankhouse at Kilkich. Call Brenda Meade at (541) 297-8803 for more details, and to be sure they are meeting that week.

Tai chi with Pam Lenox

From 10 - 11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the CIHA Warehouse on Kilkich. All abilities welcome. In person at the warehouse and Zoom link is also available by emailing Pam Lenox at

pamelalenox@gmail.com.

Yoga Tuesdays with Andy

From 5:15 - 6:15 p.m every Tuesday at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center in Coos Bay in the Gathering Space. Mats are provided.

Mindful Movement with Andy

From noon to 1 p.m. on Thursdays at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center in Coos Bay in the Gathering Space.

Holiday closure

Presidents Day

Monday, Feb. 19, all government offices and Ko-Kwel Wellness Centers will be closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Employee Appreciation Day

Noon - 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9, all government buildings and Ko-Kwel Wellness Centers will be closed for an employee appreciation event at The Mill Casino.

Potluck language class

Thursday, Feb. 8 & 22

5:30 p.m. Learn to speak Nuw-wee-ya' and enjoy a potluck meal with the Tribal family at the Community Plankhouse at Kilkich.

Thursday Feb. 15 & 29

5:30 p.m. Learn to speak Nuw-wee-ya' and enjoy a potluck meal with the Tribal family at the Coquille Elementary School library in Coquille, Ore. Questions? Email Jaeci Hall at jaecihall@coquilletribe.org .

Medicine basket necklace workshop

Saturday, March 2

Noon to 4 p.m. at the Community Plankhouse. Finish making the necklace you started during the original class held in December.

General Council mtg.

Saturday, March 9

9 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Details will be posted in MyTribe and in the K'wen Weekly when time is closer.

Birthdays

February	February	February	February
1 Ashlynn Bridgeman Nicholas Weeks Cloey Blinar Raquel Summers Scott LaFevre Emil Heihn Annabelle Ross Emmerson Ross Sofia Vazquez-Ledesma Avagyle Cox	Taylor Ponder Savannah Anderson 8 Steven Cordes Marc Richards Layne Anderson 9 Erin Woodell Kathleen Cirincione Sharon Provost Sara Stringer Eric Summers Corrine Burnum 10 Denise Hockema 11 William Murphy Juvenal Lara Emersyn Gorman Derek Mollier Hazel Faist Chloe Janac 12 Walker Atkins 13 Lynn Sandberg James Ogier Jr. 14 Kenzington Villarreal Kiri Gilkey 15 Eric Metcalf Tucker Hamilton Lillie Leyba 16 Dustin Garret 17 Sarrah Matheny Melvin Summers Kourtli DiBenedetto	18 Drew Robertson Juan Vazquez-Ledesma Jr. 19 Kaylie Banks Mckinzie Beaudry Finley Hill 20 Annette Sandberg Carol Gilkey Jonathan Hockema 21 Brent Anderson Shawn Heather Paul Tull Linda Robertson 22 Kitzen Branting Jerrie Reeder Logan Hockema Molly Hockema Daniel Ross 23 Rhett Claiborne Jake Oliner Edward Metcalf Andrea Saludes Josslynn Mecum 24 Christopher Severson Timothy Severson Brienne Waddell William Metcalf 25 Caitlin DiBenedetto Robert Bumgarner Jr. Ruby Booker 26 Veronica	Gallo-Camacho Katie Pedrick Jack Lenox 27 Oliver Smith Matthew Tull Chance Maude Araceli Zaragoza Summers 28 Catherine Anderson Lucas Trospier Heather Tull Mersadie Hargis Grayson Ahlers 29 Robert LaFollette Tamara Hawkins March 1 Trilian Gilkey 2 Crystal Blinar Santiago Jimenez-Johnsen Addison Spencer Brooke Claiborne Rocco Solares Bradley Garza 3 McKenzy Simmons Jaiden Garcia Trevor Price Shawn Beaudry Catalina Barbosa Riley Powell 4 Nicole Puckett Cheyenne Datan Shelley Estes Alisha Simpson Liam Stitt 5 Nichole Howe

RV Park manager named to elite 20

The Mill Casino's RV Park along with its Manager and Coquille Tribal Member Selena Kelly-Irvin has been accepted into one of the regional Outdoor Hospitality Institutes', elite "20 Group."

OHI 20 Groups are composed of non-competing member campgrounds voluntarily and mutually associated to provide a confidential exchange of experiences, challenges, and ideas at regular meetings.

Selena is the first Native American to complete the rigorous courses required for such a distinction, and the Mill's RV Park is the first Native owned facility ever named to a, "20 Group." We are now in esteemed company with 19 other highly decorated destination locations and as part of the program these other RVP's will be visiting our incredible facility here in the near future to offer critical feedback, and share best practices to insure we continue to exceed guest expectations.

Selena has also completed her certifications with OHI at the George O'Leary National School of Outdoor Hospitality as a Certified Outdoor Hospitality Manager (year one) and Certified Outdoor



Photo by Mill Casino staff

Tribal member and The Mill Casino's RV Park Manager Selena Kelly-Irvin holds a congratulatory cake celebrating her acceptance into a regional Outdoor Hospitality Institute's elite 20 Group.

Hospitality Professional (year two), the first RV Park manager to ever complete these rigorous courses. Congratulations

to Selena on receiving this truly exceptional recognition.

Health and wellness revenues continue to exceed expectations

By Tim Novotny
CIT Communications Director

"It's a beautiful day," Chair Brenda Meade said during the Jan. 12, meeting of the Coquille Tribal Council.

It had nothing to do with the weather outside and everything to do with the approval of resolution that forecasts a sunny future for how the Tribe will be able to care for its members.

The growth of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center over the past three years is helping reap a landmark benefit for the Tribe and its members. That growth led to the passage of Resolution CY24003, with much celebration, as it approved the usage of third-party revenues to help the Tribe cover its portion of the premiums for Tribal members and dependent health

care costs.

When the Tribal Council initiated the expansion of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center, the goal was to add additional services and access to care while generating additional revenues to support underfunded Indian Health Service programs, like Purchased and Referred Care (PRC).

Kathryn Halverson, Chief Executive Officer at Ko-Kwel Wellness Center, said that two years ago this would not have been possible.

"This is reason to celebrate. Expectations are also that the growth will continue. Projections are for significant growth in third-party revenues in 2024, so there may be more reason to celebrate in coming years".



The additional revenue is not only covering PRC patient care costs of \$2.1 million annually, but, with the passage of



Remember to vote!

Ballots have gone out in the mail for the Special Election for Tribal Council Representative, Position 3.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Tribal administration building by noon on February, 16.

If you have any questions or have not received a ballot, contact Kay Collins at kaycollins@coquilletribe.org

CY24003, is providing an additional \$2.2 million to support Nasomah healthcare premiums for Tribal Members, no matter where they live, ultimately saving the Tribe more than \$4 million annually in general funds that can be used to support other important Tribal programs and services.

Chair Meade indicated that this resolution is an exercise in sovereignty and a representation of the fact that our Tribal members are no less members because they live outside of the Tribe's congressionally established service delivery area.

The resolution formalized the use of the third-party revenue using Federal law that authorizes the Tribe to use the funding for a variety of purposes related to Native American health care.

Elders learn about saving underwater forests

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

If trees are the carbon-absorbing champions on land, then kelp are the equivalent underwater.

According to Dr. Sara Hamilton, the Oregon Kelp Alliance's (ORKA) Scientific Coordinator, kelp are like the Douglas fir of the ocean. They create habitat for small zooplankton that in turn feed fish and create a trophic food chain in the ocean that leads all the way up to whales.

But kelp forests are dying. Much like the rest of the environment, they need our help if they are going to survive and continue to contribute to the planet's largest ecosystem, the ocean.

Dr. Hamilton and Tom Calvanese, the Field Station Manager at OSU's Port Orford Field Station and the head of ORKA, stopped by the Elders House recently to spend an evening eating tamales and sharing the plight of kelp with Coquille Tribal Elders.

"Kelp forests are so cool! They have so many connections to not just the health and ecosystem of the critters within them, but to ecosystems all around them. At the most basic level, they are what we call foundation species, or engineer species. I call them the 'if you build it, they will come species.' Basically, they form habitat. Like trees or coral reefs. Out in the ocean, there isn't a lot of 3D structure. So when you get that 3D structure, zooplankton want to come and hide from predators. Then a fish will come to find the zooplankton. And then seals will come to eat the fish. It kind of cascades up the trophic chain. They're an important habitat, particularly for juvenile fishes. Particularly Rockfish and Salmon," Dr. Hamilton says on the ORKA website.

At the Elders presentation, Dr. Hamilton shared information about the work ORKA is doing and asked for any input the Elders had to offer their team.

Tom Younker commented that he remembered when the kelp forests were so plentiful, Tribal members talked about



port thriving ecosystems that are home to urchins, abalone, rockfish, whales and likely salmon during their marine life stages. They pump oxygen into ocean waters and reduce acidity, move huge amounts of carbon through nearshore waters, protect coastlines from larve waves and storms, support diverse fisheries, and are home to several species of interest for sustainable mariculture."

The paper went on to explain that when settlers colonized the Oregon coast, otters, a natural sea urchin predator, were hunted to extinction. Since then, climate change has also become a major contributing factor to the loss of kelp and the explosion of purple sea urchins.

"The Oregon Kelp Alliance is a non-profit organization based in Port Orford that is working to protect and restore our kelp ecosystems," Dr. Hamilton said. "We have begun a monitoring program designed to identify kelp forests of highest concern and have begun piloting restoration techniques like urchin re-

moval. We hope to utilize strategies such as urchin removal, kelp outplanting, and recovery of sunflower sea stars to restore individual kelp forests and increase the resilience of the entire coastwide ecosystem to climate change."

ORKA looks forward to partnering with tribal people to help save our ocean's vital forest habitat.



Photos by Anne Niblett

Top left: Tom Calvanese of the Oregon Kelp Alliance (left) talks to Tribal Elder Michael Lenox during a recent Elders event that focused on the importance of healthy kelp forests to the ocean. **Top right:** An example of foods made from kelp. **Above:** Dr. Sara Hamilton (right) and Tom Calvanese (middle) share their knowledge of marine biology with Tribal Elders and explore opportunities to partner with the Tribe for our mutually beneficial interests.

following the "kelp highway" in their canoes as they traveled up the Oregon coast.

Purple sea urchins are one of the predators destroying kelp forests because their numbers have grown out of control.

Another Tribal Elder commented on the importance of abalone to the Coquille people. Abalone is a shellfish used

prolifically in tribal regalia. Our children dance with it every summer and winter solstice.

But abalone numbers have dwindled as sea urchins march across the sea floor devouring everything in their path.

In a paper handout shared with the Elders, Dr. Hamilton said, "Kelp forests bring life to the Oregon coast. They sup-



Photo by Tim Novoty

Community Fund grantees for 2024

Grantees from five Oregon counties gathered at The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park's Salmon Room in early February to receive checks from the Coquille Indian Tribe's Community Fund. More than half a million dollars was awarded to 77 different community groups at the Tribe's annual awards reception. Tribal staff, Tribal Elders and Tribal Council members were on hand to make the event a success.

Tribe aids more than 25 families during recent storms

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

The calls began coming in on the holiday.

It was Martin Luther King's Day and instead of taking a day off, Community Services Director Lisa Mielke and her staff began tackling an emergency event in Oregon and across the U.S. that would last two weeks before it was over.

The Tribe was able to help members across the U.S with food, water, and hotels if they needed it, but it definitely exposed our need to be better prepared.

"This has been an eye opener for all of us," said Lon Matheny, the Tribe's emergency management director, "this national weather event, but especially in Lane County."

In Oregon it started with an ice storm.

"That was what triggered the emer-

gency. It was not only that they lost power, but that the temperature was so cold. Some people lost water too. It was potentially life threatening," said Lisa.

There was loss of life in Lane County (not amongst Tribal members). Many people were without power for more than two weeks.

Tribal spouse Jillian Stoddard shared how even though she thought she and her family were prepared, they weren't.

"This was the most gentle wakeup call that we could have that we were very underprepared," said Jillian. She had prepped meals the night before the storm and had wood ready to heat her house but that didn't last. The storm was worse than she had imagined.

"The devastation that happened to our area looked like a tornado tore through Thurston," said Jillian. "I was able to reach out once we lost heat and

ran out of wood on day four of the storm. I said, 'I'm in a really bad spot.'

The Tribe paid for a hotel for Jillian and her family so they could stay warm but they had to reach it first on roads that were treacherous with ice and downed trees. They only stayed one night. Their power returned the next day, unlike many of their neighbors who had to wait several days longer.

Jillian was incredibly thankful for the Tribe's response.

"It was substantial. The response was immediate. I am forever grateful for Lisa and Mark and Lon," said Jillian who had initially reached out to Mark Johnston who put her in touch with Lisa and Lon.

When the storm first hit, Lisa called in the Tribe's Elders Coordinator, Lori Austin, to begin checking on Elders.

"Some were OK. They had a camp

trailer or generator and were barbecuing out their back door, using up their stuff, and others, while they were OK, they were concerned about not being able to leave. The roads were a mess and of course, a couple days later, they were not OK because they didn't have power anymore," said Austin.

While our Tribe weathered the storm, there are certainly lessons to be learned, especially in a world with a climate that promises more extreme weather events.

"When this calms down we'll do an after action report and we'll provide it to leadership that says, here's what happened, here's what we did, here's what we're going to do next time," said Lon.

Jillian knows she needs to do more to be better prepared for next time.

"I had all that and it still wasn't enough. We have to be prepared for two weeks," she said.

Our ocean, awash in pollution, needs our help

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

Superheroes carry garbage bags.

They do in America anyway.

The truth is, they have for a while, but maybe I am just noticing them for the first time.

On a recent Facebook post, Tribal member Shelley Estes shared a story from her weekend adventure at Whiskey Run beach just outside of Bandon, Oregon (see inset on following page). She explained how plastic on the beach is causing alarm bells to ring in her being.

Shelley is not the only one with alarm bells going off about pollution and its effect on the environment. The whole world is taking notice and so are our Tribal members.

Climate taskforce begins

Several months ago, along with several other passionate voices (Annette Sandberg, Terry and Rocky Doyle), I raised my hand at a General Council meeting and asked our Tribe to consider starting a Climate Resiliency Taskforce. That's the name we gave it later, anyway, after Tribal Council voted to appoint one and asked me and several other members of the Tribal family to commit to serving three-year terms.

It's already been life changing. Truly. I've learned a lot more than I thought I would, and I've come to respect my fellow taskforce members.

We've been learning about the state of the earth's health and it's not the best news. In fact, it's dire.

It doesn't matter where you stand on the political spectrum, we all share the same air, water, and land. If you dig into the science you'll learn some things.

Our ocean's health

I dug into the state of the ocean's health because that's the area of focus I chose to work on within our group. Other members chose carbon emissions, wildfire mitigation, drought, food and water sovereignty, etc.



Photos by Shelley Estes

Top: The ocean view at Whiskey Run beach below Bandon Dunes Golf Course. The beach is in Coquille ancestral territory and sits below a historical Coquille allotment.

Above: Several single use plastic bottles pollute the beach.

I researched the ocean's health from several different sources and here are a couple things I learned:

The ocean is the true "lungs of the planet." I've heard this analogy before, but it was always applied to the Amazon jungle. Sadly, the Amazon jungle now gives off more carbon emissions than it helps absorb. It's no longer considered a carbon sink. In other words, it adds more carbon pollution to the air than it removes through the natural process of photosynthesis. That's a tragic new fact.

When it comes to carbon removal, the ocean is the true superhero on the planet. It's estimated that the ocean absorbs 25-

30% of the carbon in the environment. That's important because while the planet has a natural cycle of warming and cooling trends, since the industrial revolution, carbon in the atmosphere has jumped exponentially.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says, "The annual rate of increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide over the past 60 years is about 100 times faster than previous natural increases, such as those that occurred at the end of the last ice age 11,000-17,000 years ago."

This warming trend, left unchecked, will change our world forever.

Unfortunately, the ocean isn't keeping up with the demands on its ability to absorb carbon either. Overfishing, chemical and plastic pollution have taken their toll, and the ocean is dying.

Ocean life dying

In the last 70 years, 50% of the animal and plant life within the ocean have died. Unless there's a dramatic change within the next 10 years, we are in danger of triggering a catastrophic event that will lead to all animals and plants in the ocean dying within the next 50 years.

"Let's be clear: If by some miracle the world achieves net zero by 2045, evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) BIOACID report [1] demonstrates that this reduction will not be enough to stop a drop in ocean pH to 7.95. If the level of marine life (both plant and animal) is reduced, then the oceans' ability to lockout carbon into the abyss is depleted. It is clear to the GOES team that if we only pursue carbon mitigation strategies and don't do more to regenerate plant and animal life in oceans, we will reach a tipping point: a planetary boundary from which there will be no return, because all life on Earth depends upon the largest ecosystem on the planet," said the Global Oceanic Environmental Survey from the University of Edinburgh in a published journal in June of 2021.

We can't live without the ocean. If it dies, we die.

While this alone is devastating, the ocean isn't the only story.

Here in Oregon, we've had a Tribal forest catch on fire, we've begun to expect smoke in the air during the summertime because of all the wildfires, and recent winter storms left thousands of people without power in freezing temperatures.

And because of the state of our climate, these kinds of extreme weather events are only supposed to get worse.

Please see Ocean, page 7

Ocean

Continued from page 6

So, what do we do in the face of something so huge and potentially devastating?

We must take action

First, we need to educate ourselves so we have an accurate understanding of what is going on and so we can make wise decisions for our nation moving forward.

After that, we need to grab audacious hope and secure it around our middle like a belt we refuse to take off. And then we need to get to work! We've got a lot to do, and the next generation is counting on us for their breathing air.

As a member of the Climate Resilience Taskforce, I am working with my fellow taskforce members on recommendations to take to Tribal Council. There's a lot we can do as a Tribal nation and I am excited to see how we take bold steps forward to address this issue.

As a resident on this planet there are also many things I can do (and you can too), right now, to help give our planet and our children a chance at a healthy future. If everyone took responsibility for their life and their contribution, we could give the planet a chance to heal.

What you can do

Here are a few things we can all do now:

- Reduce your carbon footprint on the earth – buy local!
- Buy natural fibers. Avoid plastics.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle!
- Purchase organic food whenever possible to avoid toxic effects of herbicides and pesticides.
- Avoid cosmetics containing oxybenzone, a toxic chemical found in sunscreen that is horrible for ocean life.
- Avoid Teflon and other fluorocarbons that are non-stick. They are toxic to us and all life.
- Plant a tree. Protect wetlands, marsh lands and mangrove swamps.



Photos by Shelley Estes

Above left: Plastic pollution on Whiskey Run beach.

Above right: Quinn Claypoole gives all the pollution on the beach a firm thumbs down.

Tribal member Shelley Estes can no longer ignore plastic problem

From Shelley's Facebook:

"In pouring rain, we trudged, Buddy the wonder dog running along beside us.

"This wasn't a rock, fossil, or golf ball day – trash only. I used to get disgusted over someone leaving a water bottle at the beach. It was someone else's trash. Sometimes, I would ignore it, searching for beach

treasure.

"I can't ignore other people's trash anymore.

"I hate to be Debbie Downer, I love life, the outdoors, I live life! But I have an alarm going on now. I cannot express in words how fearful I am for my children's future.

"The beach (and ocean) is full of

thousands of microplastics, plastic, plastic, PLASTIC!

"Whiskey Run beach is below the Bandon Dunes Golf Course. It is a locals' beach that looks like a plastic bomb exploded.

"If we want tourists, family picnics, long romantic walks on pristine beaches, do we want this?"

- Pick up litter.
- Minimize your travel. It produces less carbon dioxide and tire pollution.
- Take old pharmaceuticals to designated drop off sites. Don't flush them down the toilet.

As I've dug into the work of this taskforce, I've felt overwhelmed and even cried when I considered my children's future. Just like trying to save the Chinook

salmon in the Coquille River, I've felt like the task ahead was hopeless at times.

But when I considered those salmon and thought about what our Tribe's known for, that's when I determined to courageously grab ahold of hope and continue to do everything I can to turn things around.

We are fearless champions

The Coquille people are known as

fearless visionaries who fight against the odds to do the impossible. We did it fighting for restoration, we do it fighting for our salmon cousins, we do it as stewards of wise forest management, we did it in healthcare through a pandemic and we'll do it facing this climate challenge.

We don't give up. We overcome obstacles. It's in our DNA.

That's hope I can count on.

Tribal gathering brought members together for winter's General Council meeting and social events



Photos by Anne Niblett

Photos by Candace Grabinger and Anne Niblett

Top left: From left: Ian Frost, KimE Severson and Justin Futch try their hand at traditional gambling during Winter Gathering.

Top right: Traditional gambling tokens made by Tribal member Justin Futch.

Above left: Daniel Cox and Katelyn Doyle spend some time beading tribal necklaces.

Above right: Katelyn Doyle is all smiles.

Top from left to right: Chair Meade (left) and Vice Chair Jen Procter Andrews blanket Tribal veterans in a special honoring ceremony that Community Services hosted during Winter Gathering. Veterans pictured from left to right: Lyman Meade, Mike Frost, and Les Mecum.

Above left: Chief Younker fills his plate during the Elders luncheon at Winter Gathering.

Above right: Pam Lenox holds a Pendleton blanket that was available as a raffle prize.

Left: Youth Council member Hallie Chambers presents her great aunt Janice Simpson with a gift from the Tribe for being the oldest female Elder in attendance at Winter Gathering.

Storytelling

Continued from page 1

everything else. And he brought the salmon berries in and she baked it up and she cut the pie up and it was water and seeds.

"She never said that was how it was going to happen. And she knew that was how it was going to happen and he remembered that the rest of his life.

"And my mother was the same way.

"There was a fisherman and he was an alcoholic and he used to come down to the house to eat and his name was Danny McCoy. He had two boys and he had four girls, I think.

"And my mother said, 'Don't go, you've got the whole slough, all from the bridge on up, but don't go north of the bridge.' She says, 'Because Danny lost two kids, his boys, at different times because one of them fell off the dock at Hallmarks and drowned because it was slippery and the second boy did the same thing.'

"And so it was a dangerous place to be and she didn't want me to go there, but I had a row boat and I bought a shot gun at nine years old with beer bottles and pop bottles, we had a whole garage full of those and sometimes money that we gained as kids pulling a rope across the road and when they come back from the tavern across that road, they had to pay a fine to get across the little creek there, and we gathered the money that way. So I'd saved up a little money and I did borrow some money too, but I got me a Stevens shotgun which weighed about nine pounds.

"But I got that and I could go up the slough and get some mallards, that's how my Uncle Fud was eating the mallards cause I'd killed it, But I'd walk in the house after being up the slough in a rainstorm with no rain jacket, not much, nothing, I'd go all the way up the slough all day long and it would rain on me, and I'd come back and the outside of your clothes would dry off but we didn't have that wick away underwear so that didn't dry off, so I'd throw my clothes down the hallway and mom would pick them up.

Right: Tribal Elder Tom Younker recounts memories from his childhood when his mother taught him the importance of respecting others by not judging them. His wife Diane sits next to him.

Below: From left: Chris Tanner and his wife Jennifer sit next to Shelley Estes and Gary Westphal at the storytelling event held at Winter Gathering on Sunday morning in the Salmon Room.

Photos by Anne Niblett



She just treated me and let me do whatever I wanted to do. They never knew when I was coming back but I had the freedom to travel around anywhere

around that slough that I wanted to, so I had a dog that was a lab...

"One day I came in and they said,

'Here comes Danny.' And I said, 'That old drunk?'

"And at that time I was in high school and I thought I was a pretty fair athlete. I wanted to be like Jim Thorpe. I've always been jealous of black people and Jewish people, a lot of people, because they had a lot of heroes they could look up to. I only had Jim Thorpe.

"So anyway, I came in and Danny came in and I looked down on him because I thought he was an alcoholic. Which is the wrong thing to do and she was teaching me a lesson and she says, 'Danny, can you still kick?'

"He says, 'Yeah.'

"And here's a guy who was in his 50s closing in on his 60s and all you men here know what I'm talking about when I say you're not as flexible as you used to be. You don't have the strength you used to have. But we had a living room with a beam across it which was about 7 feet in the air.

"And she says, 'Can you kick that beam?'

"He kicks his foot up and touches the beam with his foot and I said, 'Oh, wow! I can't even cross my legs and this man kicks his legs up there and I said, Did you ever punt football and he says, Yeah. I went to the University of Washington and I was a freshman. I was the punter.

"And I said, 'What was your longest punt?'

"He said, 'In the air, 80 yards.'

"And I believed him. And what it taught me was, don't judge people. It's not your place to judge people. They're here, a creation, and they live their own lives. And you don't need to judge them and you don't need to look down on them for any reason.

"So, that's the way she taught me that and it stayed with me the rest of my life.

"She had one rule, 'Don't lie to me.' And I have a hard time lying."

Before Tom could say anything else, his wife Diane leaned into the microphone and said, "Except when he's playing cards with me."

The room erupted with laughter.

Attention hunters and anglers

January 3 was the deadline for submitting harvest reports for the 2023 tribal hunting seasons. Thank you to everyone that has already completed their hunt reporting for the 2023 season, your timely response is extremely helpful to the Natural Resources Office as we plan for future harvest opportunities.

If you have not yet completed your hunt reporting, it's not too late! You may do so at any time on the Hunting, Fishing & Gathering page of MyTribe or by calling 541-756-0904 ext. 1276. Even if you didn't hunt, a response is required in order to receive 2024 tribal tags.

The deadline for reporting on fish and shellfish harvested under the CIT Harvest Program is March 31. This reporting survey will ask for information on fish and

shellfish harvested under the CIT Harvest Program from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

CIT issued Fish Harvest Tags will remain valid through March 31, 2024. Even if you did not fish or harvest shellfish, a response is required. This survey will also be available on the Hunting, Fishing, & Gathering page of MyTribe soon.

Keep an eye out for more information about fish and shellfish reporting in future K'wen Weekly updates and in the monthly Newsletter.

Don't forget to send your hunting and fishing pictures to harvestpermits@coquilletribe.org for a chance to be featured in next year's hunting and fishing rule books!

Projects Management Office adds more workspace



Photo by PMO staff

A new portable office near the wellness center is housing members of the Projects Management team.

A few of the members of the Projects Management Office have a new workspace. Russel Crochetiere, Lacie Vaughn, Lonnie Covey, Jenny Nelson, and Marion Newman have all relocated to a new portable modular office at Kilkich.

Here are some key details regarding

the relocation:

- It's located at Kilkich between the wellness center and the cranberry bogs.
- It's equipped with all the necessary facilities to support work, including a meeting room and break area.



Photo by Anne Niblett

Fishery heroes in the wild

From left to right: Members of the NRO team Zachary Nemeth, Jesse Rodriguez and Jamie Villa check out the health of creeks on the Kilkich reservation. They assessed water flow in several different streams and looked for the presence of beaver dams and obstructions to water flow.

My Heart Goes

A Walking On song

Ah hey
Ah hey, hey nah
Ah hey
Ah hey, hey nah (repeat)

Shda'-ye'
My family
Shsre naa-ya
my heart goes (I miss you)

Shii-shu'
But I'm good
Shii-shu'
I'm good (5X)



To listen, click here: <https://youtu.be/lwomJX0Ett4>

Tribal police: Remember, stop signs mean stop

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

If you've driven through the newly reconstructed intersection in front of the Learning Center, you've certainly seen the prominent stop sign. Unfortunately, a lot of people are forgetting that a stop sign means coming to a complete stop and looking both ways before proceeding.

Coquille Tribal Police Officer Crystal Walling has been stopping people and issuing warnings as a reminder to come to a complete stop at it and any other stop signs on the reservation.

"It's a safety issue," Officer Walling says. "They aren't yield signs."

Walling is concerned because kids, especially, often run out of the Learning

Center and they aren't always aware of traffic. The stop signs are designed to keep kids and everyone else safe.

Walling says that a lot of people slow down and look but don't come to a complete stop. Others are barely slowing down and just proceeding through. She notices this happening most often during morning drop off times at the Learning Center when pedestrian traffic is at its peak.

We all care about safety on the reservation. If you're driving, remember to come to a complete stop at all stop signs. It will only cost a couple more seconds of your time and it will help avoid accidents.

And, it's the law.



Photo by Crystal Walling

Many people aren't making a complete stop at the stop sign at the new intersection at Kilkich.

KWC Dental Clinic celebrates two year anniversary

By Dr. Mary Willard
Dental Director

Time flies when you are having fun!

February 7, 2024, marks the two-year anniversary of the KWC Dental Clinic in Coos Bay, and it's a good time to celebrate how far we've come. Previously, the Coquille Indian Tribe had no dental services, and in just 24 months the dental team has completed more than 4,500 appointments in service to its clients.

Behind this accomplishment are three providers who've been here from the start: Dentist, Dr. Mary Willard; Dental Hygienist, Danielle Underwood; and Dental Therapist, Jason Mecum who is a Coquille Indian Tribal member. Staff retention and stability is great for continuity of care. Our providers care about and enjoy strengthening their relationship to every patient and to the greater community.

The trust they've established isn't by accident. These providers and the support staff are educated in trauma informed care and are well versed in working with patients who are afraid of



Photo by Jen Lehman

Dental Therapist Jason Mecum (left) and Dental Hygienist Danielle Underwood.

dental care. The providers work together to provide a range of general practice services including sealants, cleanings, deep cleanings, fillings, extractions, crown and bridges, and dentures. The clinic also has nitrous oxide gas available, but patients taking certain medications may not qualify for administration of the gas in the KWC clinic. Talk to your provider if you have questions.

The clinic is also proactive, encouraging children to come for a "happy visit" as soon as their first tooth comes in. These visits allow us to get the kids used to visiting a dental clinic, and help the family learn how to keep children's teeth healthy.

Positive oral health habits will last a lifetime, and we love seeing kids of all ages. Stay tuned for the launch of our "cavity free and super brushers club" for kids, coming very soon.

Thank you for trusting in us and coming in for care. We value you and the chance to partner with you for improved oral health and great smiles.

Stay well and smile (Sre'-ghud-la) bright!

Coffee with a Cop honors our tribal safety team



Photos by Anne Niblett and Alison Felton

Left: Police Chief Jerry Merrit (left) and officer Crystal Walling (right), pose with kids ready to join the force. From left: Michael Benitez, Zach Walling (front) and Elijah. Above: Tiffany Hargis, Crystal Walling and Jerry Merrit accept a thank you on behalf of the community. Bottom left: Little Nora Lovell high fives the day as Quinn Claypoole looks on. Below right: Michael Benitez, Zach Walling and Faunabeth Larkin try out handcuffs.



GRAB YOUR MAT... Every Tuesday at 5:15 pm
KWC Community Gathering Space

yoga class

WITH ANDY

'Free!'
FOR BEGINNERS & THOSE OF ALL FITNESS LEVELS

The class is open to all Coquille Tribal members and their families, CIT employees and its entities, KWC patients, and Kilkich residents who are 18+ years of age.




Photo by Molly Hockema

Celebrating Baylee!

Kids from the Tribe's after school program gather outside the Learning Center to join Baylee Moore in celebrating her winning design for the Traditional Tobacco contest. See the design on page 16.

News roundup

Sek-wet-se closed

The Sek-wet-se Forest is closed due to hazardous conditions created by the recent weather events. This closure will remain in place indefinitely, while the Natural Resources Office staff works to assess the situation and complete repairs.

Elders Scholarship open

This \$500 scholarship created by the Coquille Tribal Elders can be awarded to multiple applicants. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- You are an enrolled Coquille Tribal member.
- You are entering the junior, senior, or post-baccalaureate level at an accredited higher education institution.
- You have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Eligible applications will be presented to the Coquille Indian Tribe Culture and Education Committee or the Coquille Indian Tribe Elders Committee for review.

The application deadline is May 15. Applications may be emailed to higher-

education@coquilletribe.org, postmarked and sent to 495 Miluk Drive, Coos Bay, OR 97420, or hand delivered to the same address.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Anna Cole, the higher education coordinator at 541-435-7979 or highereducation@coquilletribe.org.

Summer youth activity dates

Kilkich Youth Corps for ages 14-18:

- May 31 - Applications due
- June 3 - 7 - Interviews
- June 14 - Orientation
- June 17 - Employment begins

Camp Ta Nae (July 31 - August 3) is for Coquille Tribal youth ages 8 -14 as campers and 15 - 25 as counselors and interns.

- June 21 - Applications for counselors/ interns due
- July 19 - Applications for campers due
- July 18 - Counselor/intern training

- July 30 - Counselor/interns and staff at camp

Youth Retreat - August 15 -18 for Coquille Tribal youth ages 13 -18 years.

More information will follow regarding all events listed including eligibility and applications. If you have any questions please call Tanya Clark at 541-888-7737 ext. 2200 or tanyaclark@coquilletribe.org.

Restoration information

Save the date! The 35th Restoration Celebration begins Wednesday, June 26 and lasts through Sunday, June 30.

Tribal artists that are interested in making or donating items for the event, please contact Travel and Events Coordinator Nichole Howe at 541-982-3316 or via email at nicholchowe@coquilletribe.org.

Medicine basket class

The second class for the medicine basket necklace is being held from noon - 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 2 at the Community Plankhouse.

Help us design the Camp Ta Nae T-Shirt!

Show off your creativity and enter the 2024 Camp Ta Nae t-shirt design contest. Your design could be chosen as this year's official t-shirt for camp.

For Coquille Tribal youth ages 8 - 18 years old. Deadline is April 12.

Please submit your design to the Learning Center Administrative Assistant Tanya Clark at 591 Miluk Drive or send her an email at tanyaclark@coquilletribe.org.

Questions? Contact Becky Cantrell at beckycantrell@coquilletribe.org.

Chair Continued from page 1

Secretary, Bryan Newland, who shared the intentions of the US Department of Interior to place more land into trust per the newly approved 151 Regulations (Fee-to-Trust).

BIA Regional Director Brian Mercier presented news on funding opportunities for NW tribes and shared issues the regional office is facing with 135 positions unfilled for this coming year. We heard from representatives from Indian Health Services, Army Corp of Engineers, and FEMA.

Also in attendance was Governor Tina Kotek who shared with the nine tribes an executive order she signed to reinstate the Cultural Items Task Force. The task force supports our continued work in inventorying cultural items significant to our tribes, with an emphasis next, on public schools, universities, and community colleges.

I also attended a dinner with Governor Kotek and my fellow tribal chairmen. We had great discussions about housing and homeless issues, education, daycare, and Elder care needs. We also talked about the wind energy projects and legislation that will be coming up soon in the short session. We know we will have a huge number of bills we need to track



Left: Chair Meade speaks to Elders during the Elders luncheon at Winter Gathering held at The Mill Casino in January.

Photo by Candace Grabinger

that will ultimately impact our Tribe. The short session begins on February 5.

Our resolution

Vice Chair Jen Proctor Andrews and I were also proud to present a resolution to ATNI. The resolution recognized 2024 as the 70th year since the Western Oregon Termination Act. It made it clear that ATNI will never allow this policy against our tribes again and we will oppose any future unapproved actions against the restoration acts of those tribes.

The resolution was supported unanimously. I was proud of our Vice Chair who shared her story of our fight for restoration as Coquille People. And thank you to Brett Kenney for his support.

Important to note

Some other things to mention:

- On Jan. 26, Tribal Council approved a Sek-wet-se Forest Emergency Declaration in response to the extreme rain and flooding that produced slides on roads entering our forest. Roads will be closed until major work can be done. We will keep you updated.
- As many of you know, our Sunday morning breakfast at the Community Plankhouse during Winter Gathering was cancelled due to flooding. I am happy to update you that our maintenance team was able to clear some tree roots in the drain system that fixed the issue. I want to thank everyone who responded - thank you for taking care of "our house." I

also want to thank Margaret Simpson and her team at the Mill Casino for hosting that breakfast with very little notice. We are blessed to have such incredible people working for our Tribe!

- I am pleased to report that our Lam-pa Creek property on the Coquille River has now been placed into trust. You may recall that this property was identified as a key area for our salmon recovery efforts on the Coquille River. Despite extremely high waters due to flooding, we are seeing clouds of salmon fry take off from our regained homelands. We are overjoyed!

Please know that my thoughts and prayers go out to our family members who are sick or are hurting, or who have recently lost loved ones.

And, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 541-297-8803, or any of your Tribal Council representatives. You can also call the administration office at 541-756-0904 or 800-344-8583.

For now, Shuenhalni! (Take care!) and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Brenda Meade

Coquille Tribal Chair

Coquille Indian Tribe

Tribal Council

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brendameade@coquilletribe.org

Vice Chair Jen Proctor Andrews

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Laurabeth Barton

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Don Garrett

(541) 297-3376 dongarrett@coquilletribe.org

Administration

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

Tribal Government CEO Mark Johnston

Programs & Services - Bridgett Wheeler
Natural Resources - John Ogan
Special Projects & Planning - Fauna Larkin
Human Resources - Mike Frost
Finance - Kyle ViksneHill
Enrollment Services Liaison - Julia Willis
Information Tech - Russell Crochetiere
Communications - Tim Novotny

Tribal Court

Chief Judge Melissa Cribbins
Clerk Denise Hunter
(541) 756-0904, (800) 622-5869

Culture, Education & Learning Services

Director Marsha Frost (541) 982-3343,
(800) 622-5869

Tribal Police

Emergency: 911

Chief Jerry Merrit
2602 Mexeye Loop Coos Bay, OR. 97420
(541) 252-7135

Nasomah Health Group

Manager Rod Cook
PO Box 921 North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 751-0940 rodcook@coquilletribe.org
Ko-Kwel Wellness Center
CEO Kathryn Halverson
PO Box 3190 Coos Bay, OR. 97420
(541) 888-9494, (800) 200-0744

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-lh-kwuh (Tribal One)

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

CEDCO CEO

Margaret Simpson 800-953-4800

Gaming Commission

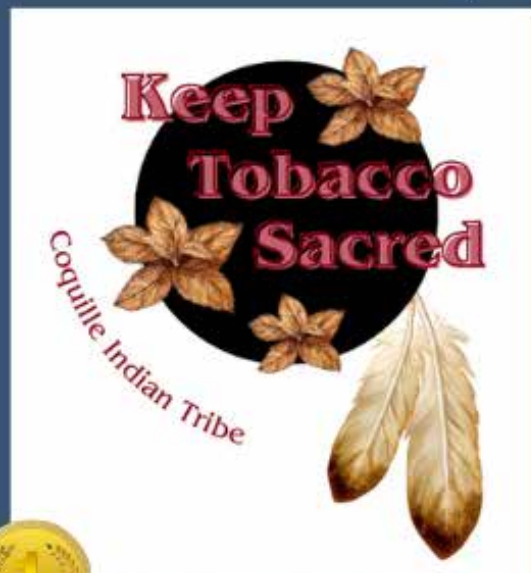
Chairman Larry Simpson
(541) 756-5664, (800) 953-4800

Tribal Development Program

Kippy Robbins 541-756-8800 ext. 2207

THE WINNERS

of the Traditional Tobacco Art Contest



Kaylee Matheny

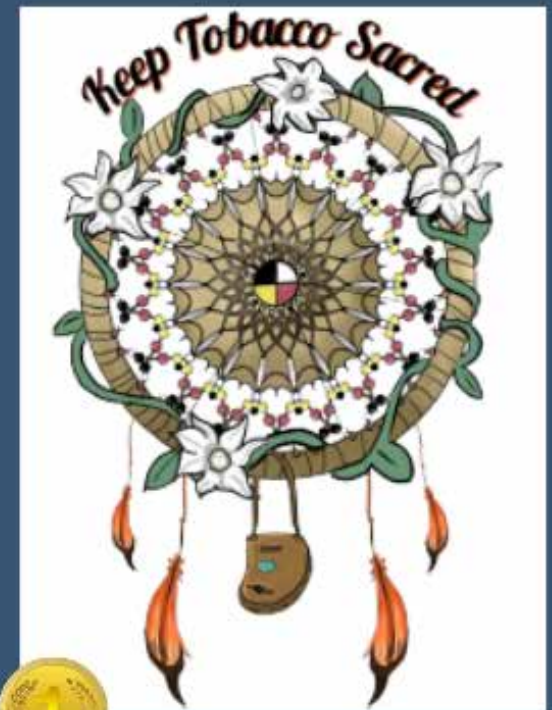


Alyssa Severson



Larrisa Simpson

YOUTH ARTIST



Baylee Moore

New designs chosen for traditional tobacco campaign

In response to a contest hosted by Community Services, several Tribal members submitted designs and four lucky winners

were chosen. Congratulations to Kaylee Matheny, Alyssa Severson, Larrisa Simpson, and Baylee Moore, whose designs

were selected to be the 2024 Traditional Tobacco Advocacy Art Contest winners. We would also like to say a very special

thank you to everyone for your submissions giving us an amazing turnout and so many new designs!



The K'wen

February 2024

Newsletter of the Coquille Indian Tribe

Volume 31, Issue 2



Winter Gathering brings smiles and stories

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

Colder days reminded the Tribal family to come together for warmth, cheer and the good medicine we find in one another's company.

The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park did another outstanding job in hosting the Tribal family for its annual Winter Gathering.

"I'm so thankful for the Mill Casino's incredible hospitality," said the Tribe's Events Coordinator Nichole Howe. "They always do an outstanding job. Nobody gives us better service than what we get at our house."

This year, due to bad weather, the schedule had to pivot at the last minute and a breakfast and storytelling event that was supposed to be held at the Community Plankhouse on Kilkich, got moved to The Mill Casino's Salmon Room on short notice.

The casino staff came through for the Tribe and got a nice breakfast together for everyone who attended.

And the story telling event was a success too! Several Tribal family members showed up to share traditional coyote tales, family memories or personal anecdotes.

An especially rewarding memory was shared by Tribal Elder Tom Younker. He told how his mother, Nellie Younker, taught him not to judge others.

"She looked at you with compassion. She didn't judge. That was the way of our Tribe," Tom said. He recalled a relative asking his Grandma Lolly, Nellie's mom, to bake a pie for them.

"Would you make me a salmon berry pie? And she looked at him and she says, 'OK.'"

"And she kneaded out the dough. And

Please see Storytelling page 10



Photo by Anne Niblett

Tribal sisters Kristi Myers (left) and Julie Goff get snuggly at Winter Gathering this year as they make some necklaces for giveaways. For more photos of the Tribal family, see pages 8 & 9.

Our Tribe makes a strong showing at ATNI this year

Dai s'la! (Greetings friends!)

I hope you are finding time to enjoy the winter season as, traditionally, we are meant to slow down and spend time with family and friends.

Winter Gathering storm

January brought us together for Winter Gathering and our first General Council meeting of the new year, but sent many of us home to a terrible winter storm. Here on the coast, we found ourselves in high water and torrential rain



**FROM THE
CHAIR**
Brenda Meade

but our Tribal families heading home to the Willamette Valley, Eugene, Springfield and even Portland were met with what some are saying was the worst ice storm they have seen.

Many people were stranded, sitting

in their vehicles for hours trying to get home due to road closures, and many more were left without power for over a week. It was a terrible time for those families. Our Community Services and Emergency Management staff reached out immediately, and we were able to reach most of our families with help.

Please get in touch with Tribal Member Services at 541-756-0904 and ensure that we have your correct contact information. We don't have accurate phone numbers for some of you. I know life

gets busy, but we want to ensure we can reach you, especially in cases of emergencies.

Our Tribe at ATNI

ATNI Winter Conference was back in Portland and all of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes were present. I was happy to have Vice Chair Jen Proctor Andrews and some of our Tribal members join me this year. There were many great presenters including the Assistant

Please see Chair, page 15

Council meetings and workshops

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., main office.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., main office.

Thursday, Feb. 15

Tribal Council meeting, 2 p.m., main office.

Tuesday, March 3

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., main office.

Wednesday, March 6

Tribal Council workshops, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., main office.

Friday, March 8

Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., main office.

Join in via Zoom

You can take part in Tribal Council meetings via Zoom. The link is listed in the meeting agenda on MyTribe. You also can get it by calling the Tribal office at (541) 756-0904.

Video

Video recordings of the Tribal Council are available on MyTribe.

Community Events

Drumming at the Community Plankhouse

The Nasomah Singers drum group meets at 6 p.m. Wednesdays at the Community Plankhouse at Kilkich. Call Brenda Meade at (541) 297-8803 for more details, and to be sure they are meeting that week.

Tai chi with Pam Lenox

From 10 - 11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the CIHA Warehouse on Kilkich. All abilities welcome. In person at the warehouse and Zoom link is also available by emailing Pam Lenox at

pamelalenox@gmail.com.

Yoga Tuesdays with Andy

From 5:15 - 6:15 p.m every Tuesday at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center in Coos Bay in the Gathering Space. Mats are provided.

Mindful Movement with Andy

From noon to 1 p.m. on Thursdays at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center in Coos Bay in the Gathering Space.

Holiday closure

Presidents Day

Monday, Feb. 19, all government offices and Ko-Kwel Wellness Centers will be closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Employee Appreciation Day

Noon - 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9, all government buildings and Ko-Kwel Wellness Centers will be closed for an employee appreciation event at The Mill Casino.

Potluck language class

Thursday, Feb. 8 & 22

5:30 p.m. Learn to speak Nuu-wee-ya' and enjoy a potluck meal with the Tribal family at the Community Plankhouse at Kilkich.

Thursday Feb. 15 & 29

5:30 p.m. Learn to speak Nuu-wee-ya' and enjoy a potluck meal with the Tribal family at the Coquille Elementary School library in Coquille, Ore. Questions? Email Jaeci Hall at jaecihall@coquilletribe.org .

Medicine basket necklace workshop

Saturday, March 2

Noon to 4 p.m. at the Community Plankhouse. Finish making the necklace you started during the original class held in December.

General Council mtg.

Saturday, March 9

9 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Details will be posted in MyTribe and in the K'wen Weekly when time is closer.

Birthdays

February 1 Ashlynn Bridgeman Nicholas Weeks Cloey Blinar Raquel Summers Scott LaFevre Emil Heihn Annabelle Ross Emmerson Ross Sofia Vazquez-Ledesma Avagyle Cox	February 2 Guerin Wheeler Zane Wheeler Amber Faist Gabriel Anderson	February 3 Tessa Metcalf Cara Coimbra Deborah Doherty Donald Gilkey Jacqueline Perkins	February 4 Bryce Turpin Marianne Cordes Eric Cordes Wesley Cordes Ella Booker	February 5 Charis Niblett Fauna Hill Gloria Johnsen Linda Beaver Jesse Nix Dora Short Rori Benson	February 6 Rylee Lindsey Jessica Tanner Jeffrey Wasson Acacia Dreywor Leandro Acuna	February 7 Makenzi Grogan	February 8 Taylor Ponder Savannah Anderson	February 9 Erin Woodell Kathleen Cirincione Sharon Provost Sara Stringer Eric Summers Corrine Burnum	February 10 Denise Hockema	February 11 William Murphy Juvenal Lara Emersyn Gorman	February 12 Walker Atkins	February 13 Lynn Sandberg James Ogier Jr.	February 14 Kenzington Villarreal Kiri Gilkey	February 15 Eric Metcalf Tucker Hamilton Lillie Leyba	February 16 Dustin Garret	February 17 Sarrah Matheny Melvin Summers Kourtli DiBenedetto	February 18 Drew Robertson Juan Vazquez-Ledesma Jr.	February 19 Kaylie Banks Mckinzie Beaudry Finley Hill	February 20 Annette Sandberg Carol Gilkey Jonathan Hockema	February 21 Brent Anderson Shawn Heather Paul Tull Linda Robertson	February 22 Kitzen Branting Jerrie Reeder Logan Hockema Molly Hockema Daniel Ross	February 23 Rhett Claiborne Jake Oliner Edward Metcalf Andrea Saludes Josslynn Mecum	February 24 Christopher Severson Timothy Severson Brienne Waddell William Metcalf	February 25 Caitlin DiBenedetto Robert Bumgarner Jr. Ruby Booker	February 26 Veronica	February 27 Gallo-Camacho Katie Pedrick Jack Lenox	February 28 Oliver Smith Matthew Tull Chance Maude Araceli Zaragoza Summers	February 29 Catherine Anderson Lucas Trospier Heather Tull Mersadie Hargis Grayson Ahlers	March 1 Robert LaFollette Tamara Hawkins	March 2 Trilian Gilkey	March 3 Crystal Blinar Santiago Jimenez-Johnsen Addison Spencer Brooke Claiborne Rocco Solares Bradley Garza	March 4 McKenzy Simmons Jaiden Garcia Trevor Price Shawn Beaudry Catalina Barbosa Riley Powell	March 5 Nicole Puckett Cheyenne Datan Shelley Estes Alisha Simpson Liam Stitt	March 6 Nichole Howe
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RV Park manager named to elite 20

The Mill Casino's RV Park along with its Manager and Coquille Tribal Member Selena Kelly-Irvin has been accepted into one of the regional Outdoor Hospitality Institutes', elite "20 Group."

OHI 20 Groups are composed of non-competing member campgrounds voluntarily and mutually associated to provide a confidential exchange of experiences, challenges, and ideas at regular meetings.

Selena is the first Native American to complete the rigorous courses required for such a distinction, and the Mill's RV Park is the first Native owned facility ever named to a, "20 Group." We are now in esteemed company with 19 other highly decorated destination locations and as part of the program these other RVP's will be visiting our incredible facility here in the near future to offer critical feedback, and share best practices to insure we continue to exceed guest expectations.

Selena has also completed her certifications with OHI at the George O'Leary National School of Outdoor Hospitality as a Certified Outdoor Hospitality Manager (year one) and Certified Outdoor



Photo by Mill Casino staff

Tribal member and The Mill Casino's RV Park Manager Selena Kelly-Irvin holds a congratulatory cake celebrating her acceptance into a regional Outdoor Hospitality Institute's elite 20 Group.

Hospitality Professional (year two), the first RV Park manager to ever complete these rigorous courses. Congratulations

to Selena on receiving this truly exceptional recognition.



Remember to vote!

Ballots have gone out in the mail for the Special Election for Tribal Council Representative, Position 3.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Tribal administration building by noon on February, 16.

If you have any questions or have not received a ballot, contact Kay Collins at kaycollins@coquilletribe.org

Health and wellness revenues continue to exceed expectations

By Tim Novotny
CIT Communications Director

"It's a beautiful day," Chair Brenda Meade said during the Jan. 12, meeting of the Coquille Tribal Council.

It had nothing to do with the weather outside and everything to do with the approval of resolution that forecasts a sunny future for how the Tribe will be able to care for its members.

The growth of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center over the past three years is helping reap a landmark benefit for the Tribe and its members. That growth led to the passage of Resolution CY24003, with much celebration, as it approved the usage of third-party revenues to help the Tribe cover its portion of the premiums for Tribal members and dependent health

care costs.

When the Tribal Council initiated the expansion of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center, the goal was to add additional services and access to care while generating additional revenues to support underfunded Indian Health Service programs, like Purchased and Referred Care (PRC).

Kathryn Halverson, Chief Executive Officer at Ko-Kwel Wellness Center, said that two years ago this would not have been possible.

"This is reason to celebrate. Expectations are also that the growth will continue. Projections are for significant growth in third-party revenues in 2024, so there may be more reason to celebrate in coming years".



The additional revenue is not only covering PRC patient care costs of \$2.1 million annually, but, with the passage of

CY24003, is providing an additional \$2.2 million to support Nasomah healthcare premiums for Tribal Members, no matter where they live, ultimately saving the Tribe more than \$4 million annually in general funds that can be used to support other important Tribal programs and services.

Chair Meade indicated that this resolution is an exercise in sovereignty and a representation of the fact that our Tribal members are no less members because they live outside of the Tribe's congressionally established service delivery area.

The resolution formalized the use of the third-party revenue using Federal law that authorizes the Tribe to use the funding for a variety of purposes related to Native American health care.

Elders learn about saving underwater forests

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

If trees are the carbon-absorbing champions on land, then kelp are the equivalent underwater.

According to Dr. Sara Hamilton, the Oregon Kelp Alliance's (ORKA) Scientific Coordinator, kelp are like the Douglas fir of the ocean. They create habitat for small zooplankton that in turn feed fish and create a trophic food chain in the ocean that leads all the way up to whales.

But kelp forests are dying. Much like the rest of the environment, they need our help if they are going to survive and continue to contribute to the planet's largest ecosystem, the ocean.

Dr. Hamilton and Tom Calvanese, the Field Station Manager at OSU's Port Orford Field Station and the head of ORKA, stopped by the Elders House recently to spend an evening eating tamales and sharing the plight of kelp with Coquille Tribal Elders.

"Kelp forests are so cool! They have so many connections to not just the health and ecosystem of the critters within them, but to ecosystems all around them. At the most basic level, they are what we call foundation species, or engineer species. I call them the 'if you build it, they will come species.' Basically, they form habitat. Like trees or coral reefs. Out in the ocean, there isn't a lot of 3D structure. So when you get that 3D structure, zooplankton want to come and hide from predators. Then a fish will come to find the zooplankton. And then seals will come to eat the fish. It kind of cascades up the trophic chain. They're an important habitat, particularly for juvenile fishes. Particularly Rockfish and Salmon," Dr. Hamilton says on the ORKA website.

At the Elders presentation, Dr. Hamilton shared information about the work ORKA is doing and asked for any input the Elders had to offer their team.

Tom Younker commented that he remembered when the kelp forests were so plentiful, Tribal members talked about



port thriving ecosystems that are home to urchins, abalone, rockfish, whales and likely salmon during their marine life stages. They pump oxygen into ocean waters and reduce acidity, move huge amounts of carbon through nearshore waters, protect coastlines from larve waves and storms, support diverse fisheries, and are home to several species of interest for sustainable mariculture."

The paper went on to explain that when settlers colonized the Oregon coast, otters, a natural sea urchin predator, were hunted to extinction. Since then, climate change has also become a major contributing factor to the loss of kelp and the explosion of purple sea urchins.

"The Oregon Kelp Alliance is a non-profit organization based in Port Orford that is working to protect and restore our kelp ecosystems," Dr. Hamilton said. "We have begun a monitoring program designed to identify kelp forests of highest concern and have begun piloting restoration techniques like urchin re-

moval. We hope to utilize strategies such as urchin removal, kelp outplanting, and recovery of sunflower sea stars to restore individual kelp forests and increase the resilience of the entire coastwide ecosystem to climate change."

ORKA looks forward to partnering with tribal people to help save our ocean's vital forest habitat.



Photos by Anne Niblett

Top left: Tom Calvanese of the Oregon Kelp Alliance (left) talks to Tribal Elder Michael Lenox during a recent Elders event that focused on the importance of healthy kelp forests to the ocean. **Top right:** An example of foods made from kelp. **Above:** Dr. Sara Hamilton (right) and Tom Calvanese (middle) share their knowledge of marine biology with Tribal Elders and explore opportunities to partner with the Tribe for our mutually beneficial interests.

following the "kelp highway" in their canoes as they traveled up the Oregon coast.

Purple sea urchins are one of the predators destroying kelp forests because their numbers have grown out of control.

Another Tribal Elder commented on the importance of abalone to the Coquille people. Abalone is a shellfish used

prolifically in tribal regalia. Our children dance with it every summer and winter solstice.

But abalone numbers have dwindled as sea urchins march across the sea floor devouring everything in their path.

In a paper handout shared with the Elders, Dr. Hamilton said, "Kelp forests bring life to the Oregon coast. They sup-



Photo by Tim Novoty

Community Fund grantees for 2024

Grantees from five Oregon counties gathered at The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park's Salmon Room in early February to receive checks from the Coquille Indian Tribe's Community Fund. More than half a million dollars was awarded to 77 different community groups at the Tribe's annual awards reception. Tribal staff, Tribal Elders and Tribal Council members were on hand to make the event a success.

Tribe aids more than 25 families during recent storms

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

The calls began coming in on the holiday.

It was Martin Luther King's Day and instead of taking a day off, Community Services Director Lisa Mielke and her staff began tackling an emergency event in Oregon and across the U.S. that would last two weeks before it was over.

The Tribe was able to help members across the U.S with food, water, and hotels if they needed it, but it definitely exposed our need to be better prepared.

"This has been an eye opener for all of us," said Lon Matheny, the Tribe's emergency management director, "this national weather event, but especially in Lane County."

In Oregon it started with an ice storm.

"That was what triggered the emer-

gency. It was not only that they lost power, but that the temperature was so cold. Some people lost water too. It was potentially life threatening," said Lisa.

There was loss of life in Lane County (not amongst Tribal members). Many people were without power for more than two weeks.

Tribal spouse Jillian Stoddard shared how even though she thought she and her family were prepared, they weren't.

"This was the most gentle wakeup call that we could have that we were very underprepared," said Jillian. She had prepped meals the night before the storm and had wood ready to heat her house but that didn't last. The storm was worse than she had imagined.

"The devastation that happened to our area looked like a tornado tore through Thurston," said Jillian. "I was able to reach out once we lost heat and

ran out of wood on day four of the storm. I said, 'I'm in a really bad spot.'"

The Tribe paid for a hotel for Jillian and her family so they could stay warm but they had to reach it first on roads that were treacherous with ice and downed trees. They only stayed one night. Their power returned the next day, unlike many of their neighbors who had to wait several days longer.

Jillian was incredibly thankful for the Tribe's response.

"It was substantial. The response was immediate. I am forever grateful for Lisa and Mark and Lon," said Jillian who had initially reached out to Mark Johnston who put her in touch with Lisa and Lon.

When the storm first hit, Lisa called in the Tribe's Elders Coordinator, Lori Austin, to begin checking on Elders.

"Some were OK. They had a camp

trailer or generator and were barbecuing out their back door, using up their stuff, and others, while they were OK, they were concerned about not being able to leave. The roads were a mess and of course, a couple days later, they were not OK because they didn't have power anymore," said Austin.

While our Tribe weathered the storm, there are certainly lessons to be learned, especially in a world with a climate that promises more extreme weather events.

"When this calms down we'll do an after action report and we'll provide it to leadership that says, here's what happened, here's what we did, here's what we're going to do next time," said Lon.

Jillian knows she needs to do more to be better prepared for next time.

"I had all that and it still wasn't enough. We have to be prepared for two weeks," she said.

Our ocean, awash in pollution, needs our help

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

Superheroes carry garbage bags.

They do in America anyway.

The truth is, they have for a while, but maybe I am just noticing them for the first time.

On a recent Facebook post, Tribal member Shelley Estes shared a story from her weekend adventure at Whiskey Run beach just outside of Bandon, Oregon (see inset on following page). She explained how plastic on the beach is causing alarm bells to ring in her being.

Shelley is not the only one with alarm bells going off about pollution and its effect on the environment. The whole world is taking notice and so are our Tribal members.

Climate taskforce begins

Several months ago, along with several other passionate voices (Annette Sandberg, Terry and Rocky Doyle), I raised my hand at a General Council meeting and asked our Tribe to consider starting a Climate Resiliency Taskforce. That's the name we gave it later, anyway, after Tribal Council voted to appoint one and asked me and several other members of the Tribal family to commit to serving three-year terms.

It's already been life changing. Truly. I've learned a lot more than I thought I would, and I've come to respect my fellow taskforce members.

We've been learning about the state of the earth's health and it's not the best news. In fact, it's dire.

It doesn't matter where you stand on the political spectrum, we all share the same air, water, and land. If you dig into the science you'll learn some things.

Our ocean's health

I dug into the state of the ocean's health because that's the area of focus I chose to work on within our group. Other members chose carbon emissions, wildfire mitigation, drought, food and water sovereignty, etc.



Photos by Shelley Estes

Top: The ocean view at Whiskey Run beach below Bandon Dunes Golf Course. The beach is in Coquille ancestral territory and sits below a historical Coquille allotment.

Above: Several single use plastic bottles pollute the beach.

I researched the ocean's health from several different sources and here are a couple things I learned:

The ocean is the true "lungs of the planet." I've heard this analogy before, but it was always applied to the Amazon jungle. Sadly, the Amazon jungle now gives off more carbon emissions than it helps absorb. It's no longer considered a carbon sink. In other words, it adds more carbon pollution to the air than it removes through the natural process of photosynthesis. That's a tragic new fact.

When it comes to carbon removal, the ocean is the true superhero on the planet. It's estimated that the ocean absorbs 25-

30% of the carbon in the environment. That's important because while the planet has a natural cycle of warming and cooling trends, since the industrial revolution, carbon in the atmosphere has jumped exponentially.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says, "The annual rate of increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide over the past 60 years is about 100 times faster than previous natural increases, such as those that occurred at the end of the last ice age 11,000-17,000 years ago."

This warming trend, left unchecked, will change our world forever.

Unfortunately, the ocean isn't keeping up with the demands on its ability to absorb carbon either. Overfishing, chemical and plastic pollution have taken their toll, and the ocean is dying.

Ocean life dying

In the last 70 years, 50% of the animal and plant life within the ocean have died. Unless there's a dramatic change within the next 10 years, we are in danger of triggering a catastrophic event that will lead to all animals and plants in the ocean dying within the next 50 years.

"Let's be clear: If by some miracle the world achieves net zero by 2045, evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) BIOACID report [1] demonstrates that this reduction will not be enough to stop a drop in ocean pH to 7.95. If the level of marine life (both plant and animal) is reduced, then the oceans' ability to lockout carbon into the abyss is depleted. It is clear to the GOES team that if we only pursue carbon mitigation strategies and don't do more to regenerate plant and animal life in oceans, we will reach a tipping point: a planetary boundary from which there will be no return, because all life on Earth depends upon the largest ecosystem on the planet," said the Global Oceanic Environmental Survey from the University of Edinburgh in a published journal in June of 2021.

We can't live without the ocean. If it dies, we die.

While this alone is devastating, the ocean isn't the only story.

Here in Oregon, we've had a Tribal forest catch on fire, we've begun to expect smoke in the air during the summertime because of all the wildfires, and recent winter storms left thousands of people without power in freezing temperatures.

And because of the state of our climate, these kinds of extreme weather events are only supposed to get worse.

Please see Ocean, page 7

Ocean

Continued from page 6

So, what do we do in the face of something so huge and potentially devastating?

We must take action

First, we need to educate ourselves so we have an accurate understanding of what is going on and so we can make wise decisions for our nation moving forward.

After that, we need to grab audacious hope and secure it around our middle like a belt we refuse to take off. And then we need to get to work! We've got a lot to do, and the next generation is counting on us for their breathing air.

As a member of the Climate Resilience Taskforce, I am working with my fellow taskforce members on recommendations to take to Tribal Council. There's a lot we can do as a Tribal nation and I am excited to see how we take bold steps forward to address this issue.

As a resident on this planet there are also many things I can do (and you can too), right now, to help give our planet and our children a chance at a healthy future. If everyone took responsibility for their life and their contribution, we could give the planet a chance to heal.

What you can do

Here are a few things we can all do now:

- Reduce your carbon footprint on the earth – buy local!
- Buy natural fibers. Avoid plastics.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle!
- Purchase organic food whenever possible to avoid toxic effects of herbicides and pesticides.
- Avoid cosmetics containing oxybenzone, a toxic chemical found in sunscreen that is horrible for ocean life.
- Avoid Teflon and other fluorocarbons that are non-stick. They are toxic to us and all life.
- Plant a tree. Protect wetlands, marsh lands and mangrove swamps.



Photos by Shelley Estes

Above left: Plastic pollution on Whiskey Run beach.

Above right: Quinn Claypoole gives all the pollution on the beach a firm thumbs down.

Tribal member Shelley Estes can no longer ignore plastic problem

From Shelley's Facebook:

"In pouring rain, we trudged, Buddy the wonder dog running along beside us.

"This wasn't a rock, fossil, or golf ball day – trash only. I used to get disgusted over someone leaving a water bottle at the beach. It was someone else's trash. Sometimes, I would ignore it, searching for beach

treasure.

"I can't ignore other people's trash anymore.

"I hate to be Debbie Downer, I love life, the outdoors, I live life! But I have an alarm going on now. I cannot express in words how fearful I am for my children's future.

"The beach (and ocean) is full of

thousands of microplastics, plastic, plastic, PLASTIC!

"Whiskey Run beach is below the Bandon Dunes Golf Course. It is a locals' beach that looks like a plastic bomb exploded.

"If we want tourists, family picnics, long romantic walks on pristine beaches, do we want this?"

- Pick up litter.
- Minimize your travel. It produces less carbon dioxide and tire pollution.
- Take old pharmaceuticals to designated drop off sites. Don't flush them down the toilet.

As I've dug into the work of this taskforce, I've felt overwhelmed and even cried when I considered my children's future. Just like trying to save the Chinook

salmon in the Coquille River, I've felt like the task ahead was hopeless at times.

But when I considered those salmon and thought about what our Tribe's known for, that's when I determined to courageously grab ahold of hope and continue to do everything I can to turn things around.

We are fearless champions

The Coquille people are known as

fearless visionaries who fight against the odds to do the impossible. We did it fighting for restoration, we do it fighting for our salmon cousins, we do it as stewards of wise forest management, we did it in healthcare through a pandemic and we'll do it facing this climate challenge.

We don't give up. We overcome obstacles. It's in our DNA.

That's hope I can count on.

Tribal gathering brought members together for winter's General Council meeting and social events



Photos by Anne Niblett

Photos by Candace Grabinger and Anne Niblett

Top left: From left: Ian Frost, KimE Severson and Justin Futch try their hand at traditional gambling during Winter Gathering.

Top right: Traditional gambling tokens made by Tribal member Justin Futch.

Above left: Daniel Cox and Katelyn Doyle spend some time beading tribal necklaces.

Above right: Katelyn Doyle is all smiles.

Top from left to right: Chair Meade (left) and Vice Chair Jen Procter Andrews blanket Tribal veterans in a special honoring ceremony that Community Services hosted during Winter Gathering. Veterans pictured from left to right: Lyman Meade, Mike Frost, and Les Mecum.

Above left: Chief Younker fills his plate during the Elders luncheon at Winter Gathering.

Above right: Pam Lenox holds a Pendleton blanket that was available as a raffle prize.

Left: Youth Council member Hallie Chambers presents her great aunt Janice Simpson with a gift from the Tribe for being the oldest female Elder in attendance at Winter Gathering.

Storytelling

Continued from page 1

everything else. And he brought the salmon berries in and she baked it up and she cut the pie up and it was water and seeds.

"She never said that was how it was going to happen. And she knew that was how it was going to happen and he remembered that the rest of his life.

"And my mother was the same way.

"There was a fisherman and he was an alcoholic and he used to come down to the house to eat and his name was Danny McCoy. He had two boys and he had four girls, I think.

"And my mother said, 'Don't go, you've got the whole slough, all from the bridge on up, but don't go north of the bridge.' She says, 'Because Danny lost two kids, his boys, at different times because one of them fell off the dock at Hallmarks and drowned because it was slippery and the second boy did the same thing.'

"And so it was a dangerous place to be and she didn't want me to go there, but I had a row boat and I bought a shot gun at nine years old with beer bottles and pop bottles, we had a whole garage full of those and sometimes money that we gained as kids pulling a rope across the road and when they come back from the tavern across that road, they had to pay a fine to get across the little creek there, and we gathered the money that way. So I'd saved up a little money and I did borrow some money too, but I got me a Stevens shotgun which weighed about nine pounds.

"But I got that and I could go up the slough and get some mallards, that's how my Uncle Fud was eating the mallards cause I'd killed it, But I'd walk in the house after being up the slough in a rainstorm with no rain jacket, not much, nothing, I'd go all the way up the slough all day long and it would rain on me, and I'd come back and the outside of your clothes would dry off but we didn't have that wick away underwear so that didn't dry off, so I'd throw my clothes down the hallway and mom would pick them up.

Right: Tribal Elder Tom Younker recounts memories from his childhood when his mother taught him the importance of respecting others by not judging them. His wife Diane sits next to him.

Below: From left: Chris Tanner and his wife Jennifer sit next to Shelley Estes and Gary Westphal at the storytelling event held at Winter Gathering on Sunday morning in the Salmon Room.

Photos by Anne Niblett



She just treated me and let me do whatever I wanted to do. They never knew when I was coming back but I had the freedom to travel around anywhere

around that slough that I wanted to, so I had a dog that was a lab...

"One day I came in and they said,

'Here comes Danny.' And I said, 'That old drunk?'

"And at that time I was in high school and I thought I was a pretty fair athlete. I wanted to be like Jim Thorpe. I've always been jealous of black people and Jewish people, a lot of people, because they had a lot of heroes they could look up to. I only had Jim Thorpe.

"So anyway, I came in and Danny came in and I looked down on him because I thought he was an alcoholic. Which is the wrong thing to do and she was teaching me a lesson and she says, 'Danny, can you still kick?'

"He says, 'Yeah.'

"And here's a guy who was in his 50s closing in on his 60s and all you men here know what I'm talking about when I say you're not as flexible as you used to be. You don't have the strength you used to have. But we had a living room with a beam across it which was about 7 feet in the air.

"And she says, 'Can you kick that beam?'

"He kicks his foot up and touches the beam with his foot and I said, 'Oh, wow! I can't even cross my legs and this man kicks his legs up there and I said, Did you ever punt football and he says, Yeah. I went to the University of Washington and I was a freshman. I was the punter.

"And I said, 'What was your longest punt?'

"He said, 'In the air, 80 yards.'

"And I believed him. And what it taught me was, don't judge people. It's not your place to judge people. They're here, a creation, and they live their own lives. And you don't need to judge them and you don't need to look down on them for any reason.

"So, that's the way she taught me that and it stayed with me the rest of my life.

"She had one rule, 'Don't lie to me.' And I have a hard time lying."

Before Tom could say anything else, his wife Diane leaned into the microphone and said, "Except when he's playing cards with me."

The room erupted with laughter.

Attention hunters and anglers

January 3 was the deadline for submitting harvest reports for the 2023 tribal hunting seasons. Thank you to everyone that has already completed their hunt reporting for the 2023 season, your timely response is extremely helpful to the Natural Resources Office as we plan for future harvest opportunities.

If you have not yet completed your hunt reporting, it's not too late! You may do so at any time on the Hunting, Fishing & Gathering page of MyTribe or by calling 541-756-0904 ext. 1276. Even if you didn't hunt, a response is required in order to receive 2024 tribal tags.

The deadline for reporting on fish and shellfish harvested under the CIT Harvest Program is March 31. This reporting survey will ask for information on fish and

shellfish harvested under the CIT Harvest Program from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

CIT issued Fish Harvest Tags will remain valid through March 31, 2024. Even if you did not fish or harvest shellfish, a response is required. This survey will also be available on the Hunting, Fishing, & Gathering page of MyTribe soon.

Keep an eye out for more information about fish and shellfish reporting in future K'wen Weekly updates and in the monthly Newsletter.

Don't forget to send your hunting and fishing pictures to harvestpermits@coquilletribe.org for a chance to be featured in next year's hunting and fishing rule books!

Projects Management Office adds more workspace



Photo by PMO staff

A new portable office near the wellness center is housing members of the Projects Management team.

A few of the members of the Projects Management Office have a new workspace. Russel Crocheteire, Lacie Vaughn, Lonnie Covey, Jenny Nelson, and Marion Newman have all relocated to a new portable modular office at Kilkich.

Here are some key details regarding

the relocation:

- It's located at Kilkich between the wellness center and the cranberry bogs.
- It's equipped with all the necessary facilities to support work, including a meeting room and break area.



Photo by Anne Niblett

Fishery heroes in the wild

From left to right: Members of the NRO team Zachary Nemeth, Jesse Rodriguez and Jamie Villa check out the health of creeks on the Kilkich reservation. They assessed water flow in several different streams and looked for the presence of beaver dams and obstructions to water flow.

My Heart Goes

A Walking On song

Ah hey
Ah hey, hey nah
Ah hey
Ah hey, hey nah (repeat)

Shda'-ye'
My family
Shsre naa-ya
my heart goes (I miss you)

Shii-shu'
But I'm good
Shii-shu'
I'm good (5X)



To listen, click here: <https://youtu.be/lwomjX0Ett4>

Tribal police: Remember, stop signs mean stop

By Anne Niblett
Newsletter Editor

If you've driven through the newly reconstructed intersection in front of the Learning Center, you've certainly seen the prominent stop sign. Unfortunately, a lot of people are forgetting that a stop sign means coming to a complete stop and looking both ways before proceeding.

Coquille Tribal Police Officer Crystal Walling has been stopping people and issuing warnings as a reminder to come to a complete stop at it and any other stop signs on the reservation.

"It's a safety issue," Officer Walling says. "They aren't yield signs."

Walling is concerned because kids, especially, often run out of the Learning

Center and they aren't always aware of traffic. The stop signs are designed to keep kids and everyone else safe.

Walling says that a lot of people slow down and look but don't come to a complete stop. Others are barely slowing down and just proceeding through. She notices this happening most often during morning drop off times at the Learning Center when pedestrian traffic is at its peak.

We all care about safety on the reservation. If you're driving, remember to come to a complete stop at all stop signs. It will only cost a couple more seconds of your time and it will help avoid accidents.

And, it's the law.



Photo by Crystal Walling

Many people aren't making a complete stop at the stop sign at the new intersection at Kilkich.

KWC Dental Clinic celebrates two year anniversary

By Dr. Mary Willard
Dental Director

Time flies when you are having fun!

February 7, 2024, marks the two-year anniversary of the KWC Dental Clinic in Coos Bay, and it's a good time to celebrate how far we've come. Previously, the Coquille Indian Tribe had no dental services, and in just 24 months the dental team has completed more than 4,500 appointments in service to its clients.

Behind this accomplishment are three providers who've been here from the start: Dentist, Dr. Mary Willard; Dental Hygienist, Danielle Underwood; and Dental Therapist, Jason Mecum who is a Coquille Indian Tribal member. Staff retention and stability is great for continuity of care. Our providers care about and enjoy strengthening their relationship to every patient and to the greater community.

The trust they've established isn't by accident. These providers and the support staff are educated in trauma informed care and are well versed in working with patients who are afraid of



Photo by Jen Lehman

Dental Therapist Jason Mecum (left) and Dental Hygienist Danielle Underwood.

dental care. The providers work together to provide a range of general practice services including sealants, cleanings, deep cleanings, fillings, extractions, crown and bridges, and dentures. The clinic also has nitrous oxide gas available, but patients taking certain medications may not qualify for administration of the gas in the KWC clinic. Talk to your provider if you have questions.

The clinic is also proactive, encouraging children to come for a "happy visit" as soon as their first tooth comes in. These visits allow us to get the kids used to visiting a dental clinic, and help the family learn how to keep children's teeth healthy.

Positive oral health habits will last a lifetime, and we love seeing kids of all ages. Stay tuned for the launch of our "cavity free and super brushers club" for kids, coming very soon.

Thank you for trusting in us and coming in for care. We value you and the chance to partner with you for improved oral health and great smiles.

Stay well and smile (Sre'-ghud-la) bright!

Coffee with a Cop honors our tribal safety team



Photos by Anne Niblett and Alison Felton

Left: Police Chief Jerry Merrit (left) and officer Crystal Walling (right), pose with kids ready to join the force. From left: Michael Benitez, Zach Walling (front) and Elijah. Above: Tiffany Hargis, Crystal Walling and Jerry Merrit accept a thank you on behalf of the community. Bottom left: Little Nora Lovell high fives the day as Quinn Claypoole looks on. Below right: Michael Benitez, Zach Walling and Faunabeth Larkin try out handcuffs.



GRAB YOUR MAT... Every Tuesday at 5:15 pm
KWC Community Gathering Space

yoga class

WITH ANDY

'Free!'
FOR BEGINNERS & THOSE OF ALL FITNESS LEVELS

The class is open to all Coquille Tribal members and their families, CIT employees and its entities, KWC patients, and Kilkich residents who are 18+ years of age.




Photo by Molly Hockema

Celebrating Baylee!

Kids from the Tribe's after school program gather outside the Learning Center to join Baylee Moore in celebrating her winning design for the Traditional Tobacco contest. See the design on page 16.

News roundup

Sek-wet-se closed

The Sek-wet-se Forest is closed due to hazardous conditions created by the recent weather events. This closure will remain in place indefinitely, while the Natural Resources Office staff works to assess the situation and complete repairs.

Elders Scholarship open

This \$500 scholarship created by the Coquille Tribal Elders can be awarded to multiple applicants. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- You are an enrolled Coquille Tribal member.
- You are entering the junior, senior, or post-baccalaureate level at an accredited higher education institution.
- You have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Eligible applications will be presented to the Coquille Indian Tribe Culture and Education Committee or the Coquille Indian Tribe Elders Committee for review.

The application deadline is May 15. Applications may be emailed to higher-

education@coquilletribe.org, postmarked and sent to 495 Miluk Drive, Coos Bay, OR 97420, or hand delivered to the same address.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Anna Cole, the higher education coordinator at 541-435-7979 or highereducation@coquilletribe.org.

Summer youth activity dates

Kilkich Youth Corps for ages 14-18:

- May 31 - Applications due
- June 3 - 7 - Interviews
- June 14 - Orientation
- June 17 - Employment begins

Camp Ta Nae (July 31 - August 3) is for Coquille Tribal youth ages 8 -14 as campers and 15 - 25 as counselors and interns.

- June 21 - Applications for counselors/ interns due
- July 19 - Applications for campers due
- July 18 - Counselor/intern training

- July 30 - Counselor/interns and staff at camp

Youth Retreat - August 15 -18 for Coquille Tribal youth ages 13 -18 years.

More information will follow regarding all events listed including eligibility and applications. If you have any questions please call Tanya Clark at 541-888-7737 ext. 2200 or tanyaclark@coquilletribe.org.

Restoration information

Save the date! The 35th Restoration Celebration begins Wednesday, June 26 and lasts through Sunday, June 30.

Tribal artists that are interested in making or donating items for the event, please contact Travel and Events Coordinator Nichole Howe at 541-982-3316 or via email at nicholchowe@coquilletribe.org.

Medicine basket class

The second class for the medicine basket necklace is being held from noon - 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 2 at the Community Plankhouse.

**Help us design the
Camp Ta Nae
T-Shirt!**

Show off your creativity and enter the 2024 Camp Ta Nae t-shirt design contest. Your design could be chosen as this year's official t-shirt for camp.

For Coquille Tribal youth ages 8 - 18 years old. Deadline is April 12.

Please submit your design to the Learning Center Administrative Assistant Tanya Clark at 591 Miluk Drive or send her an email at tanyaclark@coquilletribe.org.

Questions? Contact Becky Cantrell at beckycantrell@coquilletribe.org.

Chair Continued from page 1

Secretary, Bryan Newland, who shared the intentions of the US Department of Interior to place more land into trust per the newly approved 151 Regulations (Fee-to-Trust).

BIA Regional Director Brian Mercier presented news on funding opportunities for NW tribes and shared issues the regional office is facing with 135 positions unfilled for this coming year. We heard from representatives from Indian Health Services, Army Corp of Engineers, and FEMA.

Also in attendance was Governor Tina Kotek who shared with the nine tribes an executive order she signed to reinstate the Cultural Items Task Force. The task force supports our continued work in inventorying cultural items significant to our tribes, with an emphasis next, on public schools, universities, and community colleges.

I also attended a dinner with Governor Kotek and my fellow tribal chairmen. We had great discussions about housing and homeless issues, education, daycare, and Elder care needs. We also talked about the wind energy projects and legislation that will be coming up soon in the short session. We know we will have a huge number of bills we need to track



Left: Chair Meade speaks to Elders during the Elders luncheon at Winter Gathering held at The Mill Casino in January.

Photo by Candace Grabinger

that will ultimately impact our Tribe. The short session begins on February 5.

Our resolution

Vice Chair Jen Proctor Andrews and I were also proud to present a resolution to ATNI. The resolution recognized 2024 as the 70th year since the Western Oregon Termination Act. It made it clear that ATNI will never allow this policy against our tribes again and we will oppose any future unapproved actions against the restoration acts of those tribes.

The resolution was supported unanimously. I was proud of our Vice Chair who shared her story of our fight for restoration as Coquille People. And thank you to Brett Kenney for his support.

Important to note

Some other things to mention:

- On Jan. 26, Tribal Council approved a Sek-wet-se Forest Emergency Declaration in response to the extreme rain and flooding that produced slides on roads entering our forest. Roads will be closed until major work can be done. We will keep you updated.
- As many of you know, our Sunday morning breakfast at the Community Plankhouse during Winter Gathering was cancelled due to flooding. I am happy to update you that our maintenance team was able to clear some tree roots in the drain system that fixed the issue. I want to thank everyone who responded - thank you for taking care of "our house." I

also want to thank Margaret Simpson and her team at the Mill Casino for hosting that breakfast with very little notice. We are blessed to have such incredible people working for our Tribe!

- I am pleased to report that our Lam-pa Creek property on the Coquille River has now been placed into trust. You may recall that this property was identified as a key area for our salmon recovery efforts on the Coquille River. Despite extremely high waters due to flooding, we are seeing clouds of salmon fry take off from our regained homelands. We are overjoyed!

Please know that my thoughts and prayers go out to our family members who are sick or are hurting, or who have recently lost loved ones.

And, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 541-297-8803, or any of your Tribal Council representatives. You can also call the administration office at 541-756-0904 or 800-344-8583.

For now, Shuenhalni! (Take care!) and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Brenda Meade
Coquille Tribal Chair

Coquille Indian Tribe

- Tribal Council**
Chairman Brenda Meade
 (541) 297-8803
 brendameade@coquilletribe.org
- Vice Chair Jen Procter Andrews**
 (541) 299-2901
 jenprocterandrews@coquilletribe.org
- Chief Jason Younker**
 (541) 808-5244
 jasonyounker@coquilletribe.org
- Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Chambers**
 (541) 435-7997
 jackiechambers@coquilletribe.org
- Laurabeth Barton**
 (541) 297-4340
 laurabethbarton@coquilletribe.org
- Don Garrett**
 (541) 297-3376 dongarrett@coquilletribe.org

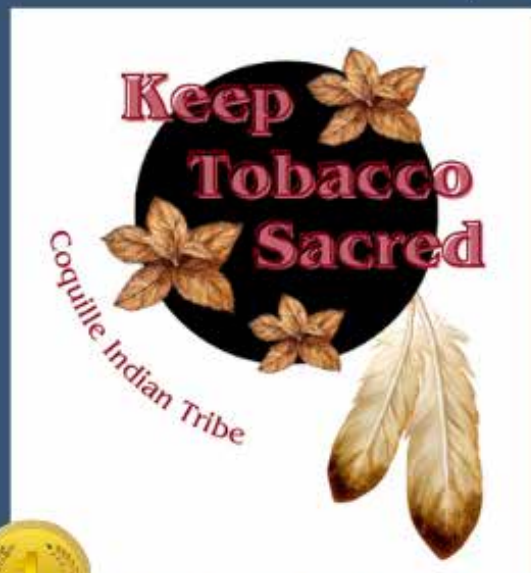
- Administration**
 3050 Tremont St. North Bend, OR 97459
 (541) 756-0904, (800) 622-5869
 cit@coquilletribe.org
- Tribal Government CEO Mark Johnston**
 Programs & Services - Bridgett Wheeler
 Natural Resources - John Ogan
 Special Projects & Planning - Fauna Larkin
 Human Resources - Mike Frost
 Finance - Kyle ViksneHill
- Tribal Court**
 Chief Judge Melissa Cribbins
 Clerk Denise Hunter
 (541) 756-0904, (800) 622-5869
- Culture, Education & Learning Services**
 Director Marsha Frost (541) 982-3343,
 (800) 622-5869

- Tribal Police**
Emergency: 911
 Chief Jerry Merrit
 2602 Mexeye Loop Coos Bay, OR. 97420
 (541) 252-7135
- Nasomah Health Group**
 Manager Rod Cook
 PO Box 921 North Bend, OR 97459
 (541) 751-0940 rodcook@coquilletribe.org
- Ko-Kwel Wellness Center**
 CEO Kathryn Halverson
 PO Box 3190 Coos Bay, OR. 97420
 (541) 888-9494, (800) 200-0744
- 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-lh-kwuh (Tribal One)**
 Chief Executive Officer Judy Farm
 3201 Tremont St. North Bend, OR. 97459
 (866) 442-3326
- CEDCO CEO**
 Margaret Simpson 800-953-4800
- Gaming Commission**
 Chairman Larry Simpson
 (541) 756-5664, (800) 953-4800
- Tribal Development Program**
 Kippy Robbins 541-756-8800 ext. 2207

THE WINNERS

of the Traditional Tobacco Art Contest



Kaylee Matheny



Alyssa Severson



Larrisa Simpson

YOUTH ARTIST



Baylee Moore

New designs chosen for traditional tobacco campaign

In response to a contest hosted by Community Services, several Tribal members submitted designs and four lucky winners

were chosen. Congratulations to Kaylee Matheny, Alyssa Severson, Larrisa Simpson, and Baylee Moore, whose designs

were selected to be the 2024 Traditional Tobacco Advocacy Art Contest winners. We would also like to say a very special

thank you to everyone for your submissions giving us an amazing turnout and so many new designs!



Coffee and Cocoa with a Cop Recap

I believe the event was a success. I would like to have seen a better turnout, but we were competing with the fire department having their own event and kids basketball tournaments. Unfortunately, it's impossible to predict a clash of events so far in advance of scheduling it so we just have to hope for the best.

The kids especially seemed to have a good time, which was definitely the goal Jerry and I had in mind.

Having K-9 Poe there was a big hit (especially for me) and it was great to learn about her job.

We didn't have too much food left over but planning these kinds of events, it is impossible to know how much food we need.

The flashlights were a great giveaway and thank you to Rocky who put all the batteries in them. It was most disappointing for me that the kids' cups and mugs weren't going to get here on time. It was partly due to Jerry being out of the office or very busy catching up since he was gone but mostly due to the ice storms in various parts of the country. Not that I'm blaming Jerry at all, but the designs are created so hopefully we can get them for next year. I was at least glad that the stickers worked on the mugs, and I was even able to run them through the dishwasher without them coming off.

Everything that's leftover has been saved for next year when we'll hopefully join with the PD to have another event.

In conclusion, I loved planning the event and you guys gave me the support I needed. Since I do event planning for a living it's easy for me to do most of the work and I'm very happy to do that. It was a pleasure working with Chief Merritt and the rest of his staff and I'd gladly do it again. He and I would love for KRA and the Public Safety department to continue supporting each other with events like this. After all, he is all about community policing.

Alison Felton

EASTER UPDATE

The Public Safety department and I have been throwing around ideas about Easter.

I think the first thing we need to do is decide whether we want to partner with them on this or just support them. I think the difference is that if we partner with them all KRA members should participate and play a bigger role and if possible help with funding for the project. The police department have committed to budgeting \$500.00

If we choose to support them, it would be good to have 100% participation but let them take the lead.

Those plastic eggs are rather a nightmare and personally I would like to see something different because:

- They are so small that things get crammed in there
- The eggs are cheap so they pop open if you put more than an M&M in there which is then a pain for the people stuffing them as they have to tape them together
- That in turn is a pain for the kids because it's hard to get the tape off. I considered some better quality and slightly bigger eggs but that would be very expensive and they don't always get returned for use next year.
- They're not good for the environment, often get left behind in the bushes etc. and rarely get or can't be recycled.

I had an idea that I've proposed to Chief Merritt and others in his department that we instead have a scavenger hunt. It would take a lot more planning and I would definitely need help on it although I know I'd have help and support from the PD.

I have already touched base with Jessica Hamner. Last year the Community Services department's role was to provide support for the event. She said they'd be happy to do the same this year, although, I am aware there are going to be some significant changes made to that entire department so I'm not sure where it will stand. In the meantime she's happy to help in any way they can.

Jessica also thought a scavenger hunt was a better idea than the easter eggs. Obviously, kids want and expect candy so we can't disappoint. She had some great ideas which completely escape me right now due to lack of sleep but said her family used to do scavenger hunts instead of Easter egg hunts as kids and they loved it.

There would have to be appropriate clues for different age groups and the parents or someone would need to go with the smaller children.

My theory is that each child or maybe pair or group if there are siblings or best friends, is given a card with a clue on it. For example, one child or group would be given a card that said "Find the object our ancestors would ride in down the river" then once they find the canoe that's up there someone else would be there to give them another clue card and so on... Once they've completed all the clues and have come back with the answers they will each be given a larger golden egg with a decent-sized piece of candy in it, maybe something else and a raffle ticket. The tickets would be different colors and correspond to a stuffed animal they get at the end. It's hard to say whether this would cost more money than the eggs, but it would definitely be less of a pain to deal with.

I am completely open to ideas and feedback and also for you to let me know if you'd like me to take the lead on it. There is not much time since we're almost halfway through February but I don't have too much on my plate right now.

Please email me to let me know your thoughts.

Alison

Other Tribal Donations

Small Donations

The Coquille Tribal Community Fund awards grants of \$1,000 or more, but a separate fund covers donations of smaller sums. Requests for small donations should be directed to Kay Collins at the Coquille Indian Tribe's Administration Office. Please review the guidelines on the first page of the small donations application prior to submission.

- Online application for small donations: [Online Donation Application](#)
- PDF application for small donations: [PDF Donation Application](#)

These requests MUST be \$500 or less. Larger requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

Mailing Address: 3050 Tremont St. North Bend, OR 97459.

Fax #: 541-756-0847

E-mail: kaycollins@coquilletribe.org



Coquille Indian Tribe- Donations

3050 Tremont St. • North Bend, Oregon 97459 • (541) 756-0904 • Fax (541) 756-0847

Thank you for your inquiry regarding The Coquille Indian Tribe and our charitable donations program.

In order to process your donation request, we ask each organization to complete the attached form and return it to Kay Collins at the Coquille Indian Tribe's Administration office. Please help us by completing and returning the form as soon as you can.

Requests are processed as soon as possible, but usually twice a month. Your organization is responsible for applying in a timely manner. Successfully obtaining a donation at the last minute is rare.

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Please complete the attached form and direct it to:

Coquille Indian Tribe
3050 Tremont St.
North Bend, OR 97459
Attn: Donation Requests / Kay Collins

Phone: 541-756-0904

Fax: 541-756-0847

E-mail: kaycollins@coquilletribe.org

Note: If the requesting organization is a nonprofit, we suggest visiting the Coquille Tribal Community Fund website at www.coquilletribalfund.org. If you think your request may be a better fit for a Community Fund grant than for the tribe's Small Donations program, please call or email Kay Collins (as listed above) to ask about Community Fund guidelines and the application timeline.

Updated 08/05/2022



Coquille Indian Tribe- Donations

3050 Tremont St. • North Bend, Oregon 97459 • (541) 756-0904 • Fax (541) 756-0847

Coquille Indian Tribe Donation Request Form

Name of organization: _____

Tax ID # (please submit a current W-9 as well): _____

Contact name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing address (if different than above): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Organization's mission and goals: _____

Date of event: _____ Amount requested: _____

Title of event or nature of request: _____

Briefly explain what the donation will be used for: _____

How will/can the tribe be recognized for its donation? _____

Date donation needed by: _____

Signature: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Office Use Only: Approved: _____ Initial: _____ Denied: _____ Initial: _____

❄️ Special: 1/2 Price Golf Wednesday's ❄️



Welcome to Asylum Mini Golf & Arcade



About Us



*Indoor 18 hole mini golf course located inside the Pony Village Mall
North Bend, OR*



**Full-size arcade that
includes 25+ arcade game**



**Black light golf on
Friday (8pm-9pm) & Saturday (6pm-9pm)**



2 party rooms

**Great for birthday parties, company parties or any kind of special occasion. Have a large group?
Need room for the kids to run around? This room is next to the mini golf course. This room sits
up to 50 people. Stop by or call (541) 808-0962 for more information.**



2 party rooms

Great for birthday parties, company parties or any kind of special occasion. This room is located next to the Arcade and the bathrooms. Its sits up to 20 people. Stop by or call (541) 808-0962 for more information.



Welcome to Asylum Mini Golf & Arcade, where the fun never takes a break! Tucked right next to our crazy cool mini-golf course, our arcade is a haven for game lovers of all ages. Picture this: Over 25 games waiting for you to dive in and get your game on! We've got everything from old-school pinball to heart-pounding racing games, virtual reality adventures, sharpshooting challenges, and machines where you can score awesome prizes. Yep, we've got a bit of everything to keep you entertained.

What's even better? We're always expanding! So, every visit might just surprise you with something new and exciting to try out. It's like a never-ending adventure, seriously.

Oh, and did we mention the mini-golf? It's right here, attached to the arcade. So, you can putt your way through twists, turns, and obstacles, and then hop over to the arcade for some gaming action. It's like a double dose of awesome packed into one place.

Now, nobody has to worry about going hungry because we've got some delicious grub to keep you

fueled up for all that gaming and golfing. Pizza, amazing hotdogs, nachos, and maybe even some sweets to satisfy those cravings. Thirsty for soda, juice, water, beer, frozen cocktails - we've got your back!

So, whether you're a kid, a big kid, or somewhere in between, Asylum Mini Golf & Arcade is where the good times happen. Swing by, grab a club or a joystick, and let the fun begin

Contact Us

Drop us a line!

Name

Email*

Message

Send

This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

Better yet, see us in person!

We love our customers, so feel free to visit during normal business hours.

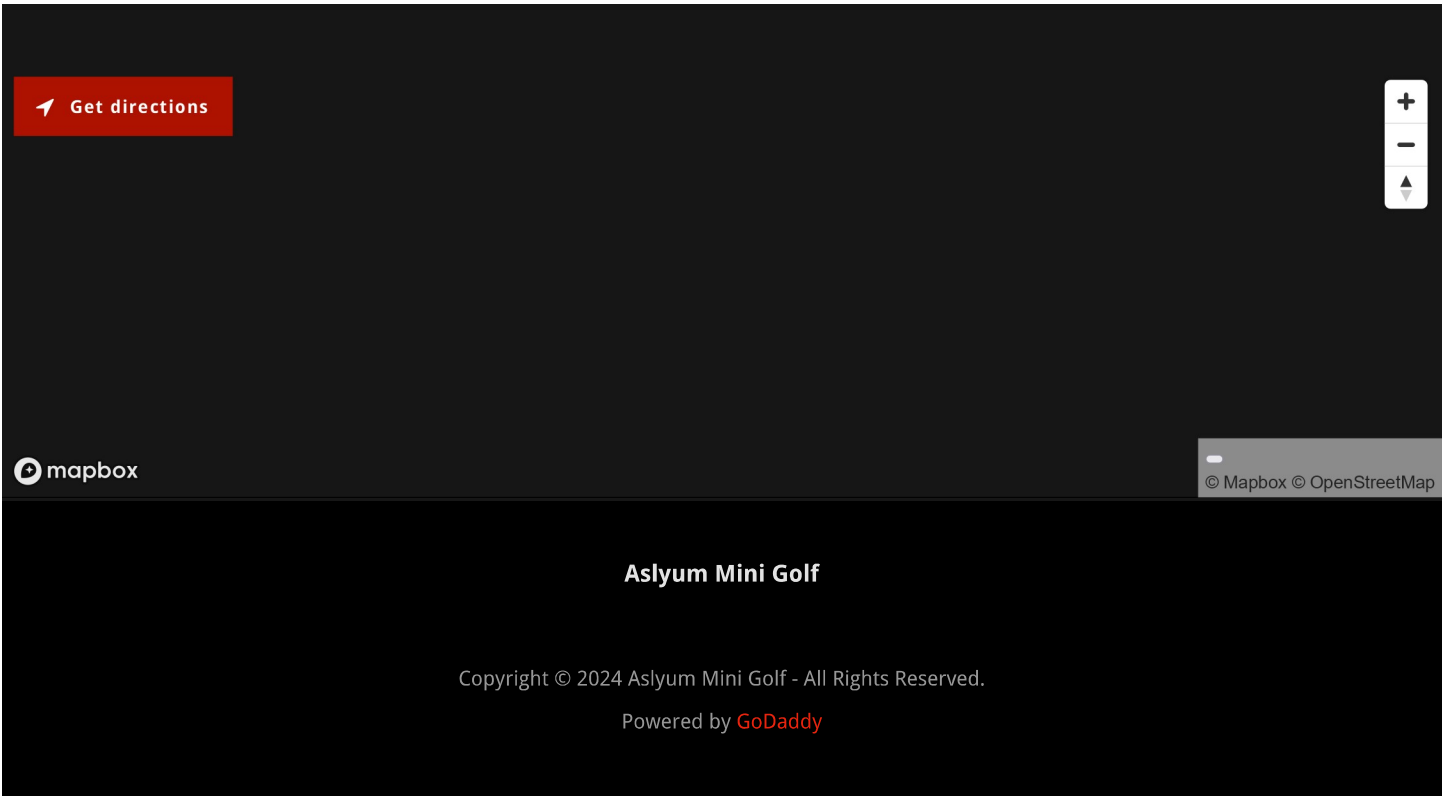
Asylum Mini Golf

1611 Virginia Av, North Bend, Oregon 97459, United States

541-808-0962
asylumminigolf@gmail.com

Hours

Today **Closed** ▾



The image shows a dark-themed map interface. In the top-left corner, there is a red button with a white arrow icon and the text "Get directions". In the top-right corner, there is a vertical stack of three white icons: a plus sign, a minus sign, and a location pin. The bottom-left corner features the Mapbox logo. The bottom-right corner contains the text "© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap". The main content area is a solid black rectangle with the text "Asylum Mini Golf" centered in white. Below this, the text "Copyright © 2024 Asylum Mini Golf - All Rights Reserved." is centered in a smaller white font. At the bottom center, the text "Powered by GoDaddy" is displayed, with "GoDaddy" in red.