

### **Sweetwater Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Reaches Completion**

The Sweetwater Creek Floodplain restoration project implementation began on October 21, 2019, located on Webb Road, on the Nez Perce Reservation in Nez Perce County. The project area is approximately 1.5 miles upstream from Sweetwater, Idaho. Sweetwater Creek is a tributary to the Clearwater River. The purpose of the project was to restore fish habitat, floodplain function, natural stream function, and to reestablish the native plant communities. This has been accomplished by constructing 1700 feet of new channel, building 23 log/boulder habitat structures, constructing off-channel habitat areas, allowing the creek to access the floodplain, and removal of invasive weed species.

The conditions of the project site included, but are not limited to, several human altered changes to the stream, which included a straightened and channelized stream, and decreased instream complexity. Sweetwater Creek was



Sweetwater Creek fully diverted into new channel with habitat structure

most likely a stream that crisscrossed and meandered the entire valley of the Sweetwater watershed. In the early 1900s, the Lewiston Orchards began to divert water from Sweetwater Creek to meet irrigation demands. More changes occurred throughout the early 1900s when land was converted to farm fields. During this time, Sweetwater Creek was relocated to a straightened, channelized streambed on one side of the valley, which is where it remained until recently. The land use changes of the Sweetwater Watershed affected how wood entered the stream and how the wood was stored in the stream as individual pieces or as logjams. The changes to the wood recruitment resulted in the streambed material being uniform in size and far too

large for appropriate spawning material. The current condition also included a mature canopy of Cottonwood and Alder trees. Sweetwater Creek has been pushed up against the east hill slope where an offset levee runs the east side of the current channel preventing Sweetwater Creek from accessing its floodplain.

Steelhead and Coho Salmon are the primary focus of this restoration project, however, many species of fish and wildlife will benefit from this project. For the first two weeks of the project Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries employees monitored the existing channel for adult Coho salmon and none were observed in the project reach. The first day water was fully diverted into the newly constructed stream channel, with all the habitat structures in place, eight adult Coho were observed utilizing the resting and pool areas in the project reach. Recent electrofishing efforts found steelhead/rainbow trout, Coho, dace, sculpin, and bridge-lip sucker to be present in the project reach, all of which will benefit from this project.

This project was implemented with funds from Bonneville Power Administration, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, and Nez Perce Tribe Snake River Basin Adjudication monies.

# CULTURAL

## Nimiipuutímtki- The People's Language (Nee-mee-poo-timt-key)

December Ha'óqoy (ha-oh-koy) "season of elk calf (tasíipx), carrying unborn calves"

Snow Star Ribbon Lights Gift Santa (person from cold place) Reindeer Bells méeqe' xì'cíyu łíłipłiłip `ilakáawit píi'nit yaw'íckin'ikoo `imés tatá'p'ay k'olálk'olal

mecka hit-see-you tha-thlip-tha-thlip illa-cow-it pee-nit yaw-itskin-it-ko immis ta-tah-pie ko-lawl ko-lawl

The Nimiipuu Tribal Tribune is published twice a month, on the first and third Wednesday. Our mission is to publish a timely and credible resource for our loyal readers and provide local information relevant to the Nimiipuu people and surrounding communities. Our vision is to disseminate content of interest to readers and to ensure this news publication is accessible by all.

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, we are working to cut down on paper waste and printing cost. Hard copies will be available upon request only. Enrolled Nez Perce Tribal members are able to receive hard copies at no cost (limit one per household). For businesses and non-enrolled Nez Perce Tribal members, the hard copy subscription fee is \$36 annually. The online version is free for everyone. Subscribe today!

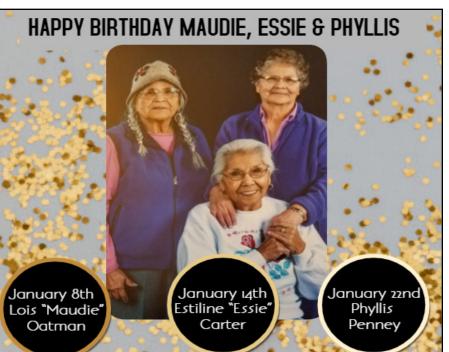
For more information regarding submissions, subscriptions, classified ads, display ad rates, dates and deadlines, visit: <u>http://nezperce.org/government/communications/</u>



Contact: Chantal C. Ellenwood 208-621-4807 <u>chantale@nezperce.org</u> Mailing: P.O. Box 365 Physical: 120 Bever Grade Lapwai, ID 83540

# CELEBRATIONS

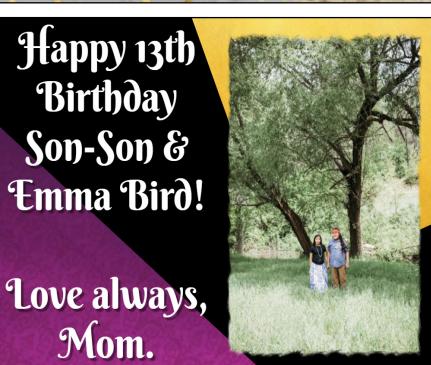






Happy 19th Birthday Chloe!

Love from all your family



## Rock On Nimiipuu

<u>itus Yearout</u>

December 11, 2019

Lewiston Tribune

**shlyn Wallace** December 5, 2019 P1FCU Prep Athlete of the Week



tan Sobczyk Nez Perce Tribe November Employee of the Month

Prep Athlete of the Week



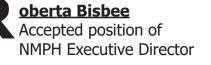
**<u>yKel Johnson</u>** Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Washington State University

December 12, 2019

P1FCU Prep Atlete

ross Taylor

of the Week



**oyama Young** 24 pts, 8 rebounds, 6 steals against Clackamas Community College

mmit (Mitaat) Taylor III Signed with Idaho State University



<u>tacia Morfin</u>

Wins 1st Place for small business category and the "pitch off" at LCSC Entrepreneur Challenge



**hantel Greene**, NPTEC Secretary, completed Master of Legal Studies Indigenous Peoples Program from University of Oklahoma

# NORTHWEST

## Forest Management Plan (revision) – Tribal Membership Survey

The Nez Perce Tribe's Forest Management Plan (FMP) provides a guiding framework for the management of 62,000 commercial forest acres (trust, allotted, and fee land status) within and adjacent to the 1863 reservation area. The Nez Perce Tribe's Forestry & Fire Management division is reviewing the current FMP (1999) with the assistance from the tribal Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT) comprised of assigned tribal staff from

the Natural Resource and Fisheries departments.

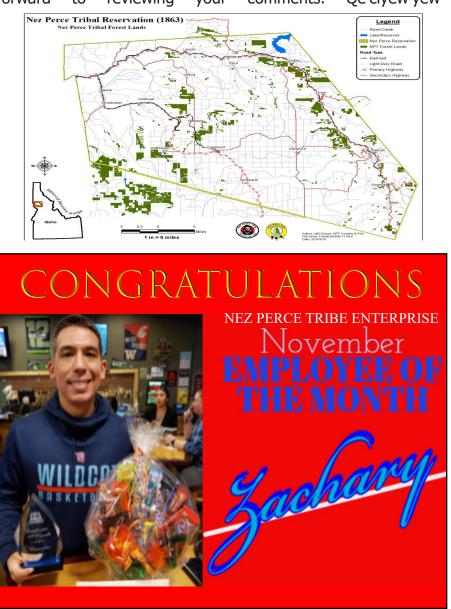
The Forestry & Fire Management division along with the IDT would like to understand your views and hear your comments related to forest and fire management practices on your forest lands. A survey will be mailed to all Nez Perce enrolled members who are 18 years old and older. You will have the opportunity to fill out either the mailed paper survey or complete the online version (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019npt). The survey deadline is January 17, 2020. Each participating

member will be entered into a raffle that includes:

Grand Prize: 1 cord of firewood (free delivery inside the NPT 1863 reservation area) OR \$200 if you do not want the

firewood Individual Age Group Prizes: 18-25 yro - \$50 Cash Card 26-35 yro - \$50 Cash Card 36-49 yro - \$50 Cash Card ≥ 50 yro - \$100 Cash Card

Survey results will be compiled and available in the Nimiipuu Tribal Tribune and at the next General Council Meeting (May, 2020). The drawing results will be announced on January 31, 2020. We appreciate your time with this inquiry and look forward to reviewing your comments. Qe'ciyéw'yew'







## NORTHWEST

## **Annual STEM Fair Draws in Middle School and High School Students**

The Nez Perce Tribe and the Nez Perce Tribe's Environmental Restoration & Waste Management (ERWM) Program completed the 10th Annual Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Fair on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at the Pi-Nee-Waus Community Center in Lapwai, Idaho. The fair was a huge success.

The fair had thirty-four vendors from different agencies, colleges, universities, Nez Perce Tribal Programs and Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises. The vendors included the American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) Columbia River Chapter, AmeriCorps Vista Program, Idaho National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laoratory, U.S. Census, Lapwai Community Library, U.S. Forest Service (Nez Perce, Clearwater, Umatilla and Payette), USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, Western State's Operating Engineers Training Institute, SMART #55 (Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation), NiMiiPuu Health- Public Health, NiMiiPuu Health- Medical, Nez Perce Tribe Enterprises, Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program, Nez Perce Tribe Bio-Control, Nez Perce Tribe Brownsfield Tribal Response, Nez Perce Tribe ERWM Program, Nez Perce Tribe Fire Management, Nez Perce Tribe Language Program, Nez Perce Tribe Students for Success, Nez Perce Tribe University of Idaho Extension Program, Nez Perce Tribe Wildlife Program, Lewis-Clark State College- College Assistance Migrant Program/Native American, Minority and Veteran Services, Lewis-Clark State College- Career & Technical Education Programs, Lewis-Clark State College-Nursing Program, Northwest Indian College, University of Idaho- Electrical & Computer Engineering Ambassadors, University of Idaho- Admissions, University of Idaho- College of Engineering, University of Idaho- College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho- Computer Science & Polymorphic Games, University of Idaho- Native Program Services, and Washington State University- Native Programs.

There were 291 middle school and high school students who visited the STEM Fair, as well as several community members, college students and Nez Perce Tribal employees. The middle and high school students came from Lapwai, Kamiah, Orofino and Clarkston. Scholarships, internships, employment op-

portunities, school programs, school connections and door prizes were many of the rewards of attending the fair.

Solo Greene, ERWM Education Specialist and STEM Fair Coordinator, said, "This was the biggest fair we had so far. We had a good mix of vendors, and the vendors, as well as, the students seem to connect and really enjoy themselves. Our goal and purpose is to introduce students to the many different STEM fields and opportunities and gain the interest into those fields, and this year, I think we did that."

Sponsors of the 10th Annual STEM Fair included the Nez Perce Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe ERWM Program, Lapwai School District, Nez Perce Tribe Adult Education and the Pi-Nee-Waus Community Center. Besides the door prizes provided by the vendors, the Nez Perce Tribe, ERWM Program and Inland Cellular provided door prizes for the students.

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"I would like to thank all the vendors, volunteers, schools and sponsors, and I would specially like to thank the Nez Perce Tribe's Maintenance Crew for helping set-up, Aqua Greene-Elwell and Pete McCormack for the help with the facilities, Antonio Smith (ERWM Communication Specialist) for all the help, Inland Cellular for the donations, and Kay Seven and all those that helped with the Continental Breakfast and Indian Tacos...Qeci'yew'yew!" concluded. Greene





Joseph Attao Graduated Basic Leaders Course on October 25, 2019.

Through leadership, hardwork and dedication to his career, Joseph was commissioned to Sargent on December 1 at Fort Campbell, KY. MOS 19D Cavalry Scout.

His parents are Mark Toves and Catherine Attao-Toves.

## Thank You Jaiden



Orofino High School Senior Jaiden Coomer

Jaiden's Senior Project consisted of community projects and fundraising, her proceeds allowed her to gift child supplies and goods to the Nez Perce Tribe Children's Home.

# **SPORTS**

## Lapwai Girls Remain Undefeated

The Lapwai Wildcats Girls Basketball Team traveled to Nixya'awii of Mission, Oregon on December 10th where they forced 43 turnovers to blow past the Eagles. The Wildcats were led by Grace Sobotta who had 16 points and nine rebounds, Omari Mitchell with 15 points and Sayquis Greene had 14 points and 12 rebounds. Lapwai's Junior Varsity defeated Nixya'awii's Junior Varsity 69 to 16.

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On December 12th, Lapwai faced the Kamiah Kubs. With five Lapwai players reaching double figures, the Wildcats raced to a 24-point lead after one quarter and claimed another victory, beating Kamiah 86 to 21 at Kamiah. Lapwai was led by Grace Sobotta, who had 19 points and nine rebounds. Glory Sobotta knocked in four 3s and tallied 18 points, Sayquis Greene registered 15 points, and Lauren Gould and Omari Mitchell chipped in 10 apiece.

Kamiah (0-5, 0-3) was led by Mya Barger's eight points. Lapwai's Junior Varsity also defeated Kamiah's Junior Varsity after one half.

On December 14th, four Lapwai players scored in double figures and the Wildcats broke the 80-point mark for the fourth consecutive game against Whitepine League Division I opponent Potlatch.

The Wildcats got 18 points from KC Lussoro, 15 from Omari Mitchell, 14 from Glory Sobotta and 11 from Lauren Gould. Sayquis Greene had nine rebounds against the Loggers. Lapwai's Junior Varsity also defeated Potlatch's Junior Varsity team 78 to 14.







## SPORTS

## **Upcoming Holiday Hoops Basketbal Clinic**

Playing goes beyond being a skilled athlete; it also requires grit, heart, health, and discipline. Coach Agler (of the WNBA's Dallas Wings) will be hosting his second annual Holiday Hoops Basketball event, and it will be highlighting these skills and much more on December 21 and 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Lapwai High School, working with 6th-8th grade girls.

The Clinic doesn't stop

basketball there; professionals from the Nez Perce Tribe will be sharing their expertise on subjects from goal setting, school spirit, health and wellness, suicide, drug and alcohol prevention. The resounding theme is encouraging the participants to improve their basketball skills in a positive prosocial environment and spread the good vibes to their friends and family on and off the court. There is no cost for

Coach Agler's Holiday Hoop Camp 2018

participants to attend. "We Starbucks coffee doughnuts are taking out the 'pay to play' aspect, we want everyone to enjoy themselves in a open, diverse setting," Rika Powaukee mentioned. "I remember Coaches Shawn Spencer, Tammy Church, Darrell (Bozo) Baptiste, Cass Kipp and Dawn Leighton helping our generation as kids, now we want to continue that by paying it forward."

The Clinic is open to the community to sit in and listen. Folks will be able to hear from Dr. Kim Cunningham-Hartwig, Abe Broncheau, Myra Campbell and Taricia Moliga. The goal is to celebrate this age group of young girls and to help them stay focused by giving them the tools to believe in themselves and grow into successful young women. Attendees will also be able to enjoy refreshments such as

and cookies. On Sunday, there will be an additional treat. At the end of the Clinic Santa will be on site for photo opportunities and Jae's BBO will be catering with the help of LHS girls basketball players. The event is brought to you by First Step 4 Life Recovery, Nez Perce Tribe Students for Success, and the Lapwai Booster Club.

The deadline to signup has been extended to Thursday, December 19th. Swag bags are sponsored by Adidas, Students for Success and Optum. Snacks will be provided by the Wildcat Booster Club and the NiMiiPuu Diabetes Program. Participants are asked to bring a basketball, if they have one. Please contact Nez Perce Tribe Students For Success Director Abe Broncheau, 208-621-4613 or abeb@nezperce.org.



# FINANCE

Dear Dr. Per Cap:



My niece recently paid off her student loans and is really excited about her finances. Do you have any suggestions for a cool financial themed Christmas gift? Signed, Auntie Santa

#### Dear Auntie Santa,

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Ho, Ho! I have the perfect gift idea for your financially savvy niece – stock in her favorite publicly traded company. Thanks to a growing number of companies who participate in Direct Stock Purchase Plans (DSPP's) it's really easy to gift stock shares these days. Rather than go through a third party broker, who might require a large minimum purchase or a specialized trading account to purchase stocks on an exchange, DSPP's allow personal investors to purchase stock directly from a company. A popular stock transfer agent that manages DSPP's on behalf of hundreds of publicly traded companies is Computershare. Check them out on line. Many big name blue chip stocks like Coca-Cola, Walmart, Amazon, and Alphabet aka Google are available at Computershare with initial investments as low as \$25.

I recommend picking a company your niece has a connection to. For example, does she wear The North Face gear? The North Face along with Timberland, Vans, and Dickies is one of thirty brands owned by VF Corporation. Its ticker symbol is VFC and shares currently trade for about \$90.

Maybe she loves Starbucks coffee. The only thing hotter than a Caffe' Americano is Starbucks stock price. It trades under the symbol SBUX for about \$85 a share which is up a whopping 800% over the last ten years!

Be creative and pick a stock she will enjoy owning and learning about. Is she a pizza lover? Think Domino's or Papa John's stock. If she's a movie buff how about gifting her some Netflix or Disney stock? Or maybe she's caught on to the meal subscription craze. If so, Blue Apron is publicly traded. Unfortunately, its stock is a bit of a dud though - down 71% since February 2019 but don't panic. Your gift is more about turning her onto the exciting world of investing as opposed to making a quick buck in the stock market. And besides even if a stock like VFC takes a nose dive down the chimney, it's still probably going to hold its value better than a \$100 The North Face hoodie! This gift also doesn't have to crush your pocketbook. Many stocks trade under \$100 but for those that have a higher price tag, like Alphabet which trades for over \$1,200, just purchase a portion of one share. You also don't need to buy an exact number of shares so don't stress the math.

After you choose a stock, review its plan for the minimum initial investment and related fees. You can then either buy shares directly in your niece's name – in which case you'll need to tell her in advance because you'll need her social security number. Or simply buy them yourself and transfer them to her online later.

One more thing to know about buying stock - you won't get a classic engraved stock certificate to give her on Christmas morning. Unfortunately, those old school stock certificates have gone the way of rotary phones and steel lunch boxes because now most companies only issue shares electronically. However, you can always create and print your own "souvenir" certificate on a computer. Tie it with a bow along with a company gift card, if the stock is a retailer or restaurant brand, and Auntie Santa will be cooler than a late night serving of milk and cookies!



FINANCE



## **4 Strategies to Pay Off Credit Card Debt Fast**

If you carry credit card balances month to month, paying off that debt fast might be easier than you think. The key is developing a good plan and sticking to it. These four strategies can help you decide which course you should take to quickly pay off any credit card debt you have.

#### 1. Target one debt at a time

Do you carry a balance on more than one card? If so, make sure you always pay at least the minimum on each card. Then focus on paying down the total balance on one card at a time. You can choose which card you target in one of two ways:

-Check the interest rate section of your statements to see which credit card charges the highest interest rate, and concentrate on paying that debt off first.

-Pay off the card with the smallest balance first, then take the money you were paying for that debt and use it to pay down the next smallest balance.

#### 2. Pay more than the minimum

Look at your credit card statement. If you pay the minimum balance on your credit card, it takes you much longer to pay off your bill. If you pay more than the minimum, you'll pay less in interest overall. Your card company is required to chart this out for you on your statement, so you can see how it applies to your bill.

Simple solution: Pay a bit extra each month. Every dollar over the minimum payment goes toward your balance—and the smaller your balance, the less you have to pay in interest.

#### 3. Combine and conquer

Consolidating your debt can let you combine several higher-interest balances into one with a lower rate, so you can pay down your debt faster without increasing payment amounts. Here are two common ways to consolidate debt:

-Take advantage of a low balance transfer rate to move debt off high-interest cards. Be aware that balance transfer fees are often 3–5 percent, but the savings from the lower interest rate may often be greater than the transfer fee. Always factor that in when considering this option.

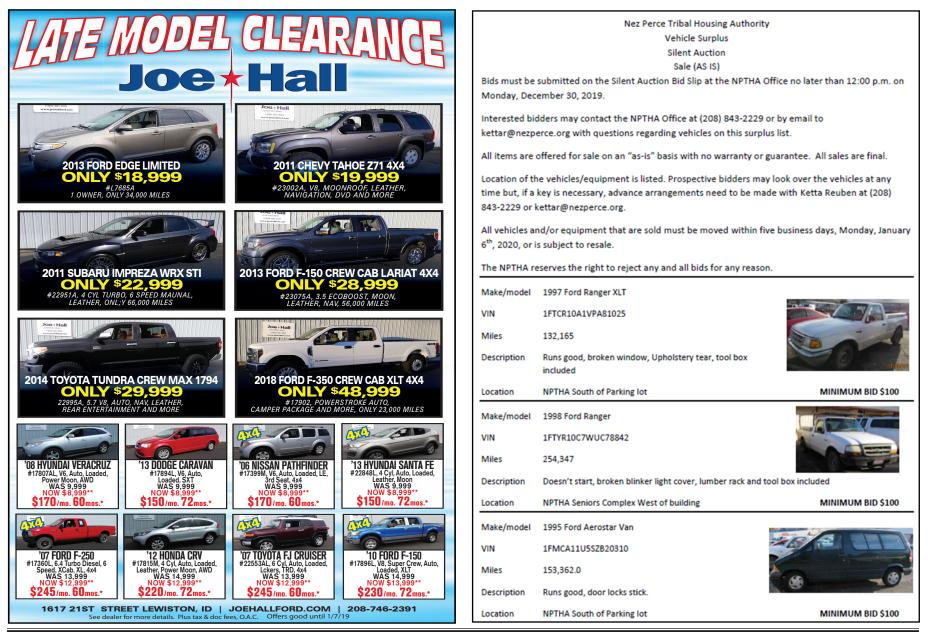
-If you have equity in your home, you may be able to use it to pay down card debt. A home equity line of credit may offer a lower rate than what your cards charge. Be aware that closing costs often apply, but an extra benefit is that home equity interest payments are often tax-deductible.

If you do consolidate, keep in mind that it's very important to control your spending to avoid racking up new debt on top of the debt you've just consolidated.

#### 4. Reprioritize your budget

Start by categorizing your monthly spending, for example: groceries, transportation, housing and entertainment. Your credit card statement can be a helpful tool; many issuers categorize your spending.

Next, look for areas where you can cut back. Then take the money you've freed up and apply it to paying down your debt.



# **OPINION**

#### Seeking Help from Kamiah Community, Action Needed for Continued Ambulance Service

By: Maple Stuivenga, Betty Metcalf, Stephen Seigler, Alicia Seigler, April Seigler, Joni Kelley, Michael Adair, Carol Adair, Shirley Clopton, Bob Boyd, Tyson Weeks, Teresa Weeks, Katie Dow, Renda Loofenborrow, Laura Hudecek

On January 27, 2016, former Kamiah Mayor Dale Schneider signed Resolution 2016-1, turning all authority of the ambulance service over to the chief of the Kamiah Volunteer Fire Department. This dramatically changed the way the ambulance service operated, and the environment in which the EMTs worked.

For forty-seven years, Kamiah Ambulance has been providing emergency medical services to the community. It has been a vital service, and many lives have been saved because of it. Kamiah Ambulance is the 911 emergency medical service for parts of Lewis and Idaho counties; which include the city of Kamiah and the greater Kamiah area. It responds to 500+ calls per year, in addition to filling the backup positions for Kooskia and Orofino ambulance services. It transports to hospitals in Grangeville, Cottonwood, Orofino, and Lewiston.

The small city of Kamiah cannot afford full-time paid EMTs to staff an ambulance. The solution has been to compensate volunteer EMTs with a minimal compensation of \$2.50 per 12-hour shift (\$0.21 per hour); and pay \$13.25-\$14.57 per hour, only while responding to emergencies, or during trainings and meetings.

This trained and effective team of 24 EMTs volunteer to serve their community with emergency ambulance services, and are dedicated to providing quality emergency medicine to the area. Their highstress jobs are rewarding though, knowing they make a difference helping people and saving lives. Since Resolution 2016-1 became effective, many of these EMTs have reported that they have been lied to, publicly insulted, and harassed by their own leadership; that issues and concerns of the EMTs have not been reported to the city council; that their requests to be allowed to give input on major decisions have been ignored; that leadership made changes detrimental to the ambulance service; and that they have been the subject of derogatory statements made in public.

In light of these and other issues, nineteen Kamiah EMTs (79%) have opposed Resolution 2016-1. Fifteen of these EMTs have determined that conditions must improve in order to continue to serve. These EMTs cover most of the shifts and administrative duties of the ambulance service. For example, of the 180 shifts for November 2019, 168 shifts (93%) were filled by those fifteen EMTs. Without these EMTs, Kamiah Ambulance will struggle to provide adequate emergency medical services. This affects everyone, everywhere within its service area, whether residing, working, commuting, visiting, or traveling through. This will also affect everyone within neighboring areas when Kamiah is called for backup. In other words, if you call 911, Kamiah Ambulance cannot be guaranteed to respond; it will not be sustainable. In the absence of enough EMTs, the City of Kamiah will likely depend on neighboring ambulance services; services that struggle with covering their own areas at times.

Having exhausted all other options, fifteen Kamiah EMTs believe they were faced with no other option but to give the city their letter of conditions providing a reasonable solution to the situation. They believe the City of Kamiah needs to make the Kamiah Ambulance a separate division of the city; similar to some area ambulance services. Kamiah Mayor Betty Heater and City Councilors Bob West, Dan Millward, Glen Hibbs, and Paul Schlader have been notified in writing, as well as the public (see "Letters to the Editor," The Clearwater Progress, November 27, 2019) with the following: "Kamiah Ambulance has served our community with excellence for decades. However, due to the current state of our work environment, the conditions below must be met by December 2, 2019, for the Kamiah EMTs listed below to continue to serve. Without agreement to all of these changes, Kamiah Ambulance will no longer be a fully functional ambulance service after December 2, 2019. These conditions are presented by the Kamiah EMTs listed below to the Kamiah Mayor and City Council.

1. Rescind Resolution 2016-1.

2. Establish Kamiah Ambulance as a separate EMS division of the City of Kamiah, reporting directly to the mayor of the city.

3. Amend the Joint Powers Agreement to the effect that the Ambulance Service is directly under the city, not the fire department. The intent is that the fire department will have no authority regarding the management, supervision, etc. of the EMS division (Note: this will not affect NIMS compliance or on-scene command).

4. Provide in writing procedures for the Kamiah Ambulance EMTs to choose leadership (supervisor, etc.) that is mutually agreeable with the mayor.

5. Provide in writing authority for the EMS division to operate directly under the mayor, which includes: chain of command from the mayor directly to the EMS Supervisor, then to EMS personnel as the EMS Division should see fit; authority to write, vote on, and approve Ambulance standard operating procedures (SOPs); authority to create and manage an EMS Division budget directly under the city; authority to coordinate medical issues with the Medical Director; authority to create and manage any on-call and standby rosters and schedules; authority to work directly with the Mayor for issues requiring support beyond the capability or authority of the EMS Division; and coordinating authority to work directly with the Fire Department for joint training (when appropriate) and joint operations.

Written evidence that these conditions have been met must be received and be in effect by December 2, 2019. Realizing that all shifts filled by Kamiah EMTs are voluntary, if the stipulations above are not addressed, the undersigned EMTs will remove themselves from the schedule for the Kamiah Ambulance until such time as they are resolved. We sincerely hope that this step does not become necessary, but are fully purposed to do so.

Kamiah EMTs: Maple Stuivenga, Betty Metcalf, Stephen Seigler, Alicia Seigler, April Seigler, Renda Loofbourrow, Shirley Clopton, Teresa Weeks, Tyson Weeks, Katie Dow, Bob Boyd, Joni Kelley, Carol Adair, Michael Adair, Laura Hudecek"

What to do? Kamiah Ambulance EMTs have been here for you for 47 years, and now they need you to be here for them. Please let your elected officials know if you are in support of them making these changes for the Kamiah Ambulance. The dissension regarding Resolution 2016-1 is not new, and needs to be resolved, once and for all. Contact your public officials: Kamiah Mayor Betty Heater; Kamiah City Councilors Bob West, Dan Millward, Glen Hibbs, and Paul Schlader; Lewis County Commissioners Greg Johnson, Justin McLeod, Mike Ponozzo; Idaho County Commissioners Denis Duman, Skip Brandt, Mark Frei. This will take some effort on your part, but your voice could mean the difference between life or death for those they serve.

# **OBITUARIES**

## Andrea Axtell, 80, Lapwai, ID



Witalaliikma (Andrea Axtell) began her journey to 'eey'snin weetes Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, with her children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren by her side.

She was 80 years old and an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe. She was born Oct. 21, 1939, in Lewiston to Elias Wilson and Helen Hayes.

Andrea grew up in Kamiah, where she made lifelong memories with her many cousins, which included swimming at the Rock, and also attended the Talmaks Presbyterian Camp with her family and friends. Her teenage years were spent in Phoenix, where she graduated from North Phoenix High School in 1957, marrying Harlan Bohnee shortly thereafter. That marriage ended in divorce. On Dec. 21, 1963, she married Horace Percy Axtell, her lifelong mate, where they established a loving home in Lewiston. Andrea worked as an administrative specialist at various places in between her being a No. 1 mother and wife, taking care of her family and home. She was constantly on the go, being involved with Lewiston JOM, PTA and the Nez Perce County Democratic Party, to name a few. She also served as Nez Perce Tribe General Council Secretary and served on the Resolution and Amendments Committees. Her hobbies included beading, sewing, knitting, crocheting, playing piano and canning foods.

In 1978, she began learning and being mentored by many Niimiipuu elders to harvest and prepare traditional foods for the Walasat way of life. She was a strong woman who supported her husband. She eventually carried the role as the Niimiipuu Longhouse head cook.

She traveled throughout Indian Country, attending many powwows, being the powwow mom, setting up camp, and feeding family and friends. In later years, she and her husband traveled many places while serving on the American Indian Science & Engineering Society Council of Elders, and she was a member of the Sequoyah Fellows. Together, she and her husband mentored hundreds of college students throughout the United States. While serving with the White Bison Society, Andrea and her husband helped many people in recovery from alcohol and drugs participating in the Wellbriety Movement.

She was also active with the Earth Ambassadors Council of Elders, the Four Worlds Development Project Council of Elders and served on the Chief Joseph Days Indian Encampment committee, playing a key role in the July encampment events, together with Niimiipuu from the Colville and Umatilla Tribes and friends from Joseph, Ore. In 1977, Andrea and her husband traveled to the Nez Perce War of 1877 sites to conduct memorial ceremonies, which was also the first year of the Lookingglass Pow Wow, where she served on the powwow committee and served as the whip woman, a very important role that was a great honor for her. For the next 40 years, she

traveled each year along with her husband to the memorial sites and to Pincher Creek, B.C.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elias Wilson and Helen Hayes; her husband, Horace Axtell; her sisters, Delores Lookingglass Wheeler, Edith Lookingglass Strombeck, Johns Nancy Lookingglass and Maxine Wilson Allen; her brothers, Jackie Wilson, Glen Wilson, David Lookingglass Jr., Gilbert Lookingglass; adopted daughter Margo Aragon-Harrington; great-grandson Ambrose Smartlowit, and greatgranddaughter Nevelle James.

She is survived by her children Chuckie (June) Axtell, Purnell (Marilyn) Axtell, Kay Seven, Jean (Benjamin) Bohnee, Liz Bohnee, Brenda Axtell, and Steve (Gabrielle) Axtell, adopted grandson Bret Benally-Thompson and 23 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Services will begin at

2 p.m. today with the dressing and Walasat Services at 7 p.m. at the Niimiipuu Longhouse. The Final Seven will begin at 7 a.m. Wednesday followed by procession to Horace Axtell Ranch in Ferdinand for burial. Final services will conclude at the longhouse.

### Thomas LeClaire, 62, Juliaetta, ID



Thomas Joe LeClaire passed away Sunday, 1, 2019, at home. Dec. born Thomas was Aug. 9, 1957, to Louis Le Claire and Naomi VanPelt. He attended Madras High School in Madras, Ore., but dropped out to pursue auto body mechanics. He lived in Warm Springs, Ore., until 2005. He later lived with his mother in Juliaetta. Thomas was a grand-

father to his grandchildren. Thomas is survived by his sister, Donna LeClaire, of Keller, Wash.; brothers Arnold VanPelt, of Ohio, and Marlin LeClaire, David LeClaire, Zeke LeClaire, all of Oregon; sisters Cynthia LeClaire and Denice LeClaire, both of Oregon; sister Laurie Bob McMaster, of Nevada; sister Amelia Spaulding, of Lapwai; sister Jeanette Scott, of Montana; daughter Kaylie Eneas, of Juliaetta; aranddaughter Delia LeClaire, of Juliaetta; and son Chezeray Starr, of Auburn, Wash.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Naomi Jan VanPelt; father Louis LeClaire Jr.; brothers Louis LeClaire III, Wallace LeClaire and Wadkins LeClaire; and sister Ragina LeClaire.



# CASINO & LODGE



1pm-11pm 12 x \$1000 MIDNIGHT \$2020

EVENT CENTER DOORS OPEN 9 PM LIVE BAND COMPLEMENTARY APPETIZERS BALLOON DROP

NEW YEAR'S EVE

EXTERAVA GANZAR

NEW YEAR'S EVE

# JANUARY 18

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# IT'SE-YE-YE CASINO



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Experience

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4 Drawings - \$300 each 20 Drawings - \$100 each

Friday Decembe

12pm-11pm 12 x \$250 MIDNIGHT \$500