



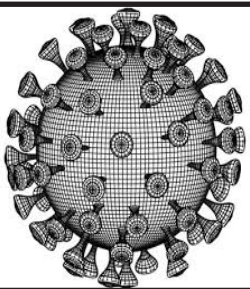
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N I M I I P U U T R I B A L T R I B U N E



Wilúupup | January

Volume 3 / Issue 2

Nez Perce Tribe on Midas Gold Settlement Agreement with EPA and Forest Service



Proposed Stibnite mine site, near Yellowpine, Idaho. Referred to as “Glory Hole”.

On January 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”) announced a settlement agreement with Midas Gold despite strong opposition from the Nez Perce Tribe and numerous requests that the agencies allow

pre-decisional public comment and evaluation by the incoming Biden Administration. In exchange for agreeing to perform very limited cleanup activities at the Site, Midas Gold received through this settlement agreement—known as an Administrative Settlement

and Order on Consent—a glide path toward constructing its proposed, huge, open-pit gold mine at the historical Stibnite Mine Site (“Site”). The Tribe is deeply disappointed by this political decision.

“The settlement agreement issued today is stunningly inadequate and fails to accomplish the comprehensive and responsible cleanup of the Site that the Nez Perce Tribe and Idahoans deserve. Instead, the proposed cleanup actions are heavily influenced by, and appear designed to facilitate, Midas Gold's plans to re-mine the area,” stated Shannon F.

Wheeler, Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee. “Most of the cleanup actions are contingent on the approval of the company's mining Project, are entirely optional, and are based on protracted timelines that unreasonably delay cleanup. The only mandatory actions required by the settlement agreement do not provide anywhere near the robust, comprehensive, and Site-wide cleanup needed and which Midas Gold, in numerous public statements, has

Statement Continued on
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Nimiipuutímtki- The People’s Language
(Nee-mee-poo-timt-key)

January Wilúupup (wa-lew-poop)
“Cold air travels”

Snowflakes	‘a’áanm ‘icu’yéeks	a-onm its-oo-yeks
Tree	tewlíkt	touw-leakt
Snowball	méeqe’nim poxpok’ala	mecka-nim poh-poe-calla
Snowman	méeqe’nim háama	mecka-nim homma
Winter	‘ením	en-im
It is cold	‘icwéey’s híiwes	its-way-is he-wiss
It is foggy	hi’péecese	he-pat-sissa
It is raining	hiwéeqise	he-wack-issa

NIMIIPUU TRIBAL TRIBUNE

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:
<http://nezperce.org/government/communications/>



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Lapwai, ID 83540

We Are Idaho: Tai Simpson "The Storyteller"



Tai Simpson (Photo on Boiestatepublicradio.org)

By Audrey Regan,
Boise State Public Radio

Everything is based in stories. We want to be understood in our most human level, and storytelling is the easiest way to do that. When I create spaces for myself to be a storyteller, it's not so much about me. It's about making sure that folks around me also in that space know that they are storytellers. My name is The Storyteller, but everybody is capable of storytelling.

I'll offer my introduction first in my Indigenous language. [Nimipuutimt is an oral language. Out of respect for Nimiipuu culture, transcription has been omitted.] In Nimiipuutimt or the language of the Nez Perce tribe my name is The Storyteller and in English my name Tai Simpson.

I identify as a citizen of the Nimiipuu Nation or Nez Perce that we commonly know them. I also identify as Black.

And I love my name. I grew into it. Storytelling now into adulthood is not only a cultural and spiritual practice, but storytelling is my love language. It's how I champion justice and equity and love and radical inclusion as part of my work, both as an advocate and as an organizer.

In my language, I say [Transcription has been omit-

ted]. I am a descendant of Chief Red Heart and our lineage in Idaho goes back about 15,000 years or so. I am so much older than Idaho. Idaho is a baby, a microscopic sliver of time in relation to how old my people are and how deep our ties to this land go. And the land remembers.

There's another storyteller ... his stories are always told from the perspective of Coyote. And Coyote had one day started to look around him and noticed that White folks had built cages for themselves on the land. These fences that they build on these plots of land aren't to keep people out, but to keep themselves fenced in. And then they create a sense of isolation and they poison themselves in this tiny little world that they fenced themselves into.

And then they look up and wonder why they have no neighbors that they can connect with, why they have no legacy, why the land is poisoned. And so Coyote laughed, and then moved on.

In the big picture, we are now all of these humans trapped inside this little cage that is Idaho. And we're doing a horrible job of taking care of each other. And I think that there's an opportunity for us to engage in storytell-

ing to really get a better understanding of why all of us are in so much pain that we would cause pain to others.

And of course, the knee jerk reaction is go somewhere else. No y'all, this is my land. Likely all are on my land messing up, not the other way around.

We need the land. She doesn't need us. We need to take care of nature. She doesn't need us. We have divorced ourselves from that relationship and are now feeling the very acute adverse effects of that ... the adverse effects of climate change, the poor salmon runs on Idaho's rivers, the poor water quality, the poor air quality.

There's a recent hashtag, #LandBack, that grew out of the effort from the Lakota Nation protecting Mount Rushmore. Decolonization is more or less being a champion of LandBack policies. The LandBack initiative isn't just saying we want all

the land back and all of our White neighbors can go somewhere else, wherever that is.

LandBack is about ... letting Indigenous people make decisions about the well-being of nature, about how we live in balance with her and how we create systems that are sustainable and equitable and just both for humans and for the land into the future. And again, that requires big vision, big stories, big communication, big community building.

Because I have that ancestral knowledge and because I'm carried so dearly and with love by my ancestors, my work now is to make sure that their voices carry on; carrying the stories, carrying language, carrying culture ... anything that I can do to center the voices of my people so that my descendants can thrive and live in a world where all of my work is rendered irrelevant.

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Chapman Siblings Stay Strong as They Face an Unfamiliar Journey Ahead

The morning of December 23, 2020 changed the lives of siblings Camielle and Audrick Jr. once again. In 2010, at the ages of eleven and six, Camielle and Audrick Jr. lost their father, Audrick Sr. Through the pain, they learned to live a new life with their mother, Nadine Chapman. However, Nadine, an amazing, beautiful, strong fighting and brave women, battled with her health since 2014.

For years Nadine fought hard to continue her walk in this life on earth for her two beloved children. Camielle quickly had to learn the ropes of life at a young age, as Nadine's health began to worsen. Camielle has been her mother's caregiver since she was in middle school and took on a motherly role over her younger brother Audrick Jr.

Camielle was her mother's keeper but never once complained. One of Camielle and Audrick Jr.'s favorite things to do was lay in bed around their mother. They would all lay together, talking, laughing, and sharing memories.

Nadine was fighting the good fight when she caught

Covid-19. For weeks Nadine was in the hospital and her only wishes for Christmas were to get out of the hospital, to see the Christmas tree and decorations her children put up for her, and to simply just be at home with them. She was blessed to be able to receive all three wishes.

Due to the virus, and along with her underlying health issues, Nadine went home to the gates of Heaven just days before her favorite holiday, Christmas. Camielle and Audrick Jr. were devastated but understood their beautiful mother is no longer in pain.

The night of her passing was peaceful. She jammed her favorite tunes, blasting it as loud as she wanted in the comfort of her own room and home. Her children were able to lay with her one last time before knowing what was to come. The morning of December 23, Camielle went to check on her mother, and realized her mother went peacefully in her sleep.

Camielle, age 22, is now working on getting guardianship of her brother Audrick Jr., now age 17. Camielle is taking over on various monthly finan-

cial bills including the house payment at Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, the electricity bill at Clearwater Power, the water bill at the City of Lapwai, phone bill and car insurance.

A donation fund account has been created and set up to help Camielle with her expenses. The account is at P1FCU under the name: Audrick and Camielle Support Fund. All donations will go directly to them. You can call P1FCU at (208) 746-8900 to donate. You can also mail or drop off donations at your local P1FCU.

A Go Fund me page has

also been set up.

www.gofundme.com/f/support-camielle-baby-audrick-chapmannew-journey

Donations towards their house payments can be sent to Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, (NPTHA) P.O. Box 188 Lapwai, ID 83540 for Camielle Chapman mortgage.

Please keep Camielle and Audrick Jr. in your prayers. This journey is different for them, as they learn how to go on with their daily lives and get on their feet once again. Thank you for your love, help and support.



Camielle and Audrick Jr. stand around their mother Nadine for a beautiful photo.
(Photo courtesy of Camielle Chapman)

Arsenault Hired as New Kamiah Fire EMS Chief, 'Focus on What to do For the Future'

By David Rauzi,
Idaho County Free Press



KAMIAH — Idaho Falls firefighter Bill Arsenault was appointed last week as the Ka-

miah area's new fire/EMS chief. This selection follows the retirement of Dan Musgrave who served in Kamiah for 41 years.

Arsenault will be sworn-in Oct. 28, at the fire station, with his reporting date Nov. 2, where he will lead a staff of 20 fire/EMS personnel. His salary will be \$75,000. The appointment was in a combined effort and in the authority of the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Kamiah and the Kamiah Rural Fire District.

Both Mayor Betty Heater and district chairman Dan Musgrave stated, "We are very excited to welcome Bill Arsenault as the new Fire/EMS Chief. The Kamiah Fire-Rescue

organization has played a very important part in our community for a long time. We have been fortunate to have generations of dedicated professionals who have protected and cared for us. As we look ahead to the future, it is essential the new leader prepare our community for significant changes in the emergency response profession. Bill Arsenault has proven his ability to be both, a great fire/EMS chief and leader, who can prepare the organization for these changes."

In an interview in October, Arsenault stated his clear focus on his responsibilities.

"First and foremost, it's service to people," he said,

"and when I look at service to people, that encompasses two groups: members of the organization, but also members of the community and the guests who come to the community."

"I want to make sure people who respond to those calls are trained appropriately, are meeting standards," Arsenault continued, "and that our customers, which are the citizens we serve, that they are happy with the service we are bringing to the table."

Arsenault will oversee both the city and rural district fire departments, and Kamiah

Fire Chief Continued on
Page 5

Expect Delays on Forest Service Roads Near Slate Creek During Timber Harvest Operations

KAMIAH, Idaho (January 11, 2021) – Those traveling on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests near Slate Creek should prepare for upcoming travel impacts, including road closures and delays, associated with timber sale activity in the area.

Timber harvest operations begin this week on the Center Johnson timber sale located on the forest's Salmon River Ranger District. Initial work will include felling operations adjacent to Forest Service Road (FSR) #672, also known as Crooked Road, with timber hauling scheduled to begin next week.

Forest Service officials plan to implement a road closure on FSR #672 beginning January 19 for public safety during timber hauling opera-

tions. Future road closures may be necessary for public safety as timber harvest operations continue. More information regarding the closure on FSR #672 and any future closures will be made available online and at Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests offices. For the latest information, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nezperceclearwater/alerts-notice> or contact your local ranger station.

Following work on FSR #672, operations will move to FSR #420 and Deer Creek Road #493. Travelers on these routes should expect to see heavy equipment and personnel in the sale area and be prepared for delays of up to two hours at a time during operations on Deer Creek Road.

The Center Johnson

timber sale is authorized under a Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests vegetation management project of the same name. The Center Johnson project was designed to reduce the risk and extent of insect and disease impacts to the forest and, therefore, reduce wild-

fire risk to local communities and surrounding federal lands.

For the latest information on the Center Johnson timber sale and associated travel impacts, visitors may call the Forest Service offices in Grangeville (208-983-1950) or Slate Creek (208-451-4366).



Slate Creek Road, White Bird Idaho.
(Photo on Realtor.com)

Fire Chief Continued from Page 4

Ambulance service, which includes three ambulances and eight firefighting vehicles, to serve an area of approximately 3,000 people. He replaces Leo Gilbride who served less than a month. Meanwhile, the department is under supervision of interim chief, Musgrave.

Arsenault currently works for the 130-person Idaho Falls Fire Department, as swing-up captain, where he has also served as a paramedic, driver, and overseeing 65 personnel as wildland fire program manager for four and a half years. He also teaches at the national fire academy in Maryland in its leadership program and operational safety, and was both an EMS and fire instructor for the state of Idaho.

Prior to this, he served as EMS operations supervisor for Gem County Fire EMS, and as well as worked in firefighting for both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. He has been an emergency medical services provider since 1991 (of which 22 years was as a paramedic), in-

involved in structure fire fighting since 1994 and wildland fire since 1996. Born and raised in Great Falls, Mont., Arsenault started this public service work as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical responder, and through his career has worked with both volunteer and career departments, as well as ones that combine both aspects, in Montana, Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

"I heard they were looking for someone with all those different pieces that I have," Arsenault said, of his pursuing the Kamiah position. "With the background I have in working with these different walks of life and with EMS, I thought I could bring that mix of experience here."

Having been raised and lived in small towns, Arsenault said he understands the service needs for rural communities and as a fire/EMS agency in maintaining the "small town feel," while also operating a professional and modern department. His administration transition will focus on all personnel being one group, working toward a "one team concept."

"I do realize the history that has gone on lately," Arsenault said, "but that was the past, and we're going to focus on what to do for the future." This includes working on improvements in wildland fire response, personnel training, in securing grants to fund both programs and

equipment, and also preparing for future growth.

Arsenault sees the success of the department going forward as ensuring it has the involvement of not just its personnel, but the community, as well.

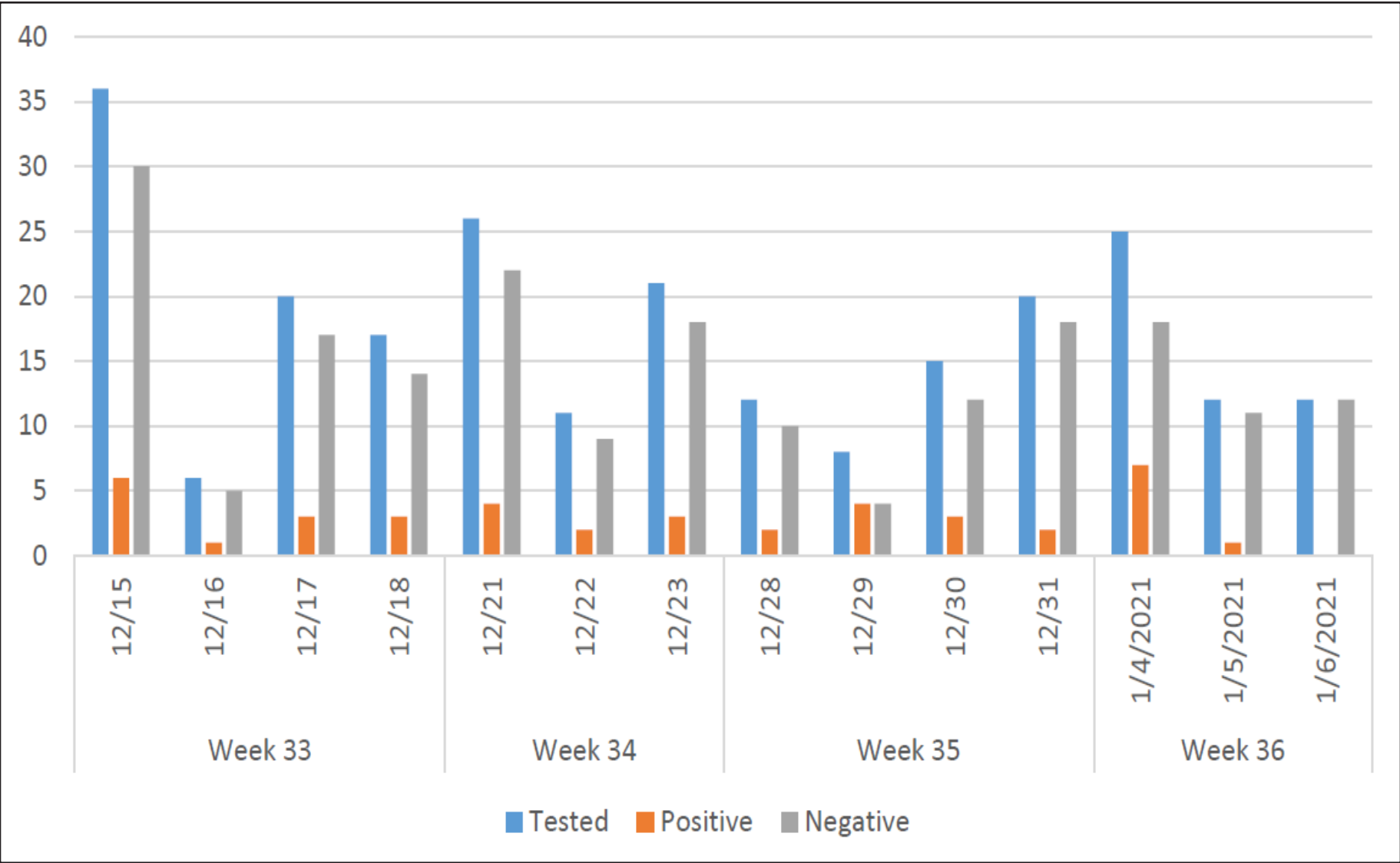
"Volunteers are not going to go away. What I would like to see is an increase," he said, "as well as a junior firefighter program." For both programs, he encourages those who are interested to contact him: barsenault@cityofkemiah.org. For the junior program, it would be open to those ages 16 to 18, and they would be trained in both fire suppression and emergency medical services, "to prepare them to be full volunteer firefighters," he said, "and eventually career firefighters if that's their life plan." Tentatively, he plans to hold a joint fire/EMS academy for both groups starting in January.

Arsenault is married and the couple has three children. He recognized Musgrave's 40 years of service to the department and, "he is ready to enjoy time with his family and that is well-deserved."

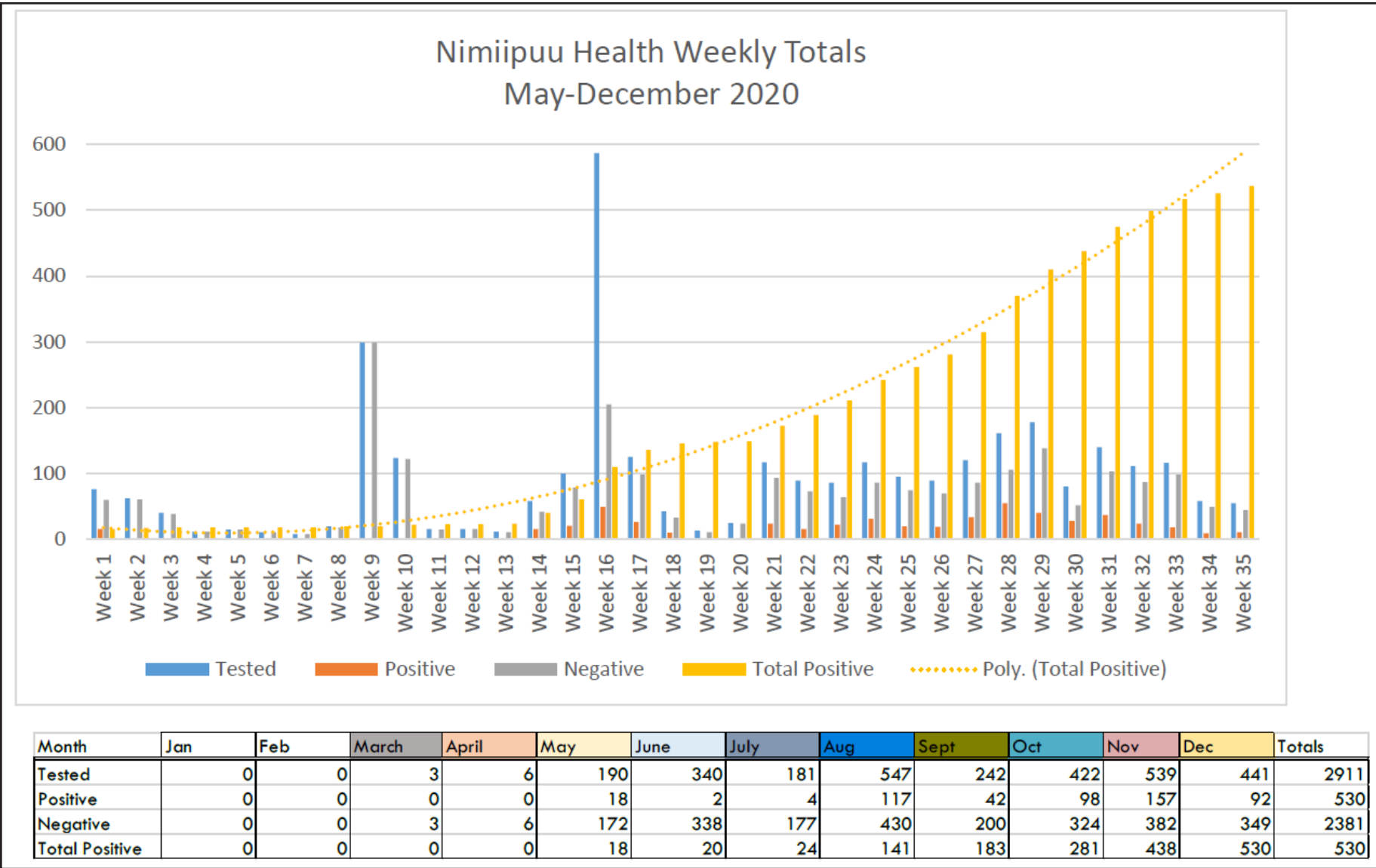


Kamiah Fire Station (Photo from Clearwater Progress, Webmaster)

Charts of Year End Testing at Nimiipuu Health



Updated COVID-19 End of the Year Information at Nimiipuu Health



Nez Perce Join Legal Fight Against Moving Historical Documents

By Troy Oppie,
Boise State Public Radio

Idaho's Nez Perce tribe is part of a lawsuit against the federal government aimed at stopping the sale of the National Archives and Records Administration building in Seattle.

One year ago, the Trump Administration announced the sale of multiple federal properties across the country, including the records building in Seattle which sits on valuable land just northeast of the University of Washington campus. Historical records from the four states inside — Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Idaho — would be moved to Kansas City and southern California.

Historians and politicians were caught by surprise. Washington State At-

torney General Bob Ferguson announced a long-anticipated lawsuit to stop the move Jan. 4, just three months after the Public Buildings Reform Board quietly decided to push the sale of the property up to early 2021 instead of this July.

"It's so frustrating that, candidly," Ferguson said in a press conference announcing the lawsuit, "a bunch of federal bureaucrats 3,000 miles away are pushing this through without any consultation with tribes, without public input, ignoring their own laws and processes."

Jan. 8, Ferguson's office said it had also requested an immediate temporary injunction to immediately stop the sales process as part of the lawsuit.

"There's a specific exemption for buildings like the

National Archives from being put up for sale in this way," Ferguson explained. "When those facilities are used for research in connection with federal, agricultural, recreational or conservation programs."

While this is the first lawsuit specifically aimed at stopping the sale of the building, mynorthwest.com reports Ferguson's office last summer filed three separate lawsuits over unfiled Freedom of Information Act requests related to the sale of the building.

The Seattle archives building is home to a significant collection of tribal and treaty records relating to the 272 federally recognized tribes in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The archives contain original

drafts of tribal treaties and original copies of correspondence from treaty negotiations during the mid-19th century.

The Nez Perce are among 29 tribal governments, nine other organizations and the state of Oregon joining the lawsuit.

Idaho attorney general Lawrence Wasden was notified, but is not a participant. Through a spokesman, Wasden declined to comment on the issue.

Ferguson plans a public hearing via zoom Jan. 19 at 4:30 MT. Comments will be recorded and sent to members of the Public Buildings Reform Board.

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Statement Continued from Front Page

promised," continued Wheeler. "Today's action is simply a gift from the outgoing administration to Midas Gold."

The only cleanup work required by the settlement agreement is the removal of approximately 2-3% of the estimated 10 to 15 million tons of existing mining waste at the Site. The company is not required to stop or treat several of the ongoing pollution discharges at the Site; it is only tasked with studying them over the next four years.

The Nez Perce Tribe was only able to consult with EPA and the Forest Service on the final settlement agreement within the last week. During those discussions, the Tribe highlighted its rights and resources at the Site and emphasized the need to comprehensively address all of the Site's pollution. The Nez Perce Tribe also requested that EPA and the Forest Service allow the incoming Biden Administration—which will be tasked with implementing the settlement agreement—to review the agreement prior to its fi-

nalization in order to assure the Nez Perce Tribe and public that the document is grounded in science rather than politics. Both agencies refused this request and, instead, signed the decision within a few days of consulting with the Tribe.

The Site, located in the headwaters of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River in Valley County, Idaho, is part of the Nez Perce Tribe's vast aboriginal homeland that it ceded to the United States in the Treaty of 1855. Nez Perce Tribal members continue to exercise treaty-reserved hunting, fishing, gathering, and pasturing rights in the area. The Site also contains numerous irre-

placeable Nez Perce cultural resources and provides habitat for imperiled salmon and other species on which the Tribe annually expends \$2.8 million in restoration efforts. In its Environmental Impact Statement for Midas Gold's proposed mine, the Forest Service concluded that the mine will dramatically expand the footprint of previous mining operations, generate over 450 million tons of new mining waste, require water treatment in perpetuity, destroy treaty-reserved fish resources and habitat, and block treaty-reserved Nez Perce Tribal access for decades.

In 2019, the Tribe filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court

against Midas Gold for illegally discharging pollutants at the Site on the company's private land and on its unpatented mining claims located on National Forest System land, in violation of the Clean Water Act. In response to the Tribe's lawsuit, Midas Gold sued the Forest Service in 2020 for the pollutant discharges occurring on its unpatented claims. Under today's settlement agreement, Midas Gold agreed to dismiss its lawsuit against the Forest Service. The settlement agreement also appears designed to undermine the Tribe's own pending Clean Water Act enforcement action at the Site.

"Despite today's decision, the Nez Perce Tribe remains undeterred in its ongoing efforts to lay to rest the misguided notion that the Site can only be restored by allowing a gold mining company to re-mine it. As the original stewards of this land and signatory to the Treaty of 1855 with the United States, we are committed to working in partnership with the incoming Biden Administration to think creatively and to fully explore all options for restoring the Site," concluded Wheeler.



Site of The Stibnite Gold Mine in Central Idaho. (Photo from Seekingalpha.com)

Kent-based WGU Washington partners with Northwest Indian College

Agreement encourages tribal community graduates to earn university degrees

By Reporter Staff,
Kent Reporter

Kent-based WGU Washington has partnered with Northwest Indian College to offer graduates of the Bellingham-based college pathways to online university degree programs.

The partnership, announced January 7, extends a generous transfer credit policy to Northwest Indian College alumni enrolling at WGU Washington – meaning more of their hard work will be recognized, saving money and allowing them to graduate sooner. Additionally, those individuals, plus college staff, will

be eligible to apply for scholarships valued up to \$3,000.

WGU Washington is the locally based affiliate of nationally recognized Western Governors University (WGU). The agreement with Northwest Indian College is the university's first, formal partnership with an institution dedicated to serving reservation communities.

"Our institutions are driven by similar missions: to strengthen communities and help individuals improve their lives through education," said Tonya Drake, WGU Washington's chancellor and regional vice president, in a press release. "My family heritage is Cowichan, and I identify

as First Nations. I am honored NWIC chose to partner with WGU Washington."

Washington has the eighth largest Native American population in the country, according to an email from a WGU spokesperson. Native American communities continue to face obstacles to educational equity, as 28% of the general population holds a college degree, only 13% of Native Americans do.

Headquartered in Kent, WGU Washington is the state's only legislatively endorsed online university. It offers more than 60 bachelor's and master's degrees in business, IT, teacher education and health professions, including nursing. Its innovative, competency based education model allows students to study and learn whenever and wherever it is convenient and at a pace that fits their lifestyles.

"WGU Washington, like NWIC, is committed to student success and empowering students to achieve their educational goals," said Justin Guillory, president of the college. "It's also set up so students don't have to leave their communities and strive to pursue a university degree. This part-

nership creates an opportunity for students to obtain quality, in-demand degrees without putting their lives – or their families' lives – on hold. That's vital as we continue to provide educational pathways for students to enhance their lives and our Tribal communities."

Northwest Indian College is the only regional tribal college in the U.S. and the only accredited tribal college in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities recently extended the college's accreditation to include distance learning, so students can continue their education remotely. Located on the Lummi Indian reservation near Bellingham, the college operates six, full-service sites at reservations in Washington and Idaho. The student body is represented by over 130 tribes from across the country.

WGU Washington is an online, competency-based university designed to expand access to higher education for Washington residents. In 2011, the Washington state Legislature created WGU Washington in partnership with nationally recognized Western Governors University.



Tonya Drake, WGU Washington's chancellor and regional vice president, left, and Justin Guillory, president of Northwest Indian College. (Photo from WGU)

YWCA Lewiston-Clarkston

NOW HIRING

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New SRO on the La Grande School District Beat



Justin Hernandez, right, the La Grande School District's new school resource officer, talks with Judy Lucius on Jan. 11, 2021. Lucius is a paraprofessional at Greenwood Elementary School whose duties include working as a crossing guard.

By Dick Mason,
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A Union County sheriff's deputy who previously was a star Eastern Oregon University football player soon will be helping young people tackle life's challenges.

Justin Hernandez is the La Grande School District's new school resource officer helping to maintain school district security and mentor students.

Hernandez launched the latest chapter in his career Monday, Jan. 11, when he introduced himself to students in kindergarten through sixth grade as they returned to in-person education following the Christmas break.

"I'm very excited about being able to work with kids," said Hernandez, who has been with the Union County Sheriff's Office for five and a half years and is a 2015 Eastern Oregon University graduate who played football for the Mountaineers in 2013 and 2014.

Hernandez is succeeding Cody Bowen as the SRO. Bowen held the position for six years before stepping down in late December to serve as Un-

ion County's new sheriff. Bowen won the election Nov. 3, 2020.

Bowen said he was hoping Hernandez would apply for the open school resource officer job because of his ability to connect with young people. Bowen said Hernandez is an excellent example for youth.

"He is a role model. He always does what is right when no one is looking," Bowen said.

Hernandez was a star receiver at EOU with 79 receptions, 1,215 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns in two seasons, according to eoussports.com.

Off the field during his senior year, Hernandez started serving as a reserve deputy. A native of Lapwai, Idaho, Hernandez said a career in law enforcement long interested him in part because his father, a retired Marine, was a lieutenant in the Nez Perce Tribal Police Department in his hometown. Today, Hernandez is following in his father's footsteps even more closely. His dad was an SRO at his high school in Lapwai.

Hernandez, after serv-

ing as a reserve deputy, a volunteer position and receiving training at the Oregon Police Academy, worked in the Union County Jail for six months. He then worked the Elgin patrol beat for two years and then two years as a narcotics officer. The deputy said one of his objectives as SRO is for students to see law enforcement officers as people. He will be following the lead of Bowen, well known in the local schools for his personable nature.

"I want to continue Cody's mission of humanizing the badge," Hernandez said.

He said he hopes to make connections with students and build relationships based on trust.

"I don't want them to run from me," Hernandez said. "I want them to run to me."

A sense of humility likely will help him in this regard.

"Just because I have a badge and a gun does not make me superior to anyone," said Hernandez, who also wants to establish community partnerships.

Bowen said Hernandez has a head start on establishing connections with students in the La Grande School District because he attended school district activities before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, including sporting events.

"He is invested in the community," Bowen said.

Hernandez said people such as Tim Camp, EOU's football coach since 2008, instilled this attitude in him. Camp requires his players to be involved in public service projects. Hernandez credits Camp with teaching him that "community is everything."

Bowen said the ties he made as a school resource officer made it difficult to step away from the job.

"It was very hard. For the last six years I have poured my heart and soul into it," Bowen said.

But he said he takes solace knowing Hernandez is at the helm.

"I know that the schools are going to be in good hands," Bowen said.

Indigenous Fishers on the Columbia River Confront New Challenges

By Dawn Stover,
High Country News

This story was originally published by Underscore.news and is republished here by permission.

The Brigham Fish Market was bustling on a Monday afternoon in November. Two women shared a meal over beers at an outdoor table overlooking the Columbia River in Cascade Locks. In front of the entrance to the market, a couple dined at a street-side table behind a fish-patterned metal railing. Inside, an older couple pointed out a fresh Chinook salmon fillet in the glass-fronted display, and several people waited for takeout orders in an attractive space decorated with Native American art, blanket samples and historical fishing photos.

In the kitchen, Terrie Brigham, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation who manages the market, was preparing a smoked-salmon quesadilla and Cajun-seasoned halibut and chips. Brigham's sister owns the business, which specializes in fresh and smoked fish from the Columbia River, most-

ly caught by family members.

Brigham says she is "one of the lucky ones." The market has stayed open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by relying on takeout orders, outdoor seating, and federal relief funding that helped keep employees on the payroll. A second location, called Brigham Fish 'n Chips and located in the new food court of the Wildhorse Casino & Resort outside Pendleton, opened in late September.

The Brigham market is surviving, but the pandemic has been hard on many Native Americans who make their living selling fish from the Columbia. COVID-19 has devastated the restaurant industry, causing a major downturn in the market for salmon. Meanwhile, the living conditions at tribal fishing sites and villages — long neglected by the federal government — have made it difficult for fishers to practice social distancing and other measures to prevent the spread of the virus. One of the lessons learned from the pandemic is that Native American fishers camping or living year-round on the river need better access to health care and other

services. With 2020's relatively long fall season behind them, officials are planning for the possibility that COVID-19 will still be a threat when seasonal fishers return to the Columbia in the spring.

A deadly disease: On the 147-mile stretch of the Columbia from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam, the only commercial fishing allowed is by the four Columbia Plateau tribes that signed treaties with the federal government in 1855. The treaties ensure the fishing rights of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. Despite those treaties, dwindling salmon runs have forced the tribes to strike a delicate balance between their rights to the salmon, other commercial and recreational fishers, and protecting the environment.

COVID-19 has made salmon fishing, culturally and economically important for the people on this stretch of the Columbia, even more difficult. The outbreak has had a disproportionate impact on tribes. In Oregon, Washington, and a dozen other states, American Indian and Alaska Native people have died at nearly twice the rate of white people.

COVID-19 took from the Yakama Nation two leaders who had long helped protect salmon and fishing rights. In April, tribes mourned the loss of Bobby Begay, a leader at Celilo Village who died at age 51 from complications of the coronavirus. In July, the Yakama Nation mourned for Johnny Jackson, chief of the Cascade Band of the Yakama, an elder who lived on the bank of the White Salmon River near Underwood, Washington, and was a passionate advocate for the River People of the Columbia Gorge and their abiding connection to salmon. Jackson died after being hospitalized with COVID-19.

Other Native people who fish the Columbia continue to be at risk of contracting the coronavirus. They live and work in conditions that can be crowded at times, and their work brings them into contact with people from around the region. But those challenges did not prevent fishers from participating in the

2020 harvest. The annual return of salmon to the river not only connects the four treaty tribes to a way of living that predates their loss of land to white settlers, but also is the primary source of income for many tribal members.

"When the pandemic hit, people living year-round on the river didn't have easy access to the health care [available] back on the reservation," says CRITFC Executive Director Jaime Pinkham, who is Nez Perce. "They were falling through the cracks."

The tribes partnered with One Community Health, which operates clinics on both sides of the Columbia River Gorge, to connect fishers with local health care services. Also, says Pinkham, CRITFC and its partners and funders "worked hard to get a medical vehicle to do testing." That van will now be used to do vaccinations on the river.

Treaty-tribe fishers got the go-ahead to fish with gill nets during a three-day summer season that began in late June, and again during the much longer fall season that began in August and ended in early October. The tribes closed the gillnet season after steelheads, an ocean-going form of rainbow trout, came back in greater-than-expected numbers, resulting in a large catch that was approaching the harvest limit. The 2020 runs for Chinook salmon, however, were significantly lower than the 10-year average, although more adult spring and summer Chinook salmon passed through Bonneville Dam this year than in 2019.

Fishers who use traditional platforms and dip nets, or conventional hook-and-line gear, were allowed to continue fishing through the end of the year, for both subsistence and commercial sales. Brigham, whose grandfather fished at Celilo Falls, will continue to sell fish that is caught by family members from scaffolds in Cascade Locks.

Overall, the fishing in 2020 was "not super amazing," she says. "But it could have been worse."

Each year, biologists from the four tribes that have traditionally fished in the Columbia River meet with their counterparts from state and federal agencies. Together, they analyze

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fish counts and use computer models to make their best guess as to how many fish can be sustainably harvested. After accounting for fish that are needed as hatchery broodstock, or that will be allowed to escape upriver to produce a new generation of wild salmon, they determine how many are available for harvesting.

The individual tribes decide the fishing seasons and regulations for their members. Tribes divide their allocated salmon harvest among three categories: ceremonial use, subsistence and commercial fishing. Fishers exercising their treaty rights are legally entitled to half the yearly harvest of Columbia River salmon.

Occupational hazards: Although Native fishers work outdoors, some of their working and living conditions put them at increased risk of contracting the coronavirus. A typical fishing boat used for gillnet fishing is about 20 feet long and has a crew of four people who may or may not be members of the same household. Fishers are elbow-to-elbow while pulling in nets, which makes it impossible to maintain social distance.

While the gillnetting season was open, Brigham limited the size of her crew to reduce the chances of exposure to the coronavirus and to protect her father, who fishes with her. She fished with only her core crew, rather than hiring additional help.

But boats are not the only place where fishers come into close contact.

When the salmon are running, people from across the Pacific Northwest, many of them living on reservations in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, come to the Columbia to fish. Tribal governments urged fishers to start social distancing even before heading to the river, to minimize their contacts with people outside their own households, and to get tested for COVID-19 through tribal clinics.

"People tend to travel from village to village, especially during fishing season," says Lana Jack, who identifies as Celilo Wyam. Jack lives in Celilo Village and made regular deliveries last year of face masks, hand sanitizer and other supplies to people at smaller villages along the Columbia.

Lack of amenities: Some Native American fishers live year-



round at 31 fishing sites along the Columbia that are reserved for their use; many others join them seasonally. Many people at these sites are living in conditions that are unsafe and unsanitary. Legislation enacted in December 2019 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to assess and improve facilities at fishing sites, but that process is still in the assessment phase. The omnibus spending bill Congress passed shortly before the end of the year set aside \$1.5 million for the treaty sites in 2021.

Tribal governments brought in wash stations and additional portable toilets, and they increased janitorial services. But even at the best-equipped sites, fishers must share facilities such as showers and fish-cleaning stations. They have to crowd around processing tables that are not much bigger than a dining table. The least-developed sites have only pit toilets and no running water. In the fall, the busiest season, hundreds of people fish on the river, and 2020 was no different.

The pandemic also brought new procedures for mask wearing and physical distancing at wholesale and over-the-bank sales stations. At the wholesale stations, "fishermen couldn't get out of their vehicles," says Brigham. But at over-the-bank stations, where fishers sell their catch directly to customers, not all of the customers took care to wear masks.

The federal government has broken its promises to construct permanent housing for Native American families whose homes along the Columbia were inundated by dam construction.

Celilo Village, which is visible from Interstate 84, is the only site where the government has constructed replacement houses for Native Americans since dam construction began in the 1930s.

At sites such as Lone Pine in The Dalles, residents still lack access to basic amenities, including running water, electrical connections and a sewer system.

It's not just about building houses, Pinkham says. River communities also need adequate health care and social services, a year-round economy, and schools for their children. "Covid has taught us a lot about the infrastructure for a long-term sustainable community on the river," he says.

Sales decline: Living conditions at camps and villages weren't the only challenges for fishers coping with COVID-19. Because of the virus, the fall commercial fishing season took place in a radically altered economic environment. In the U.S., about 70% of all seafood is consumed in restaurants, so restaurant closures and restrictions necessitated by the pandemic have had a major impact on the salmon business.

There are two types of customers for Columbia River salmon caught by Native fishers: The majority of the catch is purchased by wholesalers, who in turn sell the fish to higher-end restaurants and grocery stores. The rest is sold "over the bank" directly to the public, either at businesses like the Brigham Fish Market or at small stands near the river in Cascade Locks and other locations along the Columbia River Gorge.

Roughly 75% to 80% of

tribal fishers on the Columbia sell to wholesalers. This year, not as many wholesalers showed up to buy fish. Fishers can still sell directly to customers or to small markets like Brigham's, but that doesn't make up for the loss of their biggest market.

Additionally, fishers couldn't apply for coronavirus assistance funding provided by the CARES Act until the commercial fishing season was underway, months after the pandemic began, because applicants were required to provide extensive documentation of their receipts and expenditures — paperwork that many fishers didn't have.

Sales both to wholesalers and to the public have traditionally been cash transactions, and fishers have paid their crew members in cash. Many of them haven't kept good records, and this traditional way of doing business has proved to be a problem in the time of COVID-19. Organizations like CRITFC and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission have tried to help fishers quantify the economic impacts of the pandemic on their livelihoods, but the process has been frustrating for those who rely on the informal economy.

Many of these health and economic challenges are continuing into 2021. They come on top of climate forecasts that predict a continued decline in salmon runs.

That won't stop fishing on the Columbia. As COVID-19 vaccines begin to roll out, people who fish the river eagerly await the arrival of the first spring Chinook salmon, which usually happens in early April.

"It's part of our identity to fish and to eat fish," says Jeremy FiveCrows, who is Nez Perce and works as a public affairs specialist at CRITFC. "For tribal people, there's no way to keep them away from the river."

Dawn Stover is a freelance science and environmental writer based in White Salmon, Washington, and a contributing editor and columnist at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Underscore is a nonprofit collaborative reporting team in Portland focused on investigative reporting and Indian Country coverage. They are supported by foundations, corporate sponsors and donor contributions. Follow them on Facebook and Twitter. Email High Country News at editor@hcn.org or submit a letter to the editor.

Monday Musings: One Man's Humble Opinion on Area's Best Hoops Teams Also, a Sort of Local Connection to the Great Tommy Lasorda



Lapwai's Titus Yearout (Photo by Lewiston Tribune)

By Donn Walden,
Lewiston Tribune

In rolling out a web exclusive column for Mondays (not every, just when the feeling is right), I will explore topics we haven't really talked about too much in the newspaper, or finally be able to circle back around to and had a moment to breathe and take it all in. So, get ready for random thoughts in this edition of Monday Musings:

Who are the top area basketball teams? As a voter in the state poll (I won't tell you which one I vote in but there are some newspapers in Idaho that readily prints that information), I take my job extremely serious. I hate going into something unprepared. But honestly, with last week's first poll, outside of the

teams in our area I was completely and wholly unprepared.

Overall, I learned a lesson. Won't happen again. But the point here is who do I think are this area's best basketball teams (classification notwithstanding but gender specific).

Without further ado, here we go: BOYS — 1. Lapwai; 2. Prairie; 3. Lewiston; 4. Moscow; 5. Deary.

The Wildcats are there, based on their victory December 8 at home against the Pirates. However, the guys from Cottonwood certainly have a chance to exact a bit of revenge Tuesday when Prairie gets Lapwai on its home court. This also could have state rankings implications as the votes for the boys' poll must be turned in by 11 a.m. Pacific on Thursday. There's no ques-

tion that of all of the Class 1A Division I leagues in the Gem state, the Whitepine League has the deepest talent. The Pirates got back at Kamiah for last season's district tournament knockout blow on Thursday with a home victory, and the Kubs look to be the third-best team in the WPL. But Genesee is nipping at their heels. The district tournament could be interesting once again.

I know I could catch some flak for placing the Bengals ahead of the Bears, particularly because of Saturday's 62-60 win by Moscow. I'm not saying by any stretch it was a fluke, and both teams have the capability of making deep runs. I just want to see a little more out of the Bears. I think the talent they have are starting to mesh. I was a little surprised at the result, only because of how well Lewiston started the season. However, the Bengals have slipped a bit since making a trip during the Christmas holiday down the southern portion of the state. Lewiston has lost four of its past five games. The Bengals have a chance to open up eyes once again as they play Inland Empire League leader Lake City twice during the next two weeks, and get Moscow once again at the end of the season.

Deary sneaks in since it got state poll votes, and because the Mustangs seemingly have a good thing going with co-coaches Jalen Kirk and Mike Morey. Their only loss came in the first game of the season, at Logos.

GIRLS — 1. Lapwai; 2. Prairie; 3. Grangeville; 4. Genesee; 5. Kendrick.

Once again, the class of the state lies in the Whitepine League Division I, where the defending state champion Wildcats already have one-upped the Pirates in a relatively close game in December. Prairie gets its chance Thursday to even the score, but its at Lapwai, which could make

for tough sledding. Add Genesee to the mix, and you have the makings of what could be a memorable district tournament this year. I wouldn't be surprised if the state champion comes out of this league once again. The game Thursday definitely will have an impact on the Jan. 26 rankings.

I've been impressed with what Grangeville has been able to do so far, particularly when the Bulldogs travelled south around the holidays and came away with two impressive wins against state-caliber teams. They also took Lapwai to the brink in the four-team post-Christmas tournament conducted at the new Lewiston High School. They also earned votes in the recent state media poll and probably won't have any issues in the Central Idaho League.

Genesee and Kendrick is a coin toss, but the Bulldogs get the spot ahead of the Tigers based on a Dec. 3 head-to-head win. In fact, Kendrick has played Grangeville twice as well. Taking those three games out, the Tigers are 12-0. So don't sleep on the Tigers. They should roll to the Whitepine League Division II title. Also don't overlook Genesee in the slightest. They have enough talent that if Lapwai or Prairie slips, the Bulldogs will be right there.

Circling back to Lasorda: The great Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda died Jan. 8 of a heart attack. He spent 71 years in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization as a player, scout, manager and front office assistant.

Of course, many around these parts will remember his time with the Triple-A affiliate during the late 1960s and 1970s in Spokane. In fact, he led the Indians to the 1970 Pacific Coast League championship team, which won the

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Monday Musings Continued
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Northern Division by 26 games. That team is regarded as one of the best in minor league history. The roster included Steve Garvey, Bobby Valentine, Tom Paciorek, Davey Lopes and Bill Buckner. Garvey and Lopes later manned the Dodgers' infield for a decade and was joined by Ron Cey, who arrived in Spokane in 1971.

When news of his death surfaced, I reached out to area baseball historians Denny Grubb and Dick Riggs to find out if he had any connections to Lewiston or the area.

Riggs told me his sister-in-law, Shelley Wagner, 67, just retired from the Dodger front office, so she knew Lasorda a little. And her mother was married to the father of the Tribune's current publisher, Butch Alford.

Riggs recounted a story from 1988 when Wagner flew Riggs and his family out to Los Angeles to watch Games 1 and 2 of the World Series against the Oakland Athletics. Game



Lapwai's Jordyn McCormack-Marks (Photo by Lewiston Tribune)

1, of course, was famous for Kirk Gibson's walk-off, pinch-hit home run in the bottom of the ninth inning against A's stopper Dennis Eckersley. During the visit, Riggs was able to meet Orel Hershisier, who was the National League's Cy Young Award winner and World Series MVP that season.

Lewiston native Ron Karlberg, who went to the University of Idaho on a football scholarship, signed with the Dodgers in 1959

and played a year on a farm team. After his playing days, Karlberg was a teacher and school administrator who retired in 1998 as vice principal at Lewiston High School.

Also, Levi McCormack, who was a star athlete at Clarkston High School in 1934 and also was a member of the Nez Perce Indian tribe, is among those who are on the Avista Stadium's Rim of Honor in Spokane with Lasorda.

One final note: Riggs and

Grubb mentioned to me of at least one superfan of the Dodgers who resides in the area, Bill Smith. In fact, Smith's license plate celebrates his fandom.

If there's something we've missed in the paper, or something you'd like me to make mention of in this space, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Walden may be reached at (208) 848-2258, dwalden@lmtribune.com, or on Twitter at @waldo9939.

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How Many Allowances Should You Claim?

Amanda Dixon,
Smartasset.com

Prior to 2020, one of the biggest things you could do to affect the size of your paycheck was to adjust the number of allowances claimed on your W-4. The ideal number of allowances for you would depend on your individual situation, but now that the allowances section of the W-4 has been eliminated, filling out the form has become somewhat streamlined. We'll discuss how allowances worked, and what has replaced them on the W-4. Finally, note that how you approach tax withholding and your W-4 depends on your individual situation and the particulars of your financial plan.

What You Should Know About Tax Withholding:

To understand how allowances worked, it helps to first understand the concept of tax withholding. Whenever you get paid, your employer removes, or withholds, a certain amount of money from your paycheck. This withholding covers your taxes, so that instead of paying your taxes with one lump sum during tax season, you pay them gradually throughout the year. Employers in every state must withhold money for federal income taxes. Some states, cities and other municipal governments also require tax withholding.

Withholding is also necessary for pensioners and individuals with other earnings, such as from gambling,



bonuses or commissions. If you're a business owner, independent contractor or otherwise self-employed, you will need to make sure you withhold taxes yourself. You can do this by paying estimated taxes.

Exactly how much your employer withholds will depend largely on how much money you make and how you fill out your W-4. While you used to be able to claim allowances, your withholding is now affected by your claimed dependents, if your spouse works or if you have multiple jobs. You can also list other adjustments, such as deductions and other withholding.

When you fill out your W-4, you are telling your employer how much to withhold from your pay. That's why you need to fill out a new W-4 anytime you start a new job or experience a big life change like a marriage or the adoption of a child.

What Were Tax Allowances? A withholding al-

lowance was like an exemption from paying a certain amount of income tax. So when you claimed an allowance, you would essentially be telling your employer (and the government) that you qualified not to pay a certain amount of tax. If you were to have claimed zero allowances, your employer would have withheld the maximum amount possible.

If you didn't claim enough allowances, you overpaid your taxes throughout the year and ended up with a tax refund come tax season. If you claimed too many allowances, you probably ended up owing the IRS money.

How Do I Affect Withholding Now? Since the 2020 W-4 is far simpler than it has been in the past, it might seem harder to change your total withholding. The loss of allowances on the form might seem especially irksome, but not to worry. There are still plenty of ways to affect your withholding.

First, it's important to fill out the multiple jobs or working spouse section using the worksheet on the third page of the W-4 so that the IRS has a proper record of how much money total you bring in. The total number of dependents you claim also has a significant effect on your total withholding, so make sure you claim the correct number of dependents.

Section 4 of the W-4 is a bit more open ended. Here you'll be able to state other income and list your deductions, which can be used to

reduce your withholding. Use the worksheet on page 3 of the W-4 to figure out your deductions. Finally, you can also use the extra withholding section to make your total withholding as precise as possible.

If you have a complex tax situation, it may be wise to work with a financial advisor who specializes in tax issues.

Claiming an Exemption From Withholding: If the IRS refunded you last year for all of the federal income tax that was withheld, and if you expect that to happen again this year, you can claim exemption from withholding. You cannot claim exemption from withholding if either one of the following is true:

Another person can claim you as a dependent: Your income exceeds \$1,000 and includes more than \$350 of unearned income, such as interest or dividends

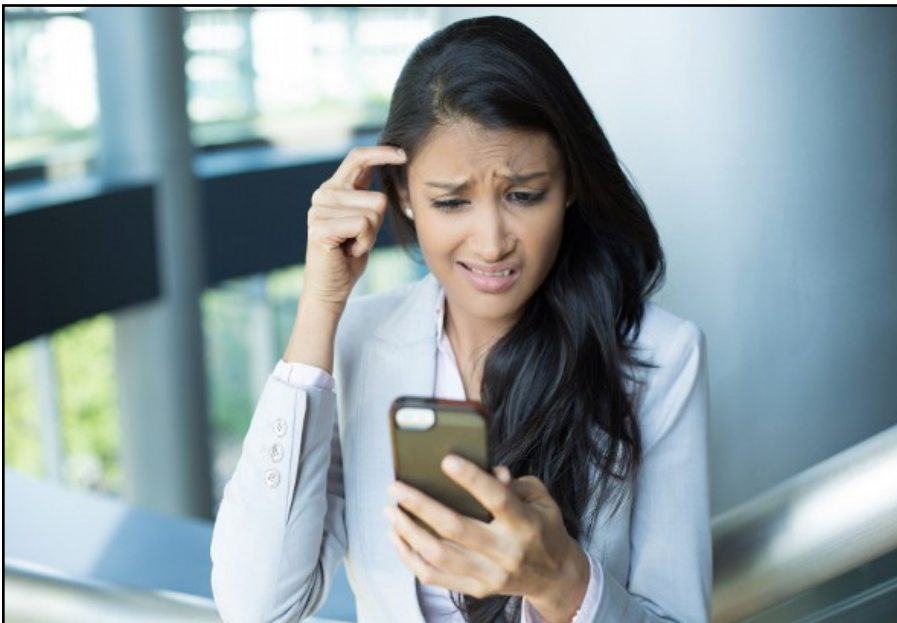
Keep in mind that this exemption only applies to federal income tax. You still need to pay the FICA taxes for Social Security and Medicare.

Fine-Tuning Your Withholding: You can claim deductions and extra withholding as you so please. Taking an estimated or inaccurate amount would mean you overpay or underpay your taxes, but you're allowed to do it. You may want to claim different amounts to change the size of your paychecks. This is a personal choice that helps you plan your budget throughout the year.

At the same time, you can submit a new W-4 at any time during the year. So if you decide that you want larger or smaller paychecks, you can submit a new W-4 to your employer with a different number of deductions or withholdings.

The Takeaway: Tax allowances were an important part of helping people reduce or increase the size of their paychecks. While they don't exist on the W-4 anymore,

Continue Reading Allowances
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Your Credit Report: What You Need to Know

Adapted from Better Money Habits®

Your credit report offers a snapshot of your financial life and may be accessed by anyone from potential employers to lenders. Plus, the information it contains determines your credit score. By understanding how to read your credit report, what comprises it and how to monitor it, you'll be better equipped to handle your finances overall.

How to read your credit report: The three major credit bureaus—Experian, Equifax and TransUnion—collect information from public records and companies you do business with. They use that information to create your report. That report has four sections:

- **Personal information:** This section includes your name, address (as well as previous addresses), Social Security number and date of birth.
- **Credit history:** This includes all of your open and closed credit accounts and your track record for repaying them.
- **Public records:** This lists any public records related to your finances, such as property liens or bankruptcies. It's just financial records, though, so

any nonfinancial public records you may have, like speeding tickets, won't be on here.

- **Credit inquiries:** This section shows everyone who's checked your credit in the past two years—landlords, employers, lenders and more.

What to look for in your report: You'll probably want to focus most of your attention on section two, which reviews your payment history. This section will list all of your credit accounts—both current and past, from credit cards to medical bills—and your record of paying them back.

There can occasionally be errors in this section. Perhaps your doctor's office mistakenly reported that you neglected to pay your deductible, for example. If errors like this occur, it's a good idea to reach out first to the creditor and then to the credit agencies themselves. If companies are unresponsive, you can use the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as a resource for reporting problems.

If the error you find looks to be fraudulent—for example, you see a mortgage for a house you don't own—there

are two steps to take. You'll want to call the credit bureaus and ask them to put a fraud alert on your account; this will require them to take steps to verify information surrounding the suspicious activity. You'll also want to file a report with either the police or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

How it relates to your score: Your credit score is a grade assigned to your credit history—the information in your report. The most commonly used credit scores are provided by Fair Isaac Corporation and are known as FICO® scores. They range from 300 (the worst) to 850 (the best). Creditors differ, but a good score is usually considered to be 700 or above.

How your credit report affects your finances: Ultimately, lenders can look at both your credit report and credit score when deciding whether to lend you money, so paying attention to both is important.

Remember, having good credit can set you up for a number of other financial successes. For example, you may be more likely to receive a loan,

or you may qualify for a lower interest rate, which can save you money in the long run. A high credit score can also make it easier to get rewards credit cards, which offer perks like travel deals or cash back. How to get a copy

Your credit report must be given to you free of charge once a year by each of the major credit bureaus if you ask for it. Some banks and credit card companies provide you with a copy of your credit score as part of your monthly statement, but if you ask the credit agencies for it, you may be charged a fee. However, your credit report must be given to you free of charge once a year by each of the major credit bureaus if you ask for it. (You're also entitled to a free copy of your report if you ever apply for a credit card and are declined.)

This is one of the reasons knowing how to read a credit report is so important—you have three free opportunities a year to make sure the information kept on you and your credit is accurate. To obtain a copy of your report, visit annualcreditreport.com or call 877.322.8228.

Allowances Continued from Page 14

its still very possible to effect the size of your paychecks by claiming additional withholding or deductions. Less withholding also means a bigger paycheck. It's important to claim the right amount of deductions so that you can have as much money in-hand throughout the year without owing too much come tax season.

If you're concerned about the amount your employer withholds, you can also refer to the withholding calculator provided by the IRS. Don't forget that you can update your W-4 at any time. Simply fill out a new form and give it to your employer.

Next Steps: Many financial advisors are tax ex-

perts and can help you understand how taxes impact your financial plan. Finding the right financial advisor that fits your needs doesn't have to be hard. SmartAsset's free tool matches you with financial advisors in your area in 5 minutes. If you're ready to be matched with local advisors that will help you achieve your financial goals, get started now.

You'll save time (and stress!) if you gather and organize all the supporting documents required to file your taxes. This means your W-2 or 1099s, student loan interest information, and a slew of other documents, depending on your financial situation. You might also use our tax calculator to get an estimate of what you'll pay in income taxes.



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Bessie Scott, 87, Lapwai, ID



Bessie "Greene" Scott, 87 passed away on January 5, 2021 at her home in Lapwai, Idaho. She was born at Spaulding, Idaho on May 22, 1933 to James and Maggie Mox Mox Greene.

She received her elementary schooling at the Clearwater Grade School on Coyote Grade near Spaulding; grade school at Arlee, Montana and Spaulding Grade School. She attended High School at Lapwai, graduating in 1951.

While in High School Bessie was an outstanding athlete, excelling in varsity basketball and softball all four years. She also participated in all

school activities, including four years as a Wildcat Cheerleader.

In 1989 she accepted a position with the Nez Perce Tribal Early Head Start Program as a teacher and Niimiipuu Language Instructor. In compliance with program policy, she attended LCSC and on May 20, 1994 she was awarded an Associate of Applied Science in Child Development.

On March 25, 1952 she and Wilfred "Scotty" Scott, who was on Navy leave, were married at Asotin, Washington. While Scotty then attended Naval School in San Diego, California, where their first daughter Venita was born.

Following Scotty's four months at school and two weeks leave, they would be separated for two and a half years while Scotty served on ship at Pearl Harbor when their first son, Wilfred Jr. was born, and a ship board staff home ported at Sasebo, Japan.

At the end of his enlistment, and with Bessie's concurrence, Scotty reenlisted and a twenty year career as a Navy wife began. Home would be various sites

across the United States.

First would be at Davisville, Rhode Island where sons James and Jeffery and daughter Dani were born. Various ships and commands would follow at Bainbridge, MD, Long Beach, where Daughter Lori was born; and El Centro, CA, Millington, TN and Meridian, MS.

While Scotty served in Vietnam from May 1967 to November 1968, she participated in a tribal home construction program. She and 9 other families jointly built their homes from foundation to completed house construction, inside and out. All while raising her children, and working at the Tribal Head Start program, she continued writing her daily letters to Scotty. Bessie was most proud of who she was and where she came from. Everyone and everything was very special to her. Her reminders were: "No one is better than you, and you're no better than anyone else", and "If you feel you should say you are sorry for something you said or done... you should not have said or done it in the first place".

At the urging of some

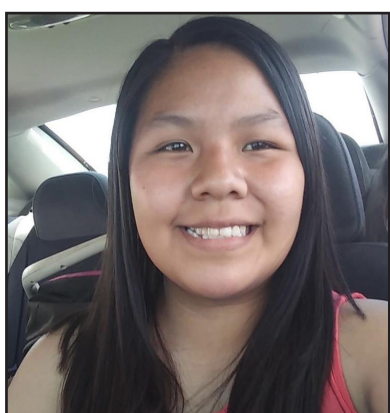
elder ladies she greatly respected, she took the Niimiipuu name of her Grandmother who had been known and respected as a woman of Great Medicine. Bessie was proud to be known as hiyúumyanmay, meaning "Grizzly Bear Woman".

As hiyúumyanmay she gladly and efficiently shared her language and cultural knowledge with everyone. No question went unanswered. Being one of the founding contributors and participants in formulation of the Niimiipuu Language Dictionary, and she was very proficient in the dictionary's use.

Bessie was Nez Perce Tribal Employee of the Year in 1990. At the Sixteenth Annual Lewis-Clark State College Native American Awareness Week, the Native American Club 2002-2003 awarded Bessie the Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2007 the State of Idaho also recognized Bessie's contribution to the practice and preservation of Niimiipuu Language and Culture, and she was

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Athena Jewel Wapsheli, 23, Toppenish, WA



Athena Jewel Wapsheli, 23, of Toppenish passed away January 6, 2021 early Wednesday morning. A member of the Yakama Nation and descendant of the Nez Perce Tribe, born March 18, 1997 to Dianna Aleck and the late Archie Wapsheli Jr. She was born and raised in Toppenish, attended schools in Toppenish and Granger, and graduated in 2015 from Yakama Nation Tribal School.

She has been working for the past four years as a lead in soft count at Legends Casino.

She loved the game of basketball and traveled all over the Northwest playing in indoor and outdoor tournaments. While attending Yakama Nation Tribal School, she was a part of the first basketball team to make it to the State Tournament in Spokane, Washington. She is the record holder for the most three pointers in the Yakima Valley for a single game.

She was a very happy loving person, who loved her children along with her nieces and nephews. She made a point to attend their functions such as their birthdays and sporting events.

Athena attended Satus Longhouse and was baptized

at the Satus Shaker Church.

Athena is preceded in death by her father Archie Wapsheli Jr., paternal grandparents Catherine Higheagle and Archie Wapsheli Sr., maternal grandparents David Aleck and Melvina Thompson Aleck, aunts Brenda, Delvine, and Delina Aleck, Patricia Bennett, Arlene Wapsheli, and Valerie Wapsheli, uncles Alexander, Clayton, Johnny Wapsheli, Willard Nanpooya Jr., Jim Aleck Sr., Daniel Isadore, and Joe Aleck Sr. Survived by her three children, Leroy III, David Morrison and Katie Wapsheli-Morrison; her mother Dianna Aleck and sisters Tanya (Jarvis Sr.) Peters, Lynndel (Adonis), Tori (Glen Jr.) Wapsheli, Melanie (Charley) Belly, Rochelle Aleck, and Danielle Isadore; her

brothers Archie III (Pasha), Lyle Sr. (Samantha) Wapsheli, Colten (Diane), Sterling Haney, Benjamin (Loretta), Shannon, and Randy Isadore, and Jim Aleck Jr.; her aunts Connie, and Alyne Aleck, Cheryl Eneas, and Chaz Bennett; uncles Tom Isadore, Dennis Jasway, Harry Queahapama, Raymond Sr., Randy Sr., Gordan Sr. Bennett; her nieces Talise, Paizley Wapsheli, Cloe (Christopher), Bree, Delina Peters, Laci, and Layni Wapsheli, and Gianna Lewis; and her nephews Isaiah, and Archie IV Wapsheli, Jarvis Jr., Canaan Peters, Lyle Jr., Lucas Wapsheli, and Leighton Lewis.

Dressing service will be Friday January 9, 2020 at 11 AM at Satus Longhouse, she will be there overnight and leave 8 AM to Beaver Cemetery.

Scott Continued
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presented the Esto Perpetua Award. Bessie Scott received the Nez Perce Tribal Woman Elder of the Year in 2012.

Although the "Get up and Go" remained, she would answer two more calls; to assist with the After School Language Program at the Lapwai Elementary School and to teach Niimiipuu Language classes at LCSC. She accepted both offers and complied until Covid-19 made its devastating appearance last year. On April 6, 2018, through her untiring efforts with the Niimiipuu Language Program Bessie was presented the Lewis Clark State College Presidents Award for Excellence in Diversity and Cross-Cultural Understanding.

For many years she used that proficiency with the young people in Early Childhood Development. But the daily routine coupled with her advancing in age began to take its toll. With her following words she decided to step aside and let the younger language practitioners take over the teach-

ing duties. "We (Scotty and I) are up in age and it's getting to the point we can't hardly get around anymore. I want to take advantage of the time we have to get up and go, so that's what we've been doing". For Fifteen years; Bessie, with Scotty in tow, participated in the Annual Tribal Youth Culture Camp at Wallowa Lake, as resident Elders. She was an inspiration during the language and culture sessions to the 120 plus youth in attendance during the two weekly gatherings. Due to Covid-19 she did not attend last year.

On October 5, 1997, Bessie attended the 100th Anniversary Ceremony honoring those Niimiipuu who participated in the Nez Perce War of 1877. One of her Great Grandfathers was killed and his remains are buried at the Bears Paw Battlefield near Chinook, MT. Her other Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother were both wounded while their two year old daughter was killed at the Big Hole Battlefield near Wisdom, MT.

Every year since, she

and Scotty have attended every annual ceremony there and many other sites pertinent to the 1877 war.

Bessie was also a life member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

She was proceeded in death by: her parents, James and Maggie Mox Mox Greene; her Grandmothers, Dolly Williams and Mary Wilson; her Grandfathers, Johnson Greene and George Mox Mox; her sisters Rose, Baby and Geneva Greene; her Brothers, Alex Taylor, Johnson, Jesse, Billy, Matthew and Larry Greene; her son James Scott; her namesake and Granddaughter Bessie Blackeagle.

She was survived by: Her loving Husband of 68 years, Wilfred Scott Sr.; Daughters, Venita Scott, Dani Scott, and Lori Enick, all of Lapwai; Sons, Wilfred Scott Jr. of Waha, Jeffrey Scott of Lapwai; Sister Darlene Pinkham of Lenore, Granddaughters, Fawn Domebo and Kiri George both of Lapwai, Nicole George and Vashti Scott both of Lewiston; Grandsons, Kemo Scott

of Waha, John Oatman, Geoffrey Scott, Sam Davis Jr. And Basil George, all of Lapwai. Bessie also leaves 12 Great Grandchildren, and Many-Nieces and Nephews.

The Family extends their deepest heart felt gratitude and appreciation to all those who responded in Bessie's and her families time of need. Your outpouring of sympathy and concern will never be forgotten.

Bessie- hiyúumyanmay had a deep faith in our Creator and eternal life. She treated all faiths as equal and was comfortable in attending all services.

By her wish, open non-denominational services will be held at the Pinee-Waus in Lapwai, Idaho on January 7, 2021 at 6pm.

Final services will be held at the Pinee-Waus in Lapwai, on January 8, 2021 at 10am. Burial will follow at Coyote Cemetery in Spaulding Idaho, where she will be laid to rest near her Son and Granddaughter. Dinner to follow. Malcom's Brower Wann's is in charge of Funeral Arrangements.

Marian J. Painter, 88, Lapwai, ID



Marian J. Painter, 88, passed away Thursday, November 26, 2020 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Hospital due to complications from COVID-19.

She was born August 5, 1932 in Sweetwater, Idaho to David Jackson and Irene Jack. She attended Lapwai Elementary then continued at the Indian Boarding School in Carson City, Nevada. She later went on to Kinman Business School in Spokane, Washington.

Mari married Charles

Clayton Painter in 1969 in Reno, Nevada. Mari was a Nez Perce Tribal member. Later in life, she loved gambling and chasing cherries. Her baking/cooking skills were topnotch. She found a sense of pride and joy in her children and grandchildren. She loved helping her family and was devoted, passionate, loving, honorable and resourceful. Her signature pies and cakes were her tokens of love. She contributed to many meals at Tribal events.

Mari was primarily a homemaker raising children and grandchildren. With many skills and talents, she earned money painting store windows in holiday themes. She was the first Native American to work on Main Street in Lewiston, Idaho at Paulucci's Shoe Store as a sales clerk. She owned and operated a Peruvian Import Shop in Morgan's Alley, Lewiston, Idaho. She was extremely

artistic in painting, drawing, beadwork and cake decorating.

She is survived by her sister Merry Jack of Reno, Nevada, brother Hanley Jack of Winnemucca, Nevada, and brother Harley Jack of Nevada. Her daughters are Velda L. Penney, Linda M. Dufford and Janice K. McLaughlin all of Lewiston, Idaho. Her sons are John Finch of Eugene, Oregon, Michael D. McLaughlin of Escondido, California, Daniel J. McLaughlin (Bo), Curtis L. McLaughlin and Blaine C. Painter, all of Lewiston, Idaho. She is blessed with 20 grandchildren, many great grandchildren and cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mari was preceded in death by her husband Charles C. Painter, sister Josephine "Lolly" Adkins, brothers Paul Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Anthony Jackson and Clarkie Jack; son Charles Penney and grandson Samuel J. Painter.

Dressing, viewing and cremation were on December 3, 2020. The family is requesting, for the safety of the community, family and friends, services will be conducted at a later date.

We want to extend our gracious thank you to the Nez Perce Tribe for their support and assistance.

Thank you for the arrangements made by Mountain View Funeral Home, 35217th Street #5137, Lewiston, Idaho 83501, and to St. Joseph Regional Medical Hospital 415 6th St, Lewiston, ID 83501 and their medical team for their assistance and support on November 26, 2020. Also, a special thank you to the staff at Wedgwood Terrace Senior Citizen Center, 2114 Vineyard Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho 83501, for their care and aid as well.

Thank you all from Mary Painter's family and loved ones.



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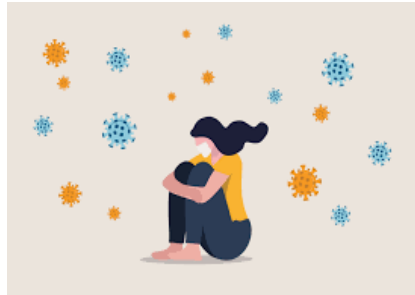
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NIMIIPUU BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COVID SUPPORT GROUP



Affected by COVID?

Have you, your family or friends been affected by COVID?

Are you having difficulty dealing with the after effects either physically or mentally? Are you feeling isolated, depressed, or anxious?

PLEASE JOIN OUR SUPPORT GROUP! 2nd and 4th Thursdays at noon

(IN PERSON/TELEHEALTH AVAILABLE)

TO SIGN UP OR GET MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Tonia Aripa, LMSW
toniaa@nimiipuu.org 208-843-7244, EXT. 2904



CHERRYLANE BRIDGE PROJECT

APRIL 2021

PRE-EMPLOYMENT PLANNING MEETING

Lapwai- January 25, 2021 Pi-Nee-Waus gym
Kamiah- January 26, 2021 Wa-A-Yas gym

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

TOPICS THAT WILL BE TALKED ABOUT

SKILLS BANK APPLICATION, SIGN IN PROCESS, DRUG TEST INFO
SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS, ATTENDANCE, WORK ETHICS
THE DIFFERENT POSITIONS NEEDED ON PROJECT
BRIEF INFO ABOUT WAGES, START TIMES, WORK WEEK SCHEDULE

PRESENTED BY: NEZ PERCE TRIBE
TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

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 2018 JEEP COMPASS SPORT STK#20UD412 \$21,995	 2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER GT STK#20UD349A \$15,995

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Shape Shift for Cash Fitness Challenge

WHO – The challenge is open to anyone 18 years or older (the more participants the bigger the cash payout!)

WHAT – Improve your body shape by losing fat and/or increasing muscle

WHEN – Monday, February 1st to Thursday, April 15th for a duration of 10-weeks

WHERE – At your home or gym. All participants with a valid email address will have access to the GymGO platform provided by the NMPH Diabetes Program.

WHY – Reduce your chance for diabetes; Manage diabetes in better health; Look great; Feel fantastic; Win incentives, cash and prizes!

HOW – Sign up and body comp dates TBA. Pre and post body comp and pictures required.

HOW MUCH - \$25 entry fee due Thursday, January 28th or make 2 payments of \$12.50 on Thursday, January 28th and Thursday, February 11th

All entry fees MUST BE PAID IN CASH BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11th. SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS!

PRIZES!!!

\$500+ CASH to 1 GRAND PRIZE WINNER

2nd place for female: FeetUp Trainer for yoga (includes 2-weeks premium membership). See it at www.FeetUp.com

2nd place prize for male: Stealth plank gameboard plus subscription for game app. See it at www.stealthbodyfitness.com

(All Finalists will be judged by a panel of NMPH staff)

SHAPE SHIFT FITNESS CHALLENGE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Participants must complete the following:

- Pre-challenge body composition
- Pre-challenge photos
(front, side, back views in clothing that is not baggy)
- Post-challenge body composition
- Post-challenge photos

\$25 cash entry fee must be paid on any of the following dates:

- January 28th before 6:30PM at NMPH Fitness Center
- February 11th before 6:30PM at NMPH Fitness Center
- During your Pre-challenge body composition/sign up day

Pre-challenge body comp/photos & sign up dates/locations:

February 1st – 9am to 10:30am at Tweepuu Center

February 1st – 11:15am to 1:30pm at Kamiah NMPH

February 2nd – 11am to 2:30pm at Clearwater River Casino

February 3rd – 6:30am to 2pm at NMPH Fitness Center

February 4th – 6:30am to 2pm at NMPH Fitness Center

Post-challenge body composition dates with locations:

April 12th - 9am to 10:30am at Tweepuu Center

April 12th - 11:15am to 1:30pm at Kamiah NMPH

April 13th - 11am to 2:30pm at Clearwater River Casino

April 14th - 6:30am to 2pm at NMPH Fitness Center

There is limited flexibility to schedule another time/day for pre- & post-challenge body comps & photos.

Contact Wendy Strack to make arrangements

modifying from the schedule above at

wendys@nimiipuu.org or 843-2271 x 2977.

Please consult with your health care provider before starting any new fat loss or fitness program, particularly if you have pre-existing health conditions and/or are currently living a sedentary lifestyle.

CRITFC Job Announcement

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) is recruiting for the following position:

Position: Administrative and Contract Specialist, Full-Time, Regular. *New!*

Location: Portland, OR

Job Summary: The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) is seeking an Administrative and Contract Specialist to serve the Fishery Science (FSCI) Department. The FSCI Department is the largest department at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), containing over 40 full-time staff stationed primarily in Portland, OR, but also in Hagerman, ID, and Moscow, ID. Fishery Science staff perform anadromous fish and habitat research throughout the Columbia River Basin, which encompasses the states of OR, WA, ID, MT, as well as British Columbia, Canada. Additionally, there are many fixed assets that have been procured by the FSCI Department: scientific research lab and field equipment, firearms, servers and sensitive equipment.

Job Requirements/Qualifications: Associates or B.A. degree in Administrative or Business Management. High School diploma with five years' relevant experience will be considered; Ability to work positively with a diverse team of professionals to provide information and support administrative and contracting functions; Experience with budgeting and fiscal procedures, including purchasing; Must be a self-starter and willing to learn process and procedures on the job; Must be able to prioritize activities and schedule time effectively to meet schedules and deadlines; Dependable work habits including regular attendance, and punctuality in all matters concerning work and work assignments; High proficiency with Microsoft Office (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint). An Excel proficiency test may be given during the interviews; Excellent organizational ability. Must be highly motivated and detail oriented; Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Starting salary range: \$51,244.00 – \$66,614.00 Closing date: February 12, 2021. Employment application and full job announcement located <https://www.critfc.org>

Nez Perce Tribe Non-Partisan Primary Election Candidate Filing

JANUARY 15, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 16, 2021

CANDIDATE APPLICATION PACKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH NPTEC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, MARIE BAHHEZA, at (208) 843-2253 STARTING JANUARY 15, 2021.

NPTEC Incumbents are:

Mary Jane Miles

Ferris Paisano III

Shirley Allman

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING CANDIDACY FILING YOU MAY CONTACT THE ELECTIONS JUDGES:
Melissa Guzman – (208) 843-7332 or melissag@nezperce.org
Melissa King – (208) 843-7307 or melissak@nezperce.org
Nicole Two Moon – (208) 669-0115 or nicoletgc@nezperce.org



HELPING COVID-19 PATIENTS

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Many COVID-19 hospital patients depend on convalescent plasma treatment. Give blood and Vitalant will let you know if you have the antibodies to help them.



Q: Is the antibody test FDA approved?

A: Yes. The antibody test is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It will indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, regardless of whether they developed symptoms.



Q: Why is Vitalant testing for COVID-19 antibodies?

A: Vitalant is providing this test at no cost to donors (on all successfully completed donations) to find potential convalescent plasma donors who might be able to help patients currently battling COVID-19. Learn your antibody status (positive or negative) in your online donor account within 2 weeks of donating.



Q: Is Vitalant providing a diagnostic test?

A: No. Vitalant is not testing donors to diagnose illness (referred to as a diagnostic test). In fact, donors must be healthy when they donate. Positive antibody test results do not confirm infection or immunity; a positive antibody test indicates potential exposure to the virus.



Q: What's the difference between a diagnostic test and an antibody test?

A: Antibodies are proteins that help fight off infections. Because antibodies are part of the body's immune response and not the virus itself, antibody testing cannot be used to diagnose current coronavirus infection. To tell if someone has an active infection, a viral nucleic acid test on a nose or throat swab is required. Antibody tests are used to tell if someone had a past infection with SARS-CoV-2.

What does it mean to have a **POSITIVE** COVID-19 antibody test result?

If you have a positive test result, it means that your immune system developed an antibody response to the virus that causes COVID-19. While a positive antibody test does not mean that someone is immune to COVID-19, it does mean that they may be eligible to donate convalescent plasma. False-positive results may occur due to cross-reactivity from pre-existing antibodies or other possible causes. **Learn more at vitalant.org/COVIDfree.**

What does it mean to have a **NEGATIVE** COVID-19 antibody test result?

A negative test result means that antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19 were not found in your blood. It also could mean that antibodies are present but at levels below the test's threshold for detection, or that the test did not recognize those antibodies that a donor made. You remain eligible to donate blood and we encourage you to do so to ensure that blood is always available for patients in your community.

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Make an appointment: vitalant.org

See eligibility: vitalant.org/Donate/Donor-Eligibility

Common antibody testing questions: vitalant.org/antibodytest

Donors will receive their antibody test results within 2 weeks after donation in the Wellness section of their private online donor account.

Need help creating your account? Email address required. **Visit vitalant.org/results**

No computer/internet access? **Call us at 877-25-VITAL (877-258-4825)**

Thank you for saving lives with Vitalant!