Sharing the Prize, Honoring Traditions; Wildcats are State Champs

The Lapwai Wildcats’ boys basketball team and the entire community, who know this team is pretty special, all had one thing on their minds this season.

The Wildcats were surely the favored team to claim a state championship. Almost all of the players from last year’s team returned, including all-state selections Titus Yearout and AJ Ellenwood, and they returned with a vengeance. Lapwai finished third at the State Tournament last year, which contributed to the Wildcat’s hunger, dedication and drive to winning it all with an exclamation point this year, and that’s exactly what they did.

This dominant Lapwai team, who was rarely challenged during the regular season, had more than skill on their side going into the State Tournament. After an easy victory over Prairie for the Whitepine League District Championship, the Wildcats received an inspiring message from NBA star Kyrie Irving. Irving applauded the Wildcats for honoring the ancestors by playing for them and showing humility for their opponents. He also called the boys his brothers, his relatives, his family, and told them they were truly an inspiration.

The Lapwai High School boys basketball program is one of the most successful in Idaho, with a history of 11 State Championships. This team is particularly passionate about representing the Lapwai community and Wildcat Basketball, as this is what they...
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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Physical: 120 Bever Grade
Lapwai, ID 83540

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Latíít’al (la-tee-tall)</th>
<th>“flowering/blooming Season”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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NIMIIIPUU TRIBAL TRIBUNE

Baby | miyapkáawit | me-yup-cow-wit
Backwards | héelekípx | hal-la-kiph
Bad | qepsiis | kep-see-s
Big | himéeq’ís | he-mac-kiss
Blanket | cíickan | tseets-kin
Bloom | latí | law-tee
Blue | yoosyóos | yose-yose
Bread | ‘ipéx | e-pah

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Nez Perce Tribe Recycling Program Newsletter—March 2021

’apaqa’ánno’ ’ee kaa ’epeqíicxnu’ wéetesne
- Respect and take care of the earth.

Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division - Solid Waste and Recycling Program
Lapwai Contacts:  Jon Van Woerkom , (208) 791-3965 or Linda Nemeth, lindan@nezperce.org

Who are those masked men??!!

Meet the new TEAM! Left to right: Jon Van Woerkom, Sonny Wisdom & Costas Guzman.

Please welcome Costas and Sonny when you see them!
And thank them! Why?
Since they were hired in October the shop went from this —>

To THIS!!

"Talkin’ Trash"

March 18th

Global Recycling Day was created to celebrate the importance that recycling plays in preserving the earth’s primary resources, including water, air, coal, oil, natural gas and minerals, and to highlight the need to consider recyclable materials as resources rather than waste. This year’s theme is Recycling Heroes.

We want to thank you all for being our Tribe’s Recycling Heroes!

Plan for Recycling When You Plan an Event!

General Council—Food Distribution—Housing Fair—Sports Tournament?

If you can plan ahead and arrange it, we can provide frames with bags for recycling bottles & cans and/or we can provide a trailer or schedule a pickup for cardboard.

We don’t have the staff to man your event, but we can provide the containers and haul the recycling. Help us help you recycle!

♣ Happy St. Patrick’s Day ♣

Lapwai Recycling Schedule

Community Recycling
March 11 & 25
Pineewaus Parking Lot 11 am -1 pm

Office Collections
March 4 & 18

Latíít’al | March
all have worked for since they were young. There is some chemistry on the team already.

In fact, all of the starters for the Wildcats have been team mates for years, playing AAU basketball together since early grade school. Yearout, Ellenwood and Kross Taylor were coached by Abe Yearout, Titus’ father. While Kase Wynott and Terrell Ellenwood-Jones were coached by Jeremiah Wynott, Kase’s father. Both AAU teams were extremely successful, even when playing up a grade and in elite divisions, for a challenge. Now merged; the two AAU teams heavily contributed to taking the high school basketball program to the next level.

The Wildcats had several scorers on the team, and all meshed well with each other no matter who was on the court.

On the opposite end, Lapwai had a sticky pressure defense with Ellenwood-Jones and Taylor pressuring the ball and causing turnovers for their opponents by playing a faster paced game. Ellenwood-Jones led the league in steals. If teams did make it past Lapwai’s famous smothering trap defense, they’d then be faced with the Wildcat’s big man in the center, Ellenwood; star guard, Yearout; freshman, Wynott; and senior, JC Sobotta all well over 6 feet tall.

Ellenwood caused players to nervously rush shots when they were met by his height and ability to jump, while timing his opponents layins. Ellenwood led the league all year in blocked shots.

Yearout was announced as the Whitepine League’s Player of the Year for the second consecutive season and led another season, with an average of 29.5 points per game. He surpassed 1,500 high school career points in the District Championship game and averaged 7.6 rebounds, 4.6 assists, and 3.2 steals per game. As Lapwai dominated their season, hitting more than 80 points in ten different games, they earned the highest scoring offense in any of Idaho’s six classifications. Lapwai entered the State tournament leading the classification, averaging 76.9 points per game.

Lapwai started out their quest for a State title, facing off against the Liberty Charter Patriots. The Wildcats jumped out to a monster lead and dominated the paint on both ends. The Wildcats beat Liberty Charter 81-35 and met Grace the next day for the semi-final game.

The Grace Hornets beat Lapwai last year in the same semi-final matchup, but that didn’t intimidate the Wildcats one bit. Grace put up a steady fight but wasn’t ever able to get within reach of the Wildcats. Lapwai beat Grace 69-47 and they prepared to meet Riverstone at the Idaho Ford Center to win their first State title since 2018.

March 5th- Championship game, and this team’s first year playing in the Idaho Ford Center. Nerves were high, stomachs were turning but the team believed in themselves and remembered how hard they’ve worked to get to that point. They knew who was watching in the stands, online, and from above. The Wildcats knew they had to finish strong and proud.

Right after tip off, Riverstone was on fire. The Otters took a quick eight-point lead over the Wildcats. However, Lapwai showed no fear. Taylor started hitting 3s after 3, followed by Ellenwood-Jones who also hit 3s after 3; giving Lapwai the lead.

Riverstone was able to come back into the game, cutting Lapwai’s lead by seven, early in the fourth quarter. That was as close as the Otters got, Taylor hit two more 3s followed by solid free throws from the Wildcats. Lapwai went 12-17 from the line.

Wynott converted 10 of 12 free throws, and led the Wildcats with 23 points; Taylor had 22, points which included...
7 3-pointers; Ellenwood-Jones contributed to the score with five 3’s, and totaled 17 points; and Yearout and Ellenwood scored 8 points apiece during the big championship game. Lapwai ran past Riverstone and beat them 82-60. Throughout the entire State Tournament, the Wildcats scored a total of 232 points, hitting 31 3-pointers. Wynott was named the tournament MVP, he averaged 18 points, four rebounds and 2.7 assists. Yearout was a first-team selection, and Ellenwood-Jones and Taylor were both second-team picks.

However, being presented their well-deserved individual awards and championship medals was not all the boys were given. Lapwai is a tight knit, basketball oriented community, full of previous state champions; so it’s become tradition to welcome home the bus of the most recent champs.

At 11:50 p.m. on Friday, March 5, the Lapwai Varsity basketball team passed Webb Road where they were met by Nez Perce Tribal Police and were given a police escort into town, where a large majority of the community was waiting to celebrate and congratulate the team. A long line of parents and fans were also behind the bus, honking and flashing their lights for a massive midnight parade. The bus was headed down Lapwai Main Street when fireworks started. The trophy and championship banner was home, and the boys basketball team was more than happy to share it with the community.

Main Street was decorated with blue and white streamers and balloons, fans cheered, music played, fireworks popped off at both ends of the High School. Some of the Wildcats gave victory speeches, each coach congratulated the team and acknowledged how hard they’ve worked for this result, and the entire crowd joined in to sing the school song, ending with “Victory, Victory, Ours Tonight!”

Lapwai’s AJ Ellenwood and Riverstone’s Nick Liebich jump for the ball in the opening of the 1A Division I State Title game
The Pursuit of Radon on the Nez Perce Reservation

By Johna Boulafentis, ERWM Air Quality

The ERWM Air Quality Program recently began a new indoor air related project. The Nez Perce Tribe is one of nine tribes nationwide to receive funding through the Environmental Protection Agency’s State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG). Over the next two years (and hopefully refunded for future grant cycles), we will build capacity at the Air Quality Program and Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority for radon testing, education, and mitigation. We will also be growing relationships with tribal, federal, and state agencies and organizations to benefit tribal families and communities on the Nez Perce Reservation.

Why Radon? Pre-COVID Pandemic, we spent about 90% of our lives indoors between work, school, and home (source: EPA). In the past year, we’ve learned more about the role of indoor air quality and our health while spending a lot of time inside. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in soil. It enters our homes through cracks in concrete floors, walls, and floor drains. As you breathe, the radon gas can release tiny bursts of energy that can damage living lung tissue and can lead to lung cancer over time. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is higher. Since you can’t see, smell, or taste radon, it may be a problem in your home. In Idaho, two in five homes test high for radon. Testing is the only way to know if your family is at risk from radon. Fortunately, the good news is that testing is inexpensive and easy! We have 10 test kits available for no-charge, first-come, first-serve by the end of March. Otherwise, you can purchase for $10.95 at www.radonidaho.org (includes shipping & test results). Please contact Johna at johnab@nezperce.org or 208.621.3821.

NORTHWEST
TERO Talk

TRIBAL RIGHTS EMPLOYMENT OFFICE NEWS

- New TERO Clients—fill out skills bank apt, need copies of tribal ID, SSC, DL, state ID, high school diploma, GED
- TERO Clients—update your skills bank apt for 2021 year, add any work history, add your resume, add any certificates to your client file
- Sign in Sheet—New/current TERO Clients need to be calling in weekly to sign in, you can email us to sign in, if you use Facebook you can send TERO a message. Or you can stop by the office and sign in on the sign in sheet by our front door.
- We would like to announce that we have a new Nez Perce Tribe TERO Facebook page you can find on social media.
- Reminder—All TERO Clients need to be signing in WEEKLY to be set out on upcoming projects. TERO NEEDS TO HEAR FROM THE CLIENT IF THEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR WORK

UPCOMING EVENTS

TERO IS HOSTING
A Meeting for our upcoming project

CHERRYLANE BRIDGE PROJECT

PRE-EMPLOYMENT PLANNING MEETING

- WHEN: APRIL 7, 2021
- TIME: 5:00PM-7:00PM
- WHERE: PI-NEE-WAUS GYM LAPWAI

TOPICS THAT WILL BE TALKED ABOUT

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

The Pursuit of Radon on the Nez Perce Reservation
Kamiah Senior Receives Support from UYLC and Local First Responders to Coordinate Staged Crash for Teen Awareness

KAMIAH - On Thursday, March 18, 2021, the Kamiah Youth Advisory Board and local first responders will conduct a mock-crash event at Kamiah High School, with the goal of developing safer teen drivers as prom and graduation season approaches.

Kamiah High School Senior Robert Whitney is coordinating the event as part of his senior project to bring awareness to the dangers of driving under the influence. Whitney, who serves as the secretary of the UYLC’s Youth Advisory Board (YAB), will facilitate the mock-crash on March 18 at 1:00pm from the Kamiah High School Football Field.

The mock crash uses real crashed vehicles set up on school grounds and student participants will act out roles as crash victims. The school’s high school student body will watch the demonstration and learn how emergency responders conduct rescue efforts in real-time.

In 2019, a person was killed in an impaired driving crash every 4 days in the state of Idaho. Fatalities resulting from impaired driving crashes increased in 2019 by 26.9 percent and 44 percent of all fatalities resulted from impaired driving. Of the 99 people killed in impaired driving crashes, 82 (83 percent) were either the impaired driver, a person riding with an impaired driver, or an impaired pedestrian.

The Kamiah YAB is using the event to remind parents/guardians about the importance of on-going conversation with their children to reinforce teen driving laws, and to set their own family driving rules to protect them from being injured or killed in a crash.

Interested parents and community members are invited to attend.

Coeur d’Alene Tribe Updates Fishing and Hunting Regulations

Plummer, ID – The Coeur d’Alene Tribe has issued updated fishing and hunting regulations, including fee changes, to better protect fish and wildlife resources on the Coeur d’Alene Reservation and respond to increasing demand from sportsmen. The biggest change means higher fees for non-Reservation residents than for Reservation residents, mirroring changes implemented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game statewide this year for non-residents. The Tribe has hired a full-time conservation officer to enforce the new regulations, which in large part drove the cost increases.

“We have seen a sharp increase in participation recently, particularly from non-resident big game hunters,” said Caj Matheson, Director of Natural Resources for the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. “We have been hearing concerns from local folks—Native and non-Native alike—about that, ranging from hunting pressure to safety concerns. We want to be responsive to our community and most of all manage the resource in a sustainable manner.”

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe last issued substantive changes to its fishing and hunting regulations in 1988. Fees for non-Tribal hunting and fishing have remained the same during that time, despite increases in area population, management costs, and demands on resources. The Coeur d’Alene Tribe is one of the few tribes in the United States to allow non-tribal members to hunt and fish on Tribal lands, and in order to continue offering that opportunity the changes were necessary. To review the updated regulations, please visit the Tribe’s website at https://www.cdatribe-nsn.gov/nr/wildlife/ or stop by one of the vendors.

Rent & Utility Assistance

Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority New Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Rent & Utility Assistance
Are you affected by COVID-19?

For Renters only
Preference for any Enrolled Native American Households Serving the 1955 Nez Perce Reservation Boundary

Includes Lewiston/Clarkston/Pullman/Moscow/Grangeville/Joseph

Complete the online application at http://nezperce.org/government/housing/or contact NPTHA for application package

Documentation required:
- Rental contract
- Utilities
- Household Income
- Covid eligibility

Any questions call (208) 843-2229 or email NPTHA@nezperce.org

Funds provided by US Treasury for Emergency Rental Assistance
Biden Appointments, Including Nez Perce Fisheries Champion, Bolster Native American Presence in Federal Government

By Lynda V. Mapes
Seattle Times environment reporter

There’s a saying in Indian Country: either you are at the table, or you are on the menu.

Appointments by the Biden administration now in the works would put American Indian and Alaska Native people very much at the table, including posts where Native people have never before served, with enormous influence over lands and waters and environmental policy across the U.S.

The appointments, some already made and others under consideration, are a redemptive moment for federal agencies that in the past terminated the federal relationship with tribes, destroyed tribal fisheries and worked hard to eliminate tribal cultures. The biggest appointment, still to be confirmed by Congress, is that of U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland, of New Mexico and a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, to serve as secretary of the Department of the Interior. Other appointments include Robert Anderson, who would be one of Haaland’s top lawyers, and Jaime Pinkham, a Nez Perce tribal member, to a top post at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

David Z. Bean, council member for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, an important donor in federal and state elections, called the appointments “both historic and exciting. It is going to change the conversation, and right the wrong of so many wrongs through the years.”

While they run their own governments and nations, tribes care deeply about the partners they work with at every level of government. That is because the exercise of tribal sovereignty and even the most fundamental aspects of protecting and continuing their way of life depend on productive government-to-government relationships.

Haaland’s potential confirmation holds significant promise, Bean said.

“With her historic and eventual confirmation, she will be the first Native American to head an agency that had one time charged itself with the destruction of our people,” Bean said.

During the so-called Termination Era from 1953 to 1969, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, under the Department of Interior, oversaw the termination of federal relations with more than 100 tribal governments across the country, and the relocation of tribal members from their communities and reservations to live in cities, including Seattle.

Earlier, beginning in the 1870s, Indian children were also taken from their families and sent to boarding schools whose mission under U.S. federal policy was to destroy their tribal culture. The legacy of trauma inflicted by the schools, some of which operated under what would become known as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, continues today.

Indian leaders who grew up hearing their parents’ and elders’ stories honor what their elders survived, and the changes underway today.

“My dad and so many elders literally went through blood, sweat and tears to fight for who we are,” said Willie Frank Jr. III, a Nisqually tribal council member. He is the son of Billy Frank Jr., a nationally celebrated treaty rights activist jailed dozens of times for his defense of tribal treaty fishing rights.

A statue of his father, who died in 2014, is now under consideration by state lawmakers to replace missionary Marcus Whitman as one of two statues representing Washington state in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol. Meanwhile, other native leaders around the region also are being tapped for important appointments.

Anderson would be one of Haaland’s top lawyers if she is confirmed. He has been appointed principal deputy solicitor at the Department of Interior.

He is enrolled in the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and taught at the University of Washington School of Law and directed its Native American Law Center for the past 20 years. He also for more than a decade has been a visiting professor at the Harvard Law School.

Pinkham, a Nez Perce tribal member and treaty fishing rights champion as executive director of the Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, has been invited by the Biden Administration to serve a primary deputy secretary for civil works at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps has significant impact nationwide on the lands and particularly the waters of the U.S., including jurisdiction over permitting for pipelines, construction in wetlands, and the operation, maintenance and construction of dams.

Pinkham’s appointment comes as Congressman Mike Simpson, a Republican of Idaho has put forward a massive proposal for removal of four dams on the Lower Snake River and replacement of their benefits for river users, as part of a federal fisheries restoration, energy and transportation package in the Northwest.

For Shannon Wheeler, chairman of the Nez Perce tribe, Pinkham’s appointment is a matter of pride and
Jaime Pinkham has been appointed to a top post at the Army Corps of Engineers in the agency’s civil works division. He is a Nez Perce tribal member, seen here at Rapid River outside Riggins, Idaho. “The smile is about being Nez Perce just like my ancestors,” Pinkham said. (Photo by Tija Karklis)

Pinkham Continued from Page 8

opportunity to have someone in such an important position at such an important time. Pinkham already understands tribal treaty fishing rights and the federal relationship with tribes, Wheeler said. “I am really smiling a lot right now,” Wheeler said. “He brings a lot to the table and a wealth of knowledge. Definitely, native nations are abuzz right now.

“We are at a critical juncture. Sometimes, that is how the Creator works,” Wheeler said, with the right person in the right time in the right place when change needs to occur. “Not everyone will see it that way, but we as Nez Perce do,” Wheeler said.

Pinkham earned praise far beyond tribal circles from his years of work both as an elected official at Nez Perce, at the fish commission, and working at a foundation and on the boards of nonprofits.

Elliot Mainzer, former administrator at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), praised Pinkham as someone good at seeking solutions even in very contentious issues. The two worked together on negotiations for a 2018 agreement governing

the spill of water over dams to benefit salmon in their migration to the sea.

“We called this carrying water for each other,” Mainzer said. “Jaime was just a great partner during my time at BPA. He has such a unique skill set and background, he is such a great collaborator.”

The appointment is a good sign for the region, said Mainzer, who is now the CEO for the California Independent System Operator, which manages and markets power sold to the Western grid. “I think this signals a genuine willingness of people to sit down at the table and listen to each other in different ways to think long-term for the good of the region.”

W. Ron Allen, chairman of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, said the appointments are no accident. Indian leaders have been very clear they want the Biden Administration to put Native people in high-level jobs and especially where they were not typically, or even ever held by Native people.

Allen noted the advancement in consideration of Debra Lekanoff, an Aleut-Tlingit Native and Democratic representative from the 40th District, for director of Region 10 for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Region 10 director has jurisdiction over environmental affairs in a vast region of the Northwest, encompassing the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and 271 tribal nations.

If appointed, Lekanoff would be the first Native American to hold the post.

In addition to her service in the Legislature, Lekanoff has decades of experience working with local, state, and federal governments as the intergovernmental affairs director for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

That is the kind of track record that is delivering so many qualified Native candidates for top positions, Allen said.

Pinkham, for instance, at 64, has built a diverse career, starting out in forestry. He got his first look at politics on the days he took off his boots and suspenders to serve as an intern for state lawmakers, while employed in forestry by the state Department of Natural Resources.

Pinkham went on from forestry jobs first at DNR and then the Bureau of Indian Affairs to managing natural resources for the Nez Perce Tribe and serving as treasurer elected to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee. He also worked at a private foundation to strengthen native governance at tribes in North and South Dakota and Minnesota, in addition to serving on the boards of multiple nonprofits.

For all his professional success, and now with a move coming to Washington D.C., Pinkham said he always knows where home is: with his family, in his cabin on the reservation; at elk camp, or, he said with pride, “sitting at a round drum, singing the old songs, in the old ways.”

Lynda V. Mapes: 206-464-2515 or lmapes@seattletimes.com; on Twitter: @LyndaVMapes. Lynda specializes in coverage of the environment, natural history, and Native American tribes.

Congratulations
Shirley Guzman

Shirley V. Guzman, daughter of Oscar “Bub” and Diania Guzman, graduated from Lewis Clark State College in December 2020 where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. After graduating, Shirley continued prepping for the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX), which she successfully completed on February 26, 2021. Thereby fulfilling the requirements to begin practicing as a Registered Nurse.

Shirley has always had a passion for medicine and wishes to be a shining light during times of hardship and healing. Shirley comes from a long line of health professionals as her paternal great-grandmother Isabelle Walker was a CNA at the Mental Health Hospital in Orofino, her paternal grandaunt Connie Evans a retired family nurse practitioner (FNP), along with her maternal grandaunt Karen Ottinger, former CRNA. Shirley has accepted a position with Swedish Medical Center in Issaquah, WA where she will be in the Nurse Residency Program on the general medical floor. Shirley is also the granddaughter of Shirley A. Guzman and the late Oscar A. Guzman, and Virginia and James Bailey. Her paternal grandparents were the late Lymus and Isabelle Walker.
NPAIHB Vaccine Success

Stories: With the hardship we have all experienced this last year, it is easy to overlook what an amazing success the new COVID-19 vaccines are! All three vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and the one-dose Johnson and Johnson, offer excellent protection from severe illness and disease and have reported 100% effectiveness in preventing hospitalizations and deaths in their clinical trials. And, now these results are being confirmed in real world settings. These remarkable results make these vaccines similar to some of the best vaccines ever created, such as those for chickenpox, measles, and polio.

These vaccines are also very safe. Safety monitoring for them is the most comprehensive in U.S. history. Two systems monitor vaccine safety, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), and v-safe, a system established by CDC specifically for COVID-19. In the first month of monitoring, no unexpected reactions or safety concerns have been identified. These include digital and social media but also “old school” methods like print media, phone trees, one-on-one conversations, radio messages, and flyers sent home to elders with food baskets. Underlying it all, has been our deep commitment to protect our communities and strong sovereignty, and creative communications. Sovereignty gives Tribes the flexibility to decide how best to vaccinate their communities, reducing vaccine waste and allowing for faster vaccinations. Multiple types of communications are being used to make sure communities are aware of the importance of being vaccinated and vaccination events. These include digital and social media but also “old school” methods like print media, phone trees, one-on-one conversations, radio messages, and flyers sent home to elders with food baskets. Underlying it all, has been our deep commitment to protect our communities and strong leaders who advocate for the health and welfare of their Tribes. Each person who gets vaccinated is doing their part to protect our community, too. A new survey of American Indian and Alaska Native people by the Urban Indian Health Institute, found that among all surveyed, 75% were willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and 74% of those believing getting vaccinated is their responsibility to their community. As Derrick Belgarde, deputy director of the Chief Seattle Club, said in one article, “We don’t take the vaccine for ourselves. We take it for our community.”

Next Steps: New guidance from the CDC allows some flexibility to people who are fully vaccinated! Fully vaccinated means two weeks after your second dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or two weeks after your one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Now fully vaccinated people can:

• Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
• Visit with unvaccinated people indoors from ONE household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease without wearing masks or physical distancing.

Avoid quarantine and testing following exposure to COVID-19 if without symptoms.

Keep Up the Precautions

The new vaccines will protect us from severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and will help end the pandemic, but there are still some unknowns. It is unknown if vaccinated people can carry the virus without showing symptoms and accidentally spread it to others who are unvaccinated. There are also new variants of the virus and it is unknown how much, or if, vaccinated people are susceptible to them. Researchers are working hard to answer these questions, but it may take a few more months. Until then, there are some important things we can all do to help keep our families and community safe until we return to normal.

• Get vaccinated and encourage others to get vaccinated. Reaching “community immunity” is necessary to end the pandemic. Researchers believe that 85% or more of the population needs to be vaccinated to reach this goal.
• Continue to practice masking and social distancing outside your home; avoid crowded indoor settings; and wash your hands regularly. Native people have the highest rate of death from COVID-19 in the country. These small things can continue to protect our communities until we are all safe.
• If you, or others you know, are feeling sick, make sure to be tested for COVID-19. Testing is still very important to control the spread of this virus.

Nimipuu Health would like to congratulate Ms. Deborah Everett on her transfer from infection control to a Certified Nursing Assistant. Deborah has been on the NMPH team since 2020. Before she came on board with us, she had put in over 10 years of service to the Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises working as a custodian on graveyard. She has expressed that she has done so much already while being employed with NMPH, and she is looking forward to what awaits in the future.

In her off time, Deborah loves cooking for her family and friends! She enjoys making people feel great about themselves and brightening up their day. A quote she likes to remember is, “Everybody wants happiness and nobody wants pain, but you can’t have a rainbow without a little rain.”

Congratulations to you Deborah! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact her using the information listed.

Deborah Everett
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
Email: deborah.e@nimipuu.org
Phone: (208) 843-3271

Nimipuu Health
111 Bever Grade Road
P.O. Drawer 367
Lapwai, ID 83540

The Nimipuu Health NMPHI Clinic is pleased to introduce Cara Wilson to the Administrative Department, as the new Communications Specialist. Ms. Wilson is a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, with three years of experience as the Player Development/Social Media Specialist for the Nez Perce Tribe Enterprises. Ms. Wilson transferred to Eastern Washington University in 2006 from Lewis-Clark State College. At EWU Ms. Wilson majored in Communications with a minor in American Indian Studies where she graduated in 2011 with her Bachelors Degree.

Following graduation, Cara returned home where she began working at the Clearwater River Casino. She held various positions at Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises as well as with the Nez Perce Tribe. In April of 2018 she was hired on at NPTF as a Player Development/Social Media Specialist working on website development, social media management as well as responding to customer comments.

In February 2021, Ms. Wilson accepted a newly created Communications Specialist position here at Nimipuu Health. She saw it as an opportunity to apply all the knowledge she has learned as well as expanding on social media, creating and developing new content for Nimipuu Health.

Through open dialogue with Management and the Tribe, she hopes to actively inform and interact with patients and the community on the dealings of Nimipuu Health. If you see Cara, please welcome her to the NMPH staff or if you have questions, please contact her with the information listed.

Cara Wilson
Administrative Office Communications Specialist
Email: carawilson@nimipuu.org
Phone: (208) 621-4552

Nimipuu Health
111 Bever Grade Road
P.O. Drawer 367
Lapwai, ID 83540
Please help us in welcoming Douglas (Mike) Delorme to the Nimipuu Health Team. Mike is our newly hired Community Health Transportation Aide on the Pandemic Response Team. Prior to coming on board, Mike served in the capacity of a Shuttle Driver for the Clearwater River Casino (CRC) from 2017 to 2020. He also has extensive knowledge and experience in the field of surveillance, having worked as a Surveillance Officer at several businesses including CRC and the Cascade Lanes Casino in Renton, Washington. Mike is currently in his junior year at Lewis-Clark State College, working on his bachelor’s degree in Business Management. In his leisurely time, Mike enjoys hunting, fishing and golf. In the words of our new team member, “Life is Great”! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mike using the information listed.

We would like to congratulate Nikki Davis, on her transfer of title from Receptionist to Patient Care Coordinator. Ms. Davis is a Nez Perce Tribal member and became a NIMHI employee of the Nursing Department on July 13th, 2020. Nikki has an extensive background working for the Nez Perce Tribal entities. After High School, she first began work at the Clearwater River Casino (CRC), when it was first being opened in the mid-90’s. At the CRC, Nikki served in multiple capacities from 1997 to 2007. From 2002 to 2007, Nikki was employed at the U.S.D.A. Food & Nutrition Program of the Nez Perce Tribe. She was an Administrative Assistant there. After graduating High School, Nikki first attended Washington State University and then Lewis-Clark State College. Currently, Nikki is attending the North West Indian College—pursuing a Tribal Governance and Business Management degree. Ms. Nikki Davis is a valuable team member of the Nimipuu Health Clinic and we are happy she is a part of our team. Nikki is always striving to learn new concepts and solutions in an ever-changing world. If you see Ms. Davis on your next Clinic visit, please greet her. Nikki joins a team of dedicated staff in the Nursing and Medical Departments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nikki by using the information provided.

We welcome Ms. Jolanda Villalobos (Jolie) back to Nimipuu Health’s team as our newly hired Billing Technician I. Jolie has extensive knowledge in medical office setting and outstanding customer service skills. She has years of experience at both Nimipuu Health serving as the Clinical Applications Coordinator/MI Coord from 2014 to 2015 and Tri-State Memorial Hospital as the ROI Clerk from 2017 to 2021. Jolie is an eight-year-old daughter attending school here in the community. With her transition back to Nimipuu Health, she is happy to commute less and be closer to her daughter. They enjoy hanging out with family and going to the movies. As Jolie returns to the team in the capacity of the Billing Technician I, we are pleased to welcome her back. She shares the sentiments by saying, “I’m happy to be back at Nimipuu Health!” If you have questions, please feel free to contact her using the information listed.

Nimipuu Health would like to congratulate Mrs. Trina Joye Rogers on her transfer from Patient Care Coordinator to Purchased Referred Care Specialist. Trina has been with Nimipuu Health a little over 6 years now, starting out as a scheduler. Before joining our team here, she was an optician at Affordable Optics and Sears Optical, but many people know her from working for 15 years at Fashion Bug starting in 1996. In her off time, Trina enjoys doing crafts such as beadwork earrings, sewing, crochet, scrapbooking and using her cricut machine. She even has a large room dedicated to her crafts. When she isn’t crafting, Trina loves spending time with her wonderful husband Tom whom she’s been married to almost 31 years. Congratulations on your transfer Trina! If you have questions, please feel free to contact her using the information listed.
QUESTIONS ANSWERED
QUESTIONS FROM FEBRUARY FB LIVES ANSWERED BY DR. HARTWIG

HOW LONG IS THE VACCINE GOOD FOR?
We are not certain how long the COVID 19 vaccine will be effective. There are ongoing studies to help identify this duration.

SHOULD KIDS GET VACCINATED? IF SO WHEN?
There is only one vaccination available for children at this time aged 16 and older, which is the Pfizer vaccine. We do not have this vaccine available secondary to the storage requirements. There are ongoing studies in children older than 12 years of age and once the safety studies have been conducted and reviewed, vaccine will be available.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE VACCINE?
The Moderna vaccine statistics show that it is 94.1% effective. This means that if 100 people received the vaccine, 94 of them would not get COVID 19.

WHY DO I HAVE TO WAIT 90 DAYS TO GET THE VACCINE AFTER HAVING HAD THE VIRUS?
The 90 day waiting period after one has been infected with COVID 19 is a prioritization criteria because we believe that somebody who has had COVID 19, has mounted some immune response for protection. Vaccination availability is still limited and in our process of prioritizing patients who need the vaccine, somebody who has recently had the COVID 19 infection has protection for at least 90 days. You are protected after having COVID 19 for 90 days, at least, and as such we are providing vaccinations to others who do not have any protection from COVID 19.

SOME PEOPLE REPORT HAVING LUMPS ON THEIR NECKS AFTER A SHOT, CAN YOU SPEAK TO THAT?
The lumps that may be occurring after receipt of a COVID 19 vaccine may be an enlarged lymph node which is an organ of your immune system. The function of the lymph node is to create the antibodies to fight a future infection. Having the reactive lymph node, or lump, that may be observed means your immune system is doing its job.

I AM KINDA WARY ABOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS! MY HEALTH HASN’T BEEN ABLE TO PUT UP WITH EXTRA PROBLEMS! JUST WONDERING ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD DO?
The side effects that are experienced after receiving the vaccination are your immune system mounting the appropriate immune response to protect you from a future infection with COVID 19. I would encourage all of our community members to receive the COVID 19 vaccine to help reduce the risk of having any long-term complications if you got the COVID 19 infection. The side effects are not pleasant, personally speaking, but the protection of the vaccine provides is worth the couple day experience of side effects, in my opinion.

AFTER RECEIVING BOTH DOSES, IF YOU ARE EXPOSED, DO YOU STILL NEED TO QUARANTINE?
If you have received 2 doses of the Moderna vaccine and it has been 2 weeks since the last dose, you do not need to quarantine if you have been exposed to a known positive COVID 19 case. The Janssen vaccination will also require 2 weeks after vaccination receipt to not quarantine.

FOR LOW RISK PEOPLE ON RESERVATIONS WILL HHS BE ANNOUNCING VACCINATION CLINICS?
Nimipuu Health is currently vaccinating all Nimipuu Health beneficiaries 18 and older, regardless of underlying medical conditions. This means that those “low risk” people are receiving vaccination in our community if they are 18 years of age and older.

AFTER YOUR FIRST ROUND HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE TO WAIT TO RECEIVE THE SECOND ONE?
The Moderna vaccination requires a 28 day waiting period after the first vaccine is provided for you to receive the second dose. The Pfizer vaccination, which we do not have, requires a 21 day waiting period after the first vaccine is provided to receive the second dose. The Janssen vaccine is a single dose vaccination.

HERD IMMUNITY IS FACTUAL?
Herd immunity is factual but the range at which this is reached varies from 70-85%. The herd immunity concept relays the percentage of the population that needs to be immunized, naturally or with a vaccine, 2 foster protection to those who are not immunized by either method. A naturally immunized person is somebody who actually had the infection. A vaccinated person receives immunization from the vaccine.

CAN TRIBAL MEMBERS COME HOME TO BE VACCINATED?
Nimipuu Health has prioritized patients who are in our intermediate community and have used our facility in the preceding 2 years. Because vaccinations are in limited supply, we have to set some prioritization for distribution. When vaccinations become more readily available, tribal members can come home to get vaccinated. We will notify tribal membership when this threshold has been reached.
WHEN YOU’VE BEEN FULLY VACCINATED

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about them, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

We’re still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you’ve been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 ft. apart, & avoiding crowds & poorly ventilated spaces until we know more.

WHAT’S CHANGED

If you’ve been fully vaccinated:
You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (such as visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
If you’ve been around someone who has COVID-19, you don’t need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional/detention facility, group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you are asymptomatic.

WHAT HASN’T CHANGED

For now, if you’ve been fully vaccinated:
-You should still take steps to protect yourself and others by wearing a mask, staying at least 6 ft. apart, & avoiding crowds & poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are: in public, gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household, or visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 or who lives with a person at increased risk.
You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.
You should still delay medium and international travel. If you do travel, follow CDC requirements and recommendations.
Watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you’ve been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, get tested and stay home and away from others.
Follow guidance at your workplace.

WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE’RE STILL LEARNING

We know that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 disease, especially severe illness and death.
We’re still learning how effective the vaccines are against variants of the virus that cause COVID-19. Early data show the vaccines may work against some variants but could be less effective against others.
We know that other prevention steps help stop the spread of COVID-19, and that these steps are still important, even as vaccines are being distributed.
We’re still learning how well COVID-19 vaccines keep people from spreading the disease. Early data shows that the vaccines may help keep people from spreading COVID-19, but we are learning more as more people get vaccinated.
We’re still learning how long COVID-19 vaccines can protect people.
As we know more, CDC will continue to update our recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.
Until we know more about those questions, everyone — even people who’ve had their vaccines — should continue taking basic prevention steps when recommended.
Dr. Leslie Randall Remembered

Robertas José-Bisbee, Executive Director, Nimiipuu Health.

We wanted to share the beautifully written article by Dr. Teshia Solomon, Native American Research Training Center, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

A Tribute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. Leslie L. Randall, RN, MPH, BSN, PhD On March 1, 2021 I lost my very dear friend, Leslie. She went out in the way I expected her to, the way I knew her best – fighting. As I reflect on our friendship and on our escapades together, I realize that she perhaps more than any other person mentored my career. We were colleagues and contemporaries, and I never thought of her as a mentor before now, but she was. In this tribute I offer my reflections on her as my friend but also as the country’s foremost scholar and advocate of American Indian maternal and child health and fighter for the rights of Native American people both as a community and as individuals. I want generations to know how dedicated she was and that she is a role model for any young Nez Perce woman and for all of us. Leslie held a long and distinguished career in maternal and child health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She worked along the likes of Dr. Tom Welty with the Tribes in South Dakota. I met her through Dr. Perry with the Tribes in South Dakota. I met her through the American Public Health Association, American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Caucus. She was Chairperson of the Programs Committee and invited me to be, well, the committee. I was young and fresh and in my doctoral program, hoping to be a conduit between the Caucus and the largest section, Public Health Education and Health Promotion. I was trying to get more visibility for Native issues. Leslie made that happen by simply inviting me to help her with the programs. Back then we did everything by hand (God I sound old), meaning the system was not computerized so we printed out the abstracts and went through them one by one. We only had 4 sessions, but Leslie insisted we find a way for everybody to get a chance to speak. They may only get a few minutes, but it was important to be inclusive. When she became Chair of the Caucus, I became Chair of the Program section. Through this connection she proposed a pre-conference workshop on how to respectfully conduct research in Indian Country. She asked me to help put it together and to moderate the workshop. I thought it was a good session, but I was just helping out my friend. I had no idea how this would shape the rest of our careers together and how it would influence decades later, the conversation around tribal data ownership and the ethical conduct of research.

APHA approached us afterwards and asked us to repeat the workshop the following year, that it was one of the best attended. Dr. Wendy Perry, from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality was in the audience. She liked it so much she asked us to repeat it at the annual conference in Denver. From there, Dr. Perry provided some funding and asked Leslie to take the workshop presentations and turn them into papers to be printed as a monograph. Leslie asked me to co-edit the monograph. At each of these invitations, I asked why me? And Leslie would always say something like, “you’ve always thought I must have “sucker” written on my forehead. When I told my mentoring committee at the University of Texas about my editorship, they told me to decline the offer, it was too much work for an Assistant Professor. I told them, too late, I’d already made the commitment. They didn’t know, nor did I, the major impact that would make on my career. Honestly, Leslie couldn’t have known either, but I do know that she was always looking out for me. And not just me, but other young Native scholars as well. She had a web of connections and she used that to the greatest advantage, to bring people together, to open doors to opportunities otherwise out of reach.

What started out as a monograph became a book, Conducting Health Research with Native American Communities, published by the APHA. Leslie was the catalyst in breathing life into it, I was the task master. This book has been the backbone of...
Randall Continued

I was fortunate to have the time
was a wife, a mother, a grandmother.
She was a scholar and
insisting on equality and respect.
I don’t like loud women stomping
don’t like rabble rousers. They
remember her. Bureaucracies
science community need to
behind and why the health and
That is the legacy she leaves
of relationships that bind us all.
of education and the dynamics
of service to humanity, devotion to
promotes a life’s purpose through
woman of faith in Baha’i which
lived her faith. She was a strong
and again, standing up for them
Dr. Leslie Randall was a
light on their unique concerns.
them the platform to shine the
Liam and Leslie, such love,
doing it with such love. But that
husband to do that, much less
Liam, would pack her bags for her.
and then jealous to see what she
were sisters. I was always curious
she took on Ted Turner and the
about that adventure as the time
made because I hustled her out
Later that day, we would run into
it was their number one priority.
and she let the manager know in
room they were moving us to.
next day, Leslie called me out of
a bandana over her face. The
out over the physician and nurse
educator mothering/nagging won
I just want to note, that health
take care of it in the morning.
unpacked and said we would
wanted to change rooms, but
knew it was potentially deadly
was knocked back by the stench
came in late and immediately
ended up everywhere. I was so
loved her hair, that she would flirtatiously
hair, that she would flip over her shoulder when she
spoke just to make me jealous;
that hair, took FOREVER to
take FOREVER to
be washed and of course, it
ended up everywhere. I was so
jealous of that Pocahontas hair!
As she loved Liam, she
loved her boys and Natalie. She
adored her boys in a fierce and
protective way. She spoke of them
with much love and treated these
young men who towered a foot
above her with such tenderness.
And Natalie? Well, when little miss
Natalie came along, Leslie’s heart
turned to Jello. That adorable
beauty is her grandmother’s
precious charm. She would send
me pictures and stories and then
when Facebook took off, we all
enjoyed watching Natalie grow up.
Leslie was the best friend
you could ask for. She was
generous with all that she had.
Even when what she had was
so very little. Fresh huckleberry
jam that I squirreled away.
Material! Oh my, when we went
shopping at the Pendleton outlet,
lord get out of that girl’s way.
She always had your back and
would defend you to
the death. She was brilliant. She
was funny. She was joyful and
playful and intensely serious
and dedicated at the same time.
She was a blessing to me and
a blessing to you, even if you
didn’t know her. She fought for
you too, so you could live a long
healthy life. This is what public
servants do. This is what strong
Native women do. And we owe
them our respect and gratitude.
Thank you, Leslie. May you
continue to walk in beauty even
in your ugly ass crocs. Yakoke!

With love, Teshia

COMMUNITY

CHIEF JOSEPH FOUNDATION

Ewing Arena Manager

Seeking motivated, experienced, and hard-working candidate
for managing indoor Ewing arena at Spalding, Idaho.

The candidate will need to put together a functioning equine center.
hosting a dozen rented stalls, from the ground up!

Required Experience: Extensive equine experience. Ability to work well with
children and teach all areas or horsemanship. Knowledge of feeding and nutrition,
horse care, and customer service. Valid driver’s license and experience driving a
pickup truck and hauling a large horse trailer.

Duties include: Moving irrigation equipment in fields. Participate in area trail rides.
Feed horses 2x daily, clean stalls, order feed and bedding and pick up from
supplier. Driver’s license is a must. No smokers. Must be a team player. Board book
Candidate should be prepared to offer lessons and/or training and work with local
area trainers.

Preferred Experience: Familiar with QuickBooks and Excel spreadsheets.

Candidate will also promote rental of indoor arena, manage barn memberships, and
advertise boarding services locally. Salary may include horse board and incentives
for maintaining a full arena schedule. All other duties entailed in the operation of a
very busy equine center. Compensation negotiable with experience. Please see
Chief Joseph Foundation website for full list of duties.
Deer Cultivates her Indigenous Roots with a Fashion Line

By Citizen Potawatomi Nation, potawatomi.org

By day, she works at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center as production assistant, but by night, she makes a name for herself in the fashion world. Native American apparel designer Leslie Deer has been building her fashion line for 20 years, applying traditional Muscogee designs in her contemporary womenswear collections.

“My mother was really interested in fashion and she was a very stylish lady when I was young,” Deer said. “I’m partially inspired by her and partially just because I like to play with colors, sketch things, and create. I’m also inspired by my tribal background and I like to apply that — I just use apparel as an outlet.”

Deer applies southeastern Mound Builder designs on fabric using a sewing technique called applique, or ornamental needlework. She said her garment making developed as a necessity more than 20 years ago when she was a cast member in a Native American dance company that toured roughly nine months a year.

“When you only have one or two dresses and you have to wear them about eight times a week it gets kind of old, so I decided I wanted to start making more outfits for myself,” she said.

Deer sewed well enough to make her own regalia. She was pleased when the completed pieces had same-length sleeves and didn’t fall apart. People started asking Deer to create regalia for them as well, which encouraged her to more seriously pursue fashion design.

“I started doing a few Native American art markets, but at one point I realized that I...
really didn’t have the complete set of skills to make garments to fit just anybody,” she said. “I could fit myself okay, but I didn’t really understand how to make patterns that could fit other people.”

She went back to school and earned a bachelor’s degree in apparel design to understand fashion techniques like pattern drafting and draping to build her confidence and skillset. “I think that’s kind of what launched me into taking it to the next level,” she said.

It’s been a long process. After graduating two years ago with her second bachelor’s degree in apparel design and production from Oklahoma State University, one of her professors recommended to Deer that she join the Her Art: Women Art Fashion event. The July Her Art event, held at 21c Museum Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, blended art and fashion and showcased local, national and international artists in a fundraiser for Oklahoma City-based nonprofit Institute of Economic Empowerment of Women, which mentors and educates women in war-torn and impoverished countries about launching their own small businesses.

“I had a great experience at that show,” she said. “It’s always nice to be able to put your designs in front of other people and share a little of your culture. That’s always something that I welcome.”

Deer said she is proud of her newest and favorite piece. “It’s a full-length dress of silk velvet,” she said. “I hand-painted the velvet and I have southeastern designs that are laser engraved into the velvet from the hem of the dress going up about halfway.”

The most rewarding part about being a designer is showing her work, something Deer does often at art markets. Last summer, Deer designed a dress inspired by traditional Muscogee tribe bandoleer bags, and it was purchased by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian. “I made a dress out of wool and did a lot of beadwork using antique Italian glass beads,” she said. “I used some of our tribal designs from the Mound Builder culture again and beaded those onto the dress.”

She showed the garment at several art markets before it became a permanent part of the Smithsonian’s collection. “It really is a great honor to have something there, to know that it will be cared for there and preserved for years and years to come,” Deer said.

Deer won two awards at the 2017 Santa Fe Artists Market in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her submission, a hand painted silk velvet dress with laser engraving, won first place in the Contemporary Garments juried contest and best of Division-D Contemporary Dress. She will also submit her work at the Cherokee Art Market Oct. 14-15 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. “In the next five years, I hope to grow and expand my business and to be a lot more of a recognizable name and designer in the Native community and beyond,” Deer said.

Learn more about Deer and her fashion line at ladeerapparel.com.

SAVE THE DATE
Your Invited to:
Leslie Deer, Muscogee Nation, Presentation
How to Build for Success As a Native Clothing Designer Entrepreneur
by Zoom
April 9, 2021
6:00pm
(Link to be announced)

Open House to Meet Leslie Deer
April 10, 2021 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
New Boards & Commissions Building
Free Self Help Instructions on Applying Native Designs by Applique to a Hand Bag (Available soon)
Vickie Lee Nielson, 63, died Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, from pulmonary embolism and eventual heart failure after being hospitalized two days prior when her daughters tricked her stubborn butt into going to the hospital.

She is survived by her four daughters, Trisha Williams, Credence Tilden, Sabrina Wakefield and Sheena Williams; sons-in-law, Eric Tilden and Beau Wakefield; precious grandchildren, Embry Williams, Serenity and Gabriel Wakefield, Nicoli Tilden and Arianah, Colin and Gabriel Philippe as well as Katie Fidler and her daughter, Anneli; her parents, Bill and Sylvia Nielson; and three brothers, Tom, Rob and Tim Nielson.

She is greeted in heaven by her grandmother, Erma Thomason, with whom she was very close. They are likely sitting in the hot springs of heaven, telling stories, surrounded by all of mom’s past pets.

She became like family to many at the Nez Perce Tribe after over 20 years as the Account Technician for Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority. Prior to those years, she was a financial superstar at the Lewiston Walmart, where she met her best friend, Mike Fidler. Some may know her from River City Church or churches formerly known as Valley Christian Center and Acts Church. She was born in Burley, Idaho, and lived in many places in the Western U.S. throughout her childhood, as well as during her marriage to Frank Williams from 1982 to 1994.

She was all about her family, and we were all about her. She loved God, playing in the water, card games, camping, story-telling, pets and every kind of adventure. She told you how it was whether you wanted to hear it or not. She stroked buzz cuts, patted butts and hugged everyone. She loved you all even as she pointed out what you were doing wrong. She laughed when you fell even as she helped you up. You could count on her to talk you into crazy, spontaneous escapades, often leading to blunders that made for comedic stories. Feisty, fun, friendly, fierce, wild, whimsical, warm and protective. We thought this quote by R.H. Sin was fitting: “Sometimes an angel, sometimes a hell raiser, always a strong woman.”

Join us to celebrate her life at 3 p.m. Friday, March 12, at Echo Hills Church, 3215 Echo Hills Drive, Lewiston. Expect that she will arrive 15 minutes late, as was always her way. She would not want anyone to make a fuss or become ill, so know that we are recording the service, and masks are encouraged. That being said, she was loved by many, so we hope the venue will be large enough to allow for distanced seating.

Lapwai, ID

Entry Fee: $400 (HS) Pay 1/2 to secure spot School Year +1
Entry Fee: $350 (youth) Pay 1/2 to secure spot 2020/2021

$10 For Weekend Pass / Verifications due APRIL 9th & 30th Social Distancing / Hourly Disinfecting of Courts / Masks Mandatory
HOST HOTELS: Clearwater River Casino 208-298-1400, $89/night Hells Canyon Hotel 208-799-1000, $111/night with breakfast Event subject to change due to Covid-19 pandemic.
James Michael “Jambo” Matheny passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 in Yakima, WA. James was born October 12, 1966 at Clarkston, WA to Patricia Webb Matheny and Ronald H. Matheny and was raised in Lapwai, ID where he graduated high school in 1985. He was a proud member of the Nez Perce Tribe.

James was a gifted athlete and excellent in all sports including baseball, softball, football, soccer, and especially basketball. He was a member of the 1984 Idaho State Champion Lapwai Wildcats basketball team and won countless championships on the All-Indian basketball and softball circuit. Jambo was a well-known and respected athlete and made many good friends throughout Indian Country during his travels. James supported his kids’ academic and athletic pursuits and always encouraged them to work hard and do their best at whatever they were doing. Although he played thousands of games himself, he was most stressed watching his kids play. He was very proud of all of his kids’ accomplishments in the classroom, on the court, and in life. He was particularly proud that his daughter Ally chose to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps.

James appreciated the little things in life and was always happy and got along with everyone he met. He shared his beautiful smile and contagious laugh freely. He was a loyal fan of the Dallas Cowboys, Boston Celtics, Gonzaga Bulldogs and Seattle Mariners and loved watching and talking about sports. He understood that sports and life are one in the same and nothing is achieved without commitment to success.

James worked for Washing DSHS in Yakima as an Information Technology Systems Administrator from 1997 until his passing. He was preceded in death by his parents, Patricia Webb Matheny and Ronald H. Matheny. He is survived by his wife Andy, children Drea (Kaimana) Haleakala-Town; Ally; James, Jr.; Alexa; and Jay Walter; brothers Troy (Serena) Matheny and Kermit (Sally Jo) Mankiller; Sisters Traci (Mike) McKarcher; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends. Jambo was loved by so many and will be deeply missed.

While he left us with so many great memories and countless stories, our lives will never be the same. The family wants to thank everyone that has been supportive during this time.

A celebration of life and memorial dinner will be held at Lapwai, ID Pineewaus gym on Sunday, March 7th, 2021 at 1 p.m. Family request in lieu of flowers donations can be made to venom @Ar_matheny for burial expenses at a later date. Family requests masks be worn.
Leslie Lyn Randall, 65, Lapwai, ID


Leslie was a proud member of the Nez Perce (Nimiipuu) Nation, born to Vernon E. Waters Sr. and Mazie M. Moses. Her grandparents were the late Samuel M. Watters and Blanche Hung and the late Elias and Lillian Corbett Moses. Her blood line goes back to Ollokot, Nimiipuu war chief and younger brother of Chief Joseph. Her favorite early memories included traveling to Mount Adams in Washington State with her grandparents and aunts and uncles to pick huckleberries at the end of summer break. She almost always missed the first few weeks of the new school term, but always caught up. Leslie’s warrior heritage showed itself at a young age, standing up for those who were picked on or mistreated, and leading a student walkout at Lapwai High School when she felt that some students were being treated unfairly. She was instrumental in the design and implementation of the study, as well as the initial work of meeting with Tribal Councils for resolutions of support to conduct research on the reservations; with tribal members and officials as well as state and federal officials to inform them of the study and its goals; to coordinate training for coroners and pathologists, design and conduct interviews, and institute support groups for Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) and Fetal Alcohol (FAS) Syndromes, including traditional grief support. The Study also investigated the effects of nicotine and other risk factors for infant death. It was the first study of its kind, and the first to lower the rate of SIDS, by emphasizing not just research, but addressing risk factors and formulating solutions for prevention. The study concluded in 1997, with Leslie as co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Tom Welty. Her youngest son, Evan, was born in 1992, during the first year of the Study. For the next decade, Leslie was Senior Maternal Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), assigned to the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Albuquerque, NM, and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board in Portland, OR. She was involved in many projects, in research design, implementation, analysis, training, and dissemination of findings to the tribes. She supervised SIDS, FAS, and MCH programs, wrote and oversaw grants, and provided technical consultation assistance for Federal, State, Tribal, local and other health agencies concerning various epidemiology projects.

In 1997, Leslie was one of the founders of the Native Research Network, Inc. (NRN), a leadership community of American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Canadian First Nations, promoting integrity and excellence in research. She was a lifetime member, serving as Co-Chair for 7 years.

As a member of the American Indian/Alaska Native/ Native Hawaiian (AIANAH) Caucus of the American Public Health Association (APHA), Leslie served as Chair of the Programs Committee and Caucus Chair. Her focus on tribal sovereignty and research led to workshops and presentations nationwide, culminating in a book she co-authored with Dr. Teshia Solomon, Conducting Research with Native American Communities, published by APHA in 2014.

After her national work with CDC and IHS, she returned home to Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) country to pursue work with her Tribe and complete her doctoral studies. Besides contract and consulting work, she served on the Tribal Health Board, the Tribal Employee Rights Commission, Tribal Enterprise Board, and Tribal Utilities Board; and as Associate Professor at Heritage Angel College, and served as Co-Chair for 7 years. Leslie married Liam Randall, two young boys, Calvin and EJ. She was recruited by the School of Public Health, University of Washington at Manoa, in Honolulu. She worked at night as a call-in nurse and during the day as a graduate student, earning her Master of Public Health degree with a specialty in Maternal Child Health in 1991.

After moving back to the mainland, Leslie worked as a contract nurse until 1992, when she joined a groundbreaking Infant Mortality Study for the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service, based in Rapid City, SD and involving Tribes throughout the Northern Plains in North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. As Project Manager, she was instrumental in the design and implementation of the study, as well as the initial work of meeting with Tribal Councils for resolutions of support to conduct research on the reservations; with tribal members and officials as well as state and federal officials to inform them of the study and its goals; to coordinate training for coroners and pathologists, design and conduct interviews, and institute support groups for Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) and Fetal Alcohol (FAS) Syndromes, including traditional grief support. The Study also investigated the effects of nicotine and other risk factors for infant death. It was the first study of its kind, and the first to lower the rate of SIDS, by emphasizing not just research, but addressing risk factors and formulating solutions for prevention. The study concluded in 1997, with Leslie as co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Tom Welty. Her youngest son, Evan, was born in 1992, during the first year of the Study. For the next decade, Leslie served as Chair of the Programs Committee and Caucus Chair. Her focus on tribal sovereignty and research led to workshops and presentations nationwide, culminating in a book she co-authored with Dr. Teshia Solomon, Conducting Research with Native American Communities, published by APHA in 2014. After her national work with CDC and IHS, she returned home to Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) country to pursue work with her Tribe and complete her doctoral studies. Besides contract and consulting work, she served on the Tribal Health Board, the Tribal Employee Rights Commission, Tribal Enterprise Board, and Tribal Utilities Board; and as Associate Professor at Heritage Angel College, and served as Co-Chair for 7 years.

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Connie Ida Allen-Claye was born Oct. 10, 1938, to Irene Wilkinson-Allen and Mark Allen Sr. Connie passed away at the age of 82 from complications of COVID-19 on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021, at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston. She was the last member of her generation, with 14 siblings preceding her in death.

Connie was born in Spalding and grew up on Cottonwood Creek (Ma-ka Creek) in Culdesac where she helped on the family farm. She attended school at the Black School in Gifford, then Culdesac School. Connie also graduated from Cooks Christian Training School in Arizona. While in Phoenix, she met and married Christopher Claye, which produced their son, Conrad Mark Claye. Connie began working as a lab technician while living in Arizona. Connie divorced and then moved to Lewiston, where she raised her son. She then married James Guier. She later divorced and moved to Anchorage, Alaska. This is where she met and married Kimo Moore and both moved back to the Idaho area and purchased a bar business in Winchester.

She spent many years in Winchester and loved spending time in the mountains hunting, camping and gathering traditional foods. She spoke Nimiipuptim (Nez Perce Language) fluently and loved to share this knowledge with others. Connie was involved in many positions with the Nez Perce Tribe. She was on different tribal committees and most recently as an honored member of the Circle of Elders. Connie worked with the Clearwater River Casino as a manager and retired from this position after 20-plus years. Connie had a work ethic about her which was fostered from working the Allen farm. She knew the value of hard work and being on time. Although tough, Connie also had the biggest heart in helping others in need. A little-known fact about Connie was when people were hired at the casino and they didn’t have work clothes or funds to get to work, Connie would supply them until new hires could get on their feet. If by chance Connie called a person “Sweetheart,” they had her love and caring. Connie also had the robin (Wils’pox pox) as her spiritual guardian (Wa ya kin). She loved that she could speak Nimíipuu and was always saying “There’s so much to learn.”

She was also strong in her Christian beliefs and was a member of the Spalding Presbyterian Church for many years until it was condemned. She continued to go to church in Lapwai at the Methodist Church. Connie loved animals and always had a cat and/or a dog at her home in Cottonwood Creek. She spent her last years living on the land her parents farmed.

Connie was preceded by her paternal grandparents, John and Emma Allen, and her maternal grandparents, Amos and Mary Morris-Milton; parents Mark and Irene Allen; brothers Mathias “Chick,” John, Francis “Jeep,” Phillip, Mark, Clifford, Stewart and Nelson; sisters Elizabeth, Delphine, Agnes, Ramona, Dora George and Elsie McKay; her son, Conrad Claye, also passed unexpectedly two years ago from an auto accident. If there is life after death, these two are definitely having a good time.

On behalf of the Allen family and the siblings of this last generation, we apologize for any changed plans or travel difficulties anyone experienced during her funeral. Sometimes things don’t go as planned but Connie was like that ... “fly by the seat of your pants” kind of woman. She was so adventurous and nonconforming that it was a delight to travel with her and live in the moment with her, whether it was bad or good. Connie would say, “We’tu win (don’t cry) ... you will dance and we will watch.” The family would like to thank all involved in her funeral arrangements, as well as her one last ride through the casino before her burial. I am sure she appreciated her last ride to her final resting place. Yox Ka lo!

Services and viewing were held at Malcom’s Brower-Wann Funeral Home. Burial took place Feb. 4, 2021, at Spalding Cemetery. A memorial will be held at a later date.
The Nez Perce Tribe General Council is currently seeking dependable, hardworking TELLERS and SERGEANT-AT-ARMS to assist with the Non-Partisan Primary Election in all three Communities: LAPWAI, KAMIAH and OROFINO. Applicants must be an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe and age eighteen (18) years or older. College students and/or unemployed individuals are preferred. You must commit for the entire day, Saturday, April 03, 2021.

Applications are available on Nez Perce Tribe Website (https://www.nezperce.org) under General Council or at Nez Perce Tribe Human Resources Department.

Application Deadline: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021 by 4:30pm

Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee
Primary Election
SATURDAY, APRIL 03, 2021
Pi-Nee-Waus Community Building in Lapwai, ID
Wa-A’Yas Community Building in Kamiah, ID
Teweepuu Community Building in Orofino, ID

Please note: this is subject to change due to impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Please submit application with copies of two types of identification to:
Melissa Guzman, Election Judge
By Email: melissag@nezperce.org
By Fax: 208.843.7414 or
By Mail: Attn: Election Judges
General Council
P.O. Box 1050
Lapwai, ID  83540

For questions or inquiries, please contact: Melissa Guzman, phone: 208.621.3828 or email: melissag@nezperce.org.
Nez Perce Tribe Non-Partisan Primary Election 2021
Candidate Filing was from January 15 through February 16, 2021. The following is a list of verified candidates for the Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee (NPTEC).
* NPTEC Incumbents are: Mary Jane Miles, Ferris Paisano III, Shirley Allman.

Primary Election is Saturday, April 3, 2021.
There will be TWO METHODS OF VOTING:
* There will be no ballot for seat 1 during the primary election

Absentee Ballot:
For your absentee vote to count, your absentee ballot must be received by 4:30 p.m. on April 1, 2021. If your absentee ballot is received by 4:30 p.m. on April 1, 2021 you will not be permitted to cast a ballot in person.

OR
Vote In-Person:
April 3, 2021
Polling places will be open from 7:00am – 6:00pm.

POLLING SITES: Kamiah at the Wa-A-Yas Community Center; Orofino at Teweepuu Community Center; and Lapwai at the Pineewaus Community Center.

Only one method of voting is allowed
Any enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe who is eighteen or over shall be entitled to vote in the Primary Elections. Eligible Voters may vote by Absentee Ballot or at any Polling Place, but WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO VOTE ONCE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING CANDIDACY FILING, CERTIFICATION PROCESS OR THE ELECTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT THE ELECTIONS JUDGES:
Melissa Guzman – 208-621-3826 or melissag@nezperce.org
Melissa King – 208-843-7307 or melissak@nezperce.org
Nicole Two Moon – 208-669-0115 or nicoletgc@nezperce.org

(Candidate bios and photos have been received from candidates and can be viewed at https://nezperce.org/government/general-council/)

NPTEC Notice
Seat 1
* Mary Jane Miles
Ryan Oatman

Seat 2
* Ferris Paisano III
Louis Harris
Scherrer R. Greene
July Tess Greene
Mary Tall Bull
Erik Holt
Samuel N. Penney
Tonia Garcia

Seat 3
* Shirley Allman
Sheldon R. Allen
James R. Spencer
Chantel Greene

NPTEC Seat #1
MARY JANE MILES
- Empathetic
- Trustworthy
- Thoughtful

A NEW VOICE FOR CHANGE
SHIRLEY ALLMAN
SEAT 3

Nimíipuu Health Patient Notice
Kamiah patients:
We are very appreciative of the quality care that Ms. Korena Popp, FNP-C, has provided since October 2014. Ms. Popp's last day was February 26, 2021, her departure will impact Kamiah Nimíipuu Health greatly.

We have been rotating each of our providers from Lapwai to assist with patient care since her departure. We have completed interviews for her replacement and will be making a selection. Provider development and training may delay placement of a permanent provider in Kamiah, however, please be assured that the care will not suffer as we have several high quality providers to continue the care and management that Ms. Popp has put into place.

We would like to wish Ms. Popp success in her future endeavors and we look forward to bringing on a new team member to our Nimíipuu Health Medical team. We, at Nimíipuu Health, would like to thank you for your trust and patience with our services.

For more information, contact Ayisha Bohanan at 208 843-2271 Ext #2920.
NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERAN’S DAY
MARCH 29TH

THANK YOU TO OUR NEZ PERCE TRIBAL VIETNAM VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE