

## NEZ PERCE TRIBAL **IOUSING AUTHORITY**

FIRST QUARTER 2023

#### Lapwai Office:

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### **SOLAR INSTALLATIONS**

Nimiipuu Energy has begun installing solar and battery systems on Tribal Housing this month. Our goal is to install systems on 57 houses in Sundown Heights and Whitebird housing projects by March 2023. The overall goal is to have 300 homes across the Reservation with solar by the end of 2023.

Nimiipuu Energy will be contacting individual homeowners to collect information to assist with the installations. The systems will be installed and maintained by the Tribal crew that has been installing systems at our commercial sites.

This is part of the Tribe's goal to become energy independent and to support our effort to bring back Salmon.



Build Resiliency for Lapwai and Kamiah Tribal homes by providing 10-15 kw Rooftop system and 2 Tesla Powerwalls per home state of the art solar and battery energy systems on each home. The White Bird Housing systems will eliminate/lower power bills and can be integrated into a Virtual Power Plant.

Each home has 6-15kw rooftop solar array and two Tesla Powerwalls.

Community resiliency is improved by providing off-grid capability and reduced power bills.

Decrease the Tribe's dependency on grid supplied power.



#### Lapwai

#### Sundown Heights

57 Homes

30 Homes

6-8 kw Rooftop system with 2 Tesla Powerwalls per home

#### Kamiah

Echo Hills

21 Homes

6-8 kw of Solar and two Tesla Powerwalls per home

#### Work Schedule

Site Surveys and Layout/Plans	On-going
Staff Coordination	
Installation Sundown Heights	27 Dec—1 Mar
Installation White Bird Lapwai	1 Feb- 1 Mar
Installation Echo Hills Kamiah	1 July -1 Sep

#### Long Range Goal

Integrate 300 homes into a Virtual Power Plant by 2023 and eliminate power bills for residents and provide income for the

#### **Public Meeting**

An informational Public Meeting was held at 4-6pm on Jan 3rd at Pi nee waus. However, if you still have any questions you may contact Koyama Young at koyamayoung 13@gmail.com.

#### SOLAR ENERGY

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solar	N	Ε	Y	В	I	R	Ρ	G	N	В	Q	F	В	F	С	R	Z	G	Α	Α	Α	L
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# Annual Amerind Poster Safety Contest Winners Kindergarten - 8th Graders

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Grade Place Winner K-3rd Travis Pena Gaberl 4th-6th 1st 2nd Cairi Williams 3rd Lisa Padilla

Grade Place Winner 2nd 3rd

Kellyn Moody Alice Whitefoot Ginna Wilson



Our winners have won a Walmart gift card. Keep your ears open to find out if our regional winners move on to Nationals where they compete for the prize of a \$1000.



## UP COMING EVENTS

## 2023 Events Spring

February 2023									
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat			
			1	2	3	4			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
26	27	28							

#### March 2023

Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

#### April 2023

Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



FEBRUARY	LOCATION
Feb 22nd Noon	Kamiah
Radon Class	
Feb 23rd 11a~Noon	Lapwai
<b>Budgeting Class</b>	
Feb 27th-28th 1p-7p and 1p - 5 p	Lapwai
<b>Money Basics</b>	

#### MARCH

Mar 8th 11a-N	oon	Lapwai
Bı	udgeting Class	
Mar 14th ~ 16th	3:00 p ~ 7:00 p	Kamiah

**Homebuyer Education Class** 

Mar 22nd 11a-Noon Lapwai

**Budgeting Class** 

March 27th~ 31st Kamiah/ Lapwai/ Orofino Community Cleanup

March 31st Orofino/Kamiah

Kamiah/ Lapwai/ Orofino Pick up day

#### **APRIL**

Apr 12th 11a-Noon Lapwai

**Budgeting Class** 

Apr 24th-26th 4p-7p Kamiah

**Money Basics** 

Apr 26th 11a~Noon Lapwai

**Budgeting Class** 

Remember you will have a chance to WIN a \$200 credit towards your rent if you Pay-On-Time all 12 months!

## KEEPING UP WITH INFLATION?

If you've experienced a cost of living increase, you may be looking for a way to make your money go further. A cost of living increase can be expensive. By making some adjustments in your daily life, you may feel less worried when paying these higher costs. Here are five ways to help you cope.

#### 1. Rework your budget

If your cost of living has increased, it may be time to reassess your budget. For most people, having a budget is a must and can ensure that you're able to pay for all of your expenses with the income you bring in each month. If your daily living costs are getting higher, you may need to get creative and rework your budget.

That may mean spending less on certain purchases. Reassessing your budget can help you determine which areas of spending you can improve. For example, you may be spending too much on takeout, entertainment, travel, or shopping purchases. Reworking your budget and spending

less on unnecessary purchases can help balance out an increased cost of living.

#### 2. Negotiate your bills

In addition to reworking your budget, you may also be able to lower some of your bills. If you're open to switching providers or are willing to ask your current providers if they have better deals or cheaper plans, you may be able to save money. This is an excellent way to make the money that you do have stretch further. After negotiating several bills, you could free up a significant amount of money.

#### 3. Switch to remote work

Many companies are warming up to the idea of remote work. When you're a remote worker, you have more flexibility to choose where you want to live. If you can make the switch, you may consider moving to an area with a lower cost of living.

#### 4. Consider getting a side hustle

If you have the time, a side job can provide a great opportunity to increase your income.

When choosing a side hustle, choose something that you're passionate about so you enjoy the experience. You should also determine how much extra money you need to make for the side hustle to be worth your time and effort. Not sure what side hustle is right for you? Financial Advisor Dave Ramsey has 27 ideas for you at https://www.ramseysolutions.com/saving/side-hustle-ideas.

As you increase your income, dealing with a cost of living increase will feel less stressful.



Residents who have trouble keeping up with rent payments have an opportunity to get ahead with their income tax refunds. If you struggle with paying rent, use the money you get back to pay one or two months of rent. If you continue to pay your rent monthly, you can let that extra money remain on your account as a cushion. If you need help setting up a budget, contact Jenny at the office for help!

Also, please report any changes in income promptly!

#### FRUGAL FURNACE FUNDS

Furnaces aren't designed to run in temperatures that are below-zero for long periods of times and will make your furnace run hard may increase your power bill. Additionally, stress on the furnace is concerning for keeping the furnace running. When the furnace has to work that hard it can break down, lead to efficiency problems, early repairs or potential safety issues. According to the US Department of Energy, it's best to keep your thermostat at 68 degrees Fahrenheit for most of the day during the winter season. During frigid temperatures furnaces struggle with programming that changes temperatures throughout the day. To help alleviate some of the stress of systems during these cold temperatures, we've put together a small list of tips to keep the furnace running smoothly over time.

## Tips to keep your furnace running healthy

- Keep doors and windows shut
- Set your thermostat at 68°
- set the thermostat a few degrees lower than what you're used to
- Don't let programable thermostats run through a program that varies in temperature settings.

#### CHIEF LOOKINGGLASS COMPLEX

On Monday, January 30, 2023, at about 4:15 pm, a fire broke out at the Chief LookingGlass Complex in Kamiah. The fire began in an apartment on the west side of the building. The fire was contained to a single apartment and west hallway. Adjacent apartments had smoke and water damage and the entire building had smoke damage. All residents were safely evacuated and there were no injuries.

Residents were immediately relocated to a hotel. Some residents have been allowed back into their apartments; however, the common areas and hallways are not accessible. The Senior Lunch Program has temporarily been relocated and is currently operating on a delivery basis only. Please do not enter the building. There is still smoke damage to all the common areas. The cause of the fire was determined to be a failure of a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) and the fire has been ruled an accident.

We would like to thank the following departments to people who assisted and have continued to support our residents: NPT Veteran's Program, NPT Adult Protection Program, NPT Social Services Program, Nimiipuu Community Health, It se-ye-ye Casino, Clearwater Hotel, NPTEC, and First Responders.



#### **Pest Control**

Spring is just around the corner! The best time of year to do preventative pest control is in the early spring before the pest population has a chance to grow. As you plan to do your spring cleaning and preparing your garden, do some pest control. Here are 7 tips to reduce this season's pest problems:

Pest ma

#### **Know Your Enemy**

Pest management can be difficult if you don't know what to expect. While some pests are around all year, certain culprits are more active in the spring. Some pests start their mating season during this time of year. Termites begin their swarms and rats start their mating cycles. Additionally, after the winter thaw, there is an abundance of standing water for mosquitos to thrive.

As the weather turns warmer, other pests start to become more active. Ants begin searching for food and spiders emerge. Typically, an increase in temperature means an increase in travel and the spread of the hitch-hiking pests: bed bugs and ticks. Once you've identified your problem, it's easier to fortify against it.

6

#### **Inspect your Exterior**

Winter weather is harsh; the change in temperature and heavy winter storms can lead to some major repairs for your home's exterior. The new weaknesses in your property can be exploited by any pests looking for a cozy spot. Pests can sneak into your home through cracks in the stone, chipped window panes, or open slots underneath doors. Roof damage or loose siding can also be entry points for sneaky invaders. To keep pests out, perform yearly wear-and-tear maintenance.

5

#### **Inspect your Interior**

After inspecting your property's exterior, the next step is to examine the interior. Spring cleaning is more than just washing your curtains. This is the best time to check over any decorations you brought in from the holidays for any stowaways. Attics and basements are two prime spots, as well as any areas where your home utilities are kept. Damp basements are a draw for insects like silverfish and spiders, while attics are prime spots for nesting animals like rodents. Be thorough; make sure no pest made its way inside.

4

#### Maintain your yard

As the snow melts and temperatures rise, it's time to look to your yard. The fall and winter leave potential pest hazards behind debris, dead leaves, melted snow, and mud. Any damp wood or thick overgrowth can house any potential spring pests. Additionally, any stagnant or standing water from puddles or in clogged gutters can be ideal for mosquito breeding. Start maintaining your property now to avoid any potential pest problems in the future.

3

#### **Monitor Food & Waste**

After the winter thaw, pests are on the lookout for the essentials: food, water, and shelter. A way to keep these creatures out of your home and away from your property, be mindful of how you store their potential food source. Keep your food stored in air-tight containers, including pet food, and all trash receptacles sealed. Clean up dishes and spills quickly, and make sure your outdoor garbage (dumpster or trash can) is closed.

2

#### **Control Moisture**

The transition to spring often means dealing with a lot of moisture: rain, snow, runoff, and overflow. Pests are drawn to water either because they are searching for drinking source, or they thrive in a damp environment. Leaky pipes blocked gutters, and pooling water can be a draw to many different creatures. While you can't help how much it rains (or snows) be sure to keep your gutters clean and maintain your plumbing.

#### Keep things clean

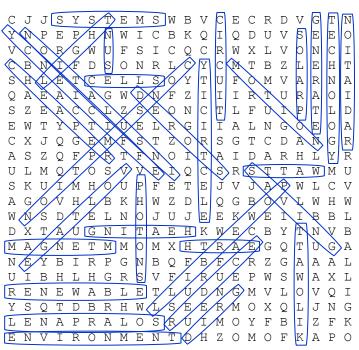
There is a reason they call it spring cleaning! It's the best time of year to clear out any potential dirt and clutter gathered over the winter. Clutter and build-up can lead to serious pest problems. Extra junk means more areas for pests to hide and unkempt homes are perfect opportunities for all manner of rodents and insects. If you want to keep pests out or give them a reason to look elsewhere, keep your home clean and tidy.

#### **SOLAR ENERGY**

#### **HOMEBUYER READY?**

- Your negative Debt is paid off
  - Your credit score is solid
  - Your debt is manageable
  - Your lifestyle is stable
- You have been building a savings

Stop by housing and see Sonya Samuels-Allen or e-mail sonyas@nezperce.org



## Free Tax Preparation \*

You may qualify for

Earned Income Tax Credits

or other credits!

File electronically and get
your refund FAST by direct
your refund FAST bank account
deposit to your bank account
or on a prepaid debit card
or on a prepaid debit card

#### **PLEASE BRING THE**

- □ W2s & 1099
- Picture Identification
- Voided Check/ Savings Account #
- Last Year's Tax Return
- Social Security Card for Each Family Member
- Childcare Provider's Tax ID #
- Amounts of Additional Income
- Other Tax Documents

Don't pay high fees for your tax return.

Free Tax sites have

Volunteers who can help

refund

CONTACT: Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority

Direct line:(208)843-2974 - NPTHA Office:(208)843-2229 No appointment necessary

**OFFICE HOURS:** 

MONDAY—THURSDAY 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

(UNTIL THE END OF TAX SEASON)

\*The Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority is sponsoring a Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program offers free tax help to low and moderate income people. Certified volunteers receive training to help prepare basic tax returns.



