



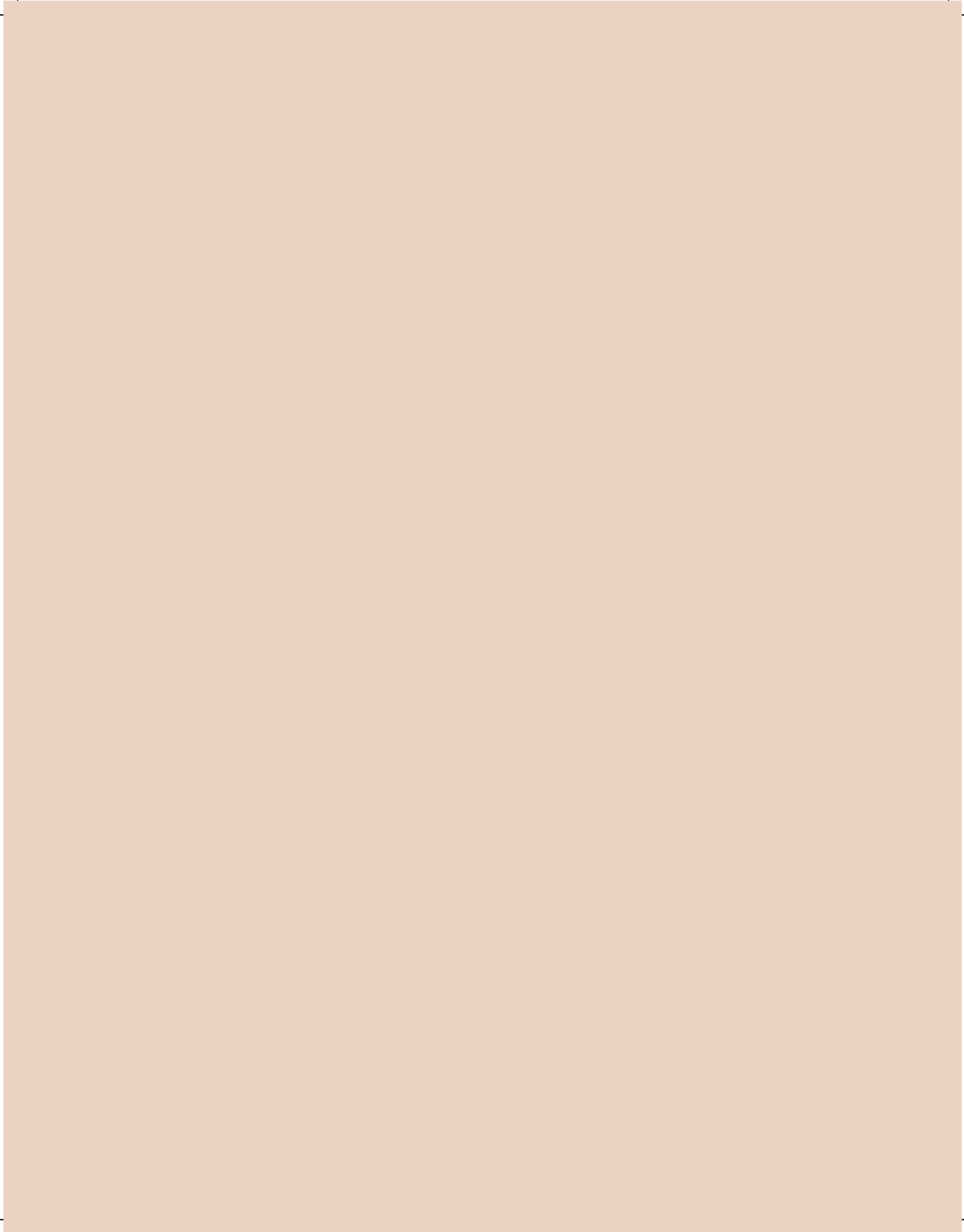
NEZ PERCE TRIBE

# SPRING REPORT

*LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT*



**2025**





# WELCOME

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Greetings Nez Perce Tribal Members,

I would like to welcome you to the spring 2025 meeting of the Nez Perce Tribe's General Council.

The Law & Order Executive Officer is essential for upholding the integrity and efficiency of the operations within the Law & Justice Department. This role encompasses strategic planning, policy development, and oversight of departmental budgets. The Executive Officer ensures compliance with legal standards and cultivates community partnerships to strengthen public trust and collaboration.

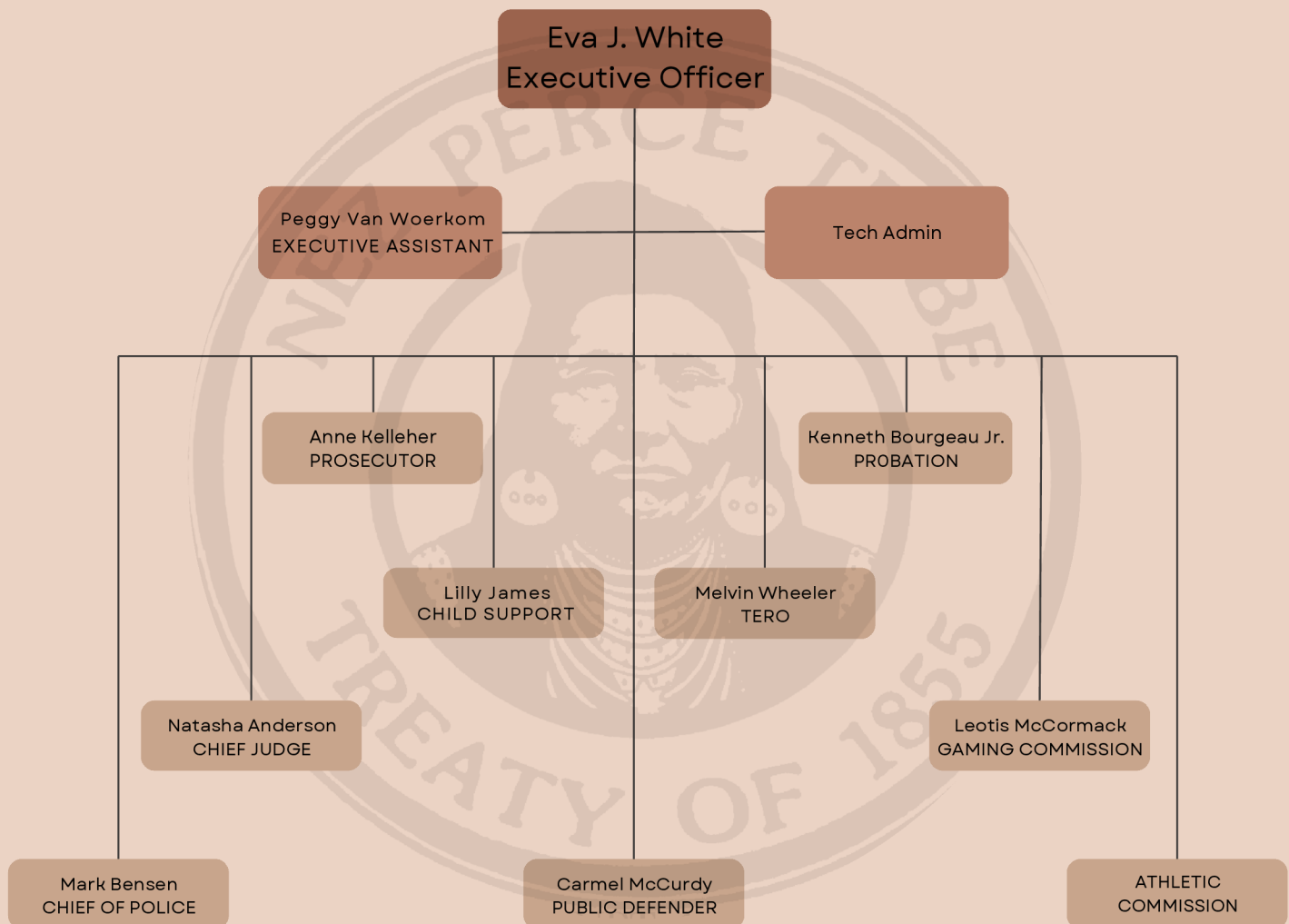
Additionally, the Executive Officer is responsible for executing operations that promote justice, all while emphasizing transparency and accountability. I am pleased to have the opportunity to be your Law & Order Executive Officer.

Sincerely,

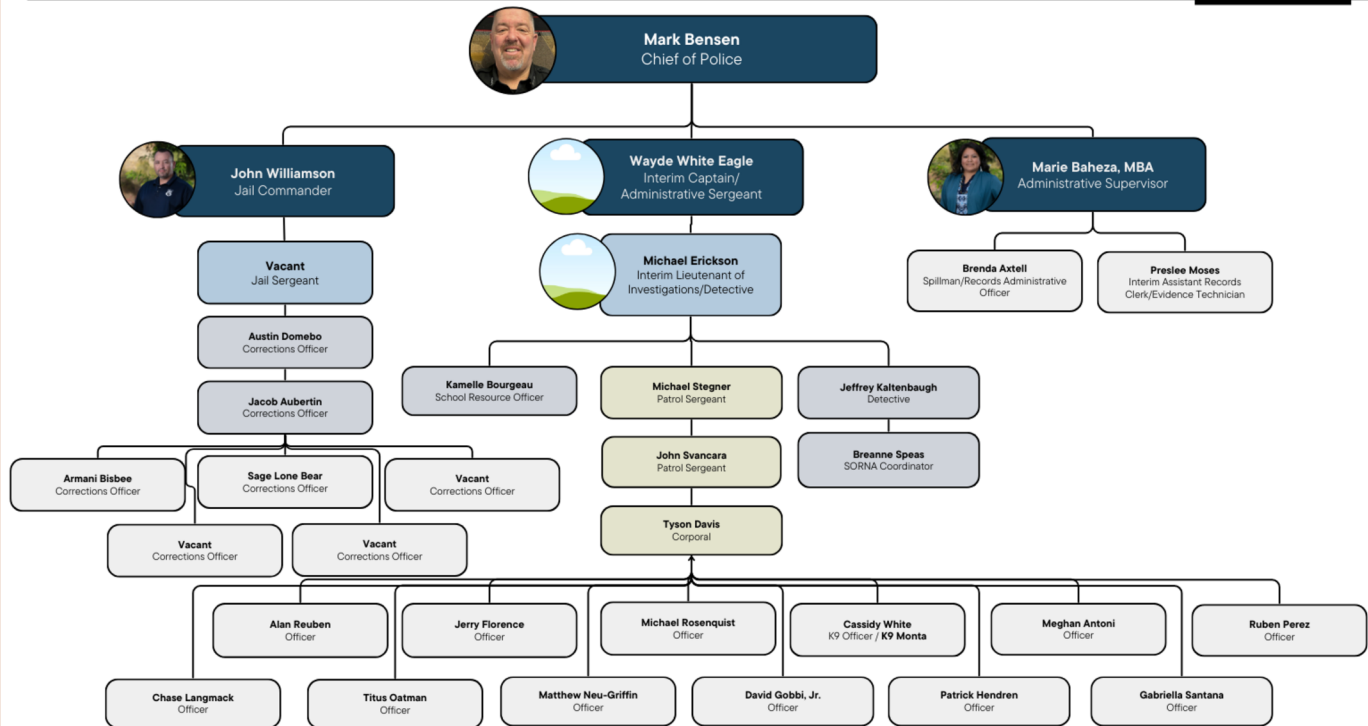
Eva J. White  
Law & Order Executive Officer

208.621.4754  
210 Bever Grade  
[evaw@nezperce.org](mailto:evaw@nezperce.org)

# LAW & JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# Nez Perce Tribal Police Organizational Chart



# LAW & JUSTICE TEAM



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# LAW & JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Law and Justice Department is to provide coordinated, effective services by all the programs within the Department to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all the Tribal members, particularly children, the elderly, and other vulnerable citizens, and to improve economic opportunity for Tribal members. All programs within the Department will work to preserve and enhance the inherent sovereignty of the Nez Perce Tribe.

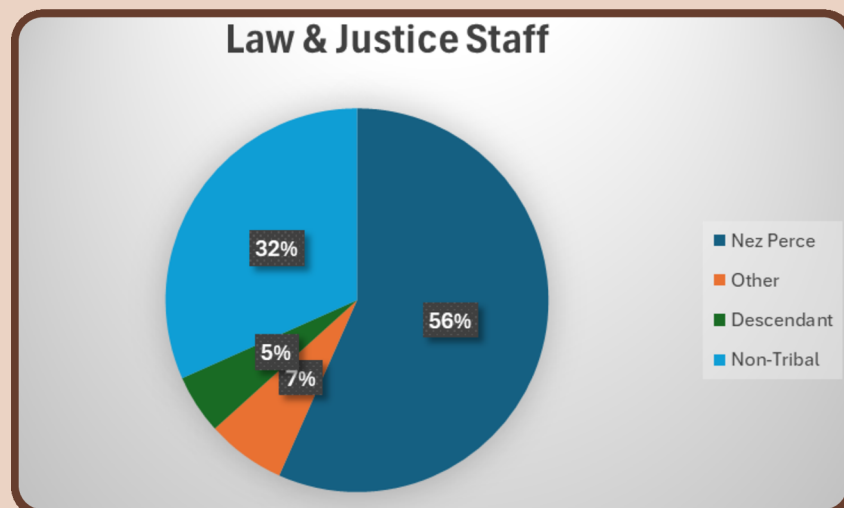
## Overview

The overarching goal of the Law and Justice Department is to improve the operations and coordination of the various programs in the Department. This will be accomplished by ongoing, regular communication between the programs, the LOEO, and the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee through the NPTEC Chairman and the Law and Order Subcommittee. The programs/LOEO identify issues and develop strategies to resolve problems, and the LOEO reports on a regular basis to the NPTEC Chairman and Law and Order Subcommittee, requesting assistance of the NPTEC when needed.

## Staff

- Eva White, Interim Law & Order Executive Officer
- Peggy Van Woerkom, Law & Order Executive Assistant

## Law & Justice Staff 60



Eva J. White  
208.621.4754

# LAW & JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

## **Activities**

Eva J. White joined the Nez Perce Tribe as the Interim Law & Order Executive Officer at the start of November 2024. With several years of experience, she has previously served as a Chief Judge, Pro-Tem Judge, and Appellate Judge for the Coeur D'Alene Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, and Kootenai tribal courts.

The Peacemakers Court Oversight Group has been meeting for the past couple months to assess the Law & Order Code, handbook, and associated forms. On April 14, 2025, the oversight group engaged with the Colville Peacemakers Circle to gain insights into their operations within the Peacemakers framework. We aim to launch our Peacemakers court by early summer.

We are currently in the planning phase of the Lapwai Law & Justice court expansion project. We have secured a \$1.4K grant that will allow us to add an additional courtroom, a Peacemakers- conference room, and additional office spaces for staff.

In January 2025, we received the news that our Juvenile Diversion grant has been approved for a one-year extension, allowing us to continue its implementation. This grant funds the positions of a Juvenile Diversion Coordinator, a School Resource Officer, and a Life Skills Coach. In June, we intend to request a two-year no-cost extension for this grant to ensure we can fully utilize the available funds.



# LAW & JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

## **FY 2025 Grants Received**

### **Law & Order Executive Office**

BJA PA 4 Tribal Justices Systems Infrastructures Program-Justice Center Addition, the plan is to expand to the south side of the existing court building where the fisheries modulars are currently located. The expansion would include an additional courtroom, Peacemakers room/conference room, and public restroom, private restroom and more office space for staff. **\$1,4000,000.00**

### **Child Support Program**

Idaho Children's Trust Fund (ICTF) for the Strengthening Families, Empowering Culture project. This initiative seeks to restore the Nez Perce concept of family by fostering deeper connections and shared responsibility. With this funding, CSP will organize a series of family engagement events such as Family Tree Gatherings, a Family Tipi Race, Cultural Night with a Mini Powwow, a Homemade Christmas event, and Parenting/Cultural Classes. These activities aim to strengthen family bonds, promote cultural pride, and prevent child abuse and neglect, ensuring that Nez Perce children grow up in nurturing environments rooted in tradition and community support. **\$10,000.00**

### **Nez Perce Tribal Police Department**

CTAS COPS Grant for necessary equipment and training. Along with this grant award, is a contract position, MMIP Database Administrator who will provide assessments and compile data of at-risk individuals and/or voluntary participants in the Tribe's proactive approach to keeping tribal membership safe from human trafficking and becoming a MMIP statistic. **\$762,694.00**



# LAW & JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

## **Judicial Services**

BIA Judicial Services one-time funding (4th request)- Contracted Court staff attorney, sound proofing the courtroom, and court case management system annual fee to maintenance and trouble shoot. **\$145,525.00**

## **TERO**

Innovation Reimbursement Grant Idaho Workforce Development Council Baker Technical Institute grant to provide construction training for two separate five week training programs for approximately 20 individuals per session.

**\$390,000.00**

Native American Apprenticeship Assistance Program block grant to assist tribal members that apply and are registered in a Washington State Registered Apprentice Program. **\$150,000.00**

## **FY 2025 Grant Applications**

Purpose Area 2: up to \$150,000 over 5 years strategic planning

The Tribe's existing Justice Strategic Plan is outdated. If the grant is approved, an outside technical firm working with the Department of Justice will be assigned to develop the plan based on the input we provide.

Purpose Area 3: up to \$900,000 over 5 years

Tribal Court Case Management System - annual service and maintenance fee

Public Defender's Office - case management system and annual fee

Social Services Dept - case management system and annual fee

Victim Services Coordinator for Prosecutor's Office

Social Worker for the Public Defender Office

# JUDICIAL SERVICES

## **Mission Statement**

To provide an effective and fair forum to handle all matters of law arising under the duly enacted laws of the Nez Perce Tribal Code. To create and maintain a working relationship within the area of other judicial jurisdictions and service providers.

## **Vision Statement**

Continue to expand and upgrade Court services to the public, through involvement in the implementation of new laws and program functions, as well as additional staffing. It is also a program goal to take accountability for all matters of law brought before the Court.

Court Administration, Clerks, Judges Anderson and Phillips continue to work to strengthen the justice system by utilizing the eCourt case management system to its fullest capabilities, tracking cases for timely disposition, reporting monthly data, holding offenders accountable, and improving communication. Court Staff includes:

- Marla Cuevas-Jimenez, Court Administrator
- Shanelle Freouf, Court Clerk
- Michelle Cutfinger, Court Clerk
- Yvette Whitman, Data Entry
- Deveigh Davis, Reception

The Court is also supported by Law & Justice Department staff, specifically:

- Ricky Hernandez, Court Navigator
- Latoya Sisto, Court Bailiff

And judges:

- Natasha Anderson, Chief Judge
- Jeffrey Phillips, Associate Judge

**Natasha  
Anderson**  
**208.843.7338**

# JUDICIAL SERVICES

## Accomplishments

### Data Overview

Data and cases numbers do not completely represent what court staff do daily. Not counted are email inquiries, filing pleadings and other documents in cases, answering telephones, and responding to walk-in questions. Nonetheless, see the table for an overview of Nez Perce Tribal Court by the numbers:

Date Range: September 30, 2024 to March 28, 2025	
<b>Hearings held</b> .....337	<b>New cases initiated*</b>
Working days ..... 119	<small>*Does not include total open/active cases</small>
Holidays..... 7	<b>Criminal cases initiated:</b> <b>59</b>
Tribal War Memorial ..... 1	Total offenses charged ..... 103
Admin Closure(s) ..... 2	<b>Extradition cases initiated:</b> <b>25</b>
<b>Jury Trials</b> .....0	<b>Civil cases initiated:</b> <b>67</b>
<b>Healing-To-Wellness Court</b>	Probate: ..... 7
Active Participants ..... 2	Adult Guardianship..... 2
Graduate(s) ..... 1	Name Change: ..... 7
Discharged ..... 1	Juvenile Offender ..... 7
<b>Minor In Need Of Care (MINOC)</b>	MINOC ..... 0
Open cases ..... 8	Custody: ..... 3
Total # of children..... 15	Child Support:..... 20
<b>APPEALS</b> (criminal and civil)	Minor Guardianship:..... 5
Open cases ..... 0	TPR/adoption: ..... 1
	Divorce: ..... 4
	Protection Order ..... 7
	Eviction: ..... 1
	Small Claims..... 3
	<b>Appeals initiated:</b> <b>0</b>

### Healing-To-Wellness

Sobriety is not determined by one big decision—it is shaped by the small, daily choices a person makes. The Healing-To-Wellness (HTW) Team is here to offer support and accountability when there are hurdles, to celebrate the milestones along a person’s sobriety journey, and to honor one’s healing. The HTW court is only one of several ways the communities on the Nez Perce Reservation support sobriety.

Since Fall General Council, one participant graduated from the HTW court after successfully completing all the requirements. That HTW graduate continues to thrive in commitment to their family, job, and community. One participant was discharged from the HTW court after failing to meet requirements and choosing to abscond.

# JUDICIAL SERVICES

There are two active participants after last October's graduation and an unsuccessful discharge. The HTW Team has witnessed how participants' move to sober living residences have prioritized their commitment to recovery, expanded their support system, and strengthened boundaries. Participants are showing up for themselves each day and showing how the little choices—attend meetings, set boundaries, or change routine—are what truly determines their success.

## **Improved Access to Court Information**

The case management system by Journal Technologies is called eCourt and is designed to make justice administration efficient, transparent, and user-friendly. The transition to eCourt began in late May 2024. Court staff have initiated new cases and uploaded existing cases for a total of 600+ cases active in eCourt.

In addition to implementing a case management system, the Court is also focused on scanning paper files to digitize and preserve cases. The Court looks to develop a webpage with revised court forms, frequently asked questions, contact information, and publicly available dockets. The Court also plans to continue to support virtual video appearance via the software platform Zoom when appropriate.

## **Jury Trials**

The Court looks to improve jury pool procedures as parties exercise their right to a trial by jury. The role of the jury is to provide unbiased views or resolution to evidence presented in a case in a court of law. The jurors are the factfinders. Jury service helps to support fairness in trials. Jury service is a civic duty. We are accountable through our participation in jury service.

As April 4, 2025, there are no jury trials scheduled. The Court keeps an updated list of scheduled jury trials at the following link: <https://nezperce.org/government/law-and-justice/tribal-court/>. Anyone with questions about jury service, especially those in the 2025 Jury Pool, can email [JurorInformation@nezperce.org](mailto:JurorInformation@nezperce.org).

# JUDICIAL SERVICES

## **Outreach**

### **Idaho Tribal Court – State Court Forum**

The Idaho Supreme Court hosted the Forum meeting in Boise. The Nez Perce Tribe will host the in-person meeting of the Idaho Tribal Court – State Court Forum later this year on Friday, October 18, 2024, at the Clearwater River Casino. The Forum participants can be reviewed at this link: <https://isc.idaho.gov/tribal-state/forum-participants>. The Office of Legal Counsel is active in assisting Judge Anderson to coordinate hosting.

### **Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association & National American Indian Court Judges Association**

Judge Anderson continues to serve on the governing board of the Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association as the NAICJA representative. Judge Anderson was appointed in October 2023. NAICJA is the National American Indian Court Judges Association, which is a national association of tribal justice personnel and advocates for increased funding to tribal courts. As the Northwest representative to NAICJA, Judge Anderson also serves on NAICJA's governing board. Judge Anderson will join tribal court judges from across Indian Country as they gather for NAICJA's Annual Conference to be hosted by the Gila River Indian Community in late October 2025.

### **LC Valley Domestic Violence Community Response**

Along with Social Services/Úuyit Kímti, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, Office of Legal Counsel, and respective Tribal programs, Judge Anderson participates in the LC Valley Domestic Violence Community Response Team with local Nez Perce County counterparts. A key focus for the judges is ensuring full faith and credit of court orders. As the fall season approaches, the group will reconvene.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **Mission Statement**

The fundamental goal of the Nez Perce Tribal Police Department is to enhance the standard of living for those living on the Nez Perce Reservation by optimally using the resources provided to us to reduce crime which will create a safe and productive environment for the people that live, visit, and work on the Nez Perce Reservation. The reduction in crime will result in an increase in community member's standard of living decreasing insurance costs, increasing property values, increasing tourism all of which increase the economic opportunities for community members by creating a community that is desirable to business. The Nez Perce Tribal Police work cooperatively with numerous tribal, state, and federal agencies to meet this goal.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

- CHIEF OF POLICE: Mark Bensen
- CAPTAIN OF POLICE: Wayde White Eagle (Interim)
- LIEUTENANT OF POLICE: Michael Erickson (Interim)
- ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR: Marie Baheza
- TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR: Open
- ADMINISTRATIVE SGT: Open
- RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR: Brenda Axtell
- ASSISTANT RECORDS CLERK: Preslee Moses
- JAIL COMMANDER: John Williamson

## **PATROL**

- PATROL SGT: John Svancara
- PATROL SGT: Michael Stegner
- PATROL CPL: Tyson Davis
- OFFICER: Jerry Florence
- OFFICER: Vacant (advertising)
- OFFICER: Chase Langmack
- OFFICER: Michael Rosenquist
- OFFICER: Titus Oatman
- OFFICER: Cassidy White
- K9 OFFICER: Monta

**Mark Bensen**  
**208.843.7141**



# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **PATROL (CONTINUED)**

- OFFICER: Meghan Antoni
- OFFICER: Ruben Perez
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER: Kamelle Bourgeau
- OFFICER: Matthew Neu-Griffin
- OFFICER: Davis Gobbi Jr. (academy July 2025)
- OFFICER: Patrick Hendren (academy April 2025)
- OFFICER: Gabriella Santana (academy July 2025)

## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION**

- DETECTIVE: VACANT (advertising)
- DETECTIVE: Jeff Kaltenbaugh
- SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT (SORNA) OFFICER: Breanne Speas (academy April 2025)

## **CIVIL/JAIL DIVISION**

- DETENTION CPL: Austin Domebo
- DETENTION OFFICER: Jacob Aubertin
- DETENTION OFFICER: Armani Bisbee
- DETENTION OFFICER: Sage Lone Bear (academy April 2025)
- DETENTION OFFICER: Latoya Sisto
- DETENTION OFFICER: (multiple open positions)

## **Accomplishments**

### **NPTPD Statistics October 1, 2025 to April 3, 2025**

Calls for service	1,241
K9 searches with narcotics finds	25 Deployments/ 15 Narcotic arrests 8 non-tribal, 7 tribal 2 fugitive captures with NPTPD drone assistance
Total arrests adult and juvenile	46 Adult/4 Juveniles

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Community Engagement

At NPTPD, we have a clear expectation that all who work here are present and engaged with the community. We have worked diligently meeting many people all over the reservation. Developing relationships with my staff, our community, Tribal employees, and all our neighboring local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. We have attended several community events to include school activities and sports. We have provided safe escorts for many memorial services for Tribal members.

## Equipment

Grant funding has allowed us to purchase 5 patrol vehicles. The vehicles should be ready by August. We purchased by grants Stop Sticks for pursuit immobilization. We have one successful deployment assisting NPCSO with a pursuit on the reservation. New radars, 5 mobile radios and patrol jumpsuits were also purchased with grant funding.

## Training

Training in law enforcement is an investment for the future of our department and the Tribe. Since October, different commissioned officers and civilian staff have attended the following training, FLETC corrections and patrol academies, DUI detection, homicide, strangulation prevention and stalking, basic pistol and rifle, human trafficking, violent crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse detection and interviewing, active shooter, tactical med, EVOC, Stop Sticks, drug identification, drug interdiction, narcotics investigation, MMIW, peer support, NW regional ICAC conference, forensic photography, forensic investigation, basic investigator school, narcotics investigator school, ILETS, sex offender registration management, basic school resource officer and FBI CJIS.





# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **Criminal Investigations Division**

CID has a renewed focus on cooperative work with our regional partners in law enforcement. Nez Perce Tribal Police Detectives have teamed up with the FBI, the Idaho State Police, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the City of Lewiston Police Department to proactively target drug use and sales on and adjacent to the reservation. CID is actively working several cases involving child abuse and sexual assault in close cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe Prosecutor's Office, the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office. CID has partnered with the Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children task force and is attending training and developing protocol with the goal of the Nez Perce Tribal Police Department becoming a full time ICAC affiliate agency to work child abuse and exploitation cases in partnership with the Idaho Department of Justice. We have assisted our regional partners in the investigation and apprehension of child predators and have received their assistance in investigating Cybertips that originates on the reservation. CID, the Nez Perce Tribe Prosecutor's Office, and Spokane County Medical Examiner's Office obtained specialized training as a regional team in the investigation of domestic violence strangulation and homicide. CID has partnered with OURescue to combat human trafficking and child exploitation. The Criminal Investigations Division actively investigates every report of child abuse/exploitation, sexual assault, suspicious death and felony drug possession. We are grateful for tribal members' support of our investigations and ask for their maintained vigilance in reporting these crimes through the appropriate channels.

## **Administration**

The Nez Perce Tribal Police Administration employee demographics is 3 out of 3 employees are Nez Perce Tribal Members and all are Women. Those employees are:

Marie Baheza, MBA, Administrative Supervisor  
Brenda Axtell, Spillman & Records Administrator  
Preslee Moses, Interim Assistant Records Clerk

The Administration team provides administrative support for Tribal Police and Department of Corrections by entering civil documents and warrants for service, managing five CTAS COPS grants and operating budgets of Prison Board, BIA, Tribal Police and Corrections. Since October 1, 2024 to present, there were 78 civil documents and 55 warrants entered for service into the Flex Records Management system, and processed 145 records requests.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **2025 CTAS COPS Grant Award**

Tribal Police received the 2025 CTAS COPS Grant in the amount of \$762,694.00 for necessary equipment and training. Along with this grant award, is a contract position, MMIP Database Administrator who will provide assessments and compile data of at-risk individuals and/or voluntary participants in the Tribe's proactive approach to keeping tribal membership safe from human trafficking and becoming a MMIP statistic. The MMIP Database Administrator will be able to provide MMIP Kits to participants that include a backpack, a Birdie Alarm (personal safety device), gas card, pocketsize address book, and a flashlight. All necessary grant performance reports on four (4) CTAS Cops Grants were completed during the reporting period.

## **PowerDMS**

The Administrative Supervisor completed the necessary training to utilize PowerDMS, which allows Tribal Police to upload Policy & Procedures for employees to review and provide electronic signature to those documents. Supervisors can create their own trainings, tests and track each employee's training & development through PowerDMS.

## **In-Car Camera Systems**

A few of the Nez Perce Tribal Police vehicles were upgraded with new In-Car Camera Systems that upload to Evidence Library to ensure transparency and accountability when initiating contact with tribal members and during any transports. The five (5) new patrol vehicles that will be ready this spring will have these new systems installed.

## **NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting Systems)**

All Administrative Staff completed NIBRS Training, the crime statistics reporting systems for Nez Perce Tribal Police which is uploaded monthly to the national database by the Spillman & Records Administrator.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **Motorola Solutions – Data Transfer**

As part of Tribal Police Administration and Department of Corrections strategic plan is for the Flex (Police Records) Management system to be housed on our own servers. This will allow cross reference of data in the Tribal Police and Department Corrections systems. We are one step closer to making that happen, as we are currently working with Motorola Solutions Customer Service Representative on a quote for a data transfer of police records from Lewiston Police Department to Nez Perce Tribal Police. If all goes well, we plan on starting this project as soon as we can get Law & Order Subcommittee & NPTEC approval.

## **Hiring**

We are working diligently to be fully staffed. Since the last General Council, I am proud to announce NPTPD has hired 7 people. Kamelle Bourgeau started as the School Resource Officer for the Lapwai School District. Matthew Neu-Griffin was hired as a lateral officer and is working in patrol. David Gobbi Jr, Patrick Hendren and Gabriella Santana were hired as entry level officers. Hendren will be attending the Indian Police Academy (IPA) in April. Gobbi Jr and Santana will attend in July. Sage Lone Bear was hired as a Corrections Officer and will attend the IPA in April. Preslee Moses was hired at our Assistant Records Clerk/Evidence Technician III position.

## **Nez Perce Tribe Restorative Justice Center Update**

Records Management System. Our Records management system (Spillman) has been finalized, and a stand-alone server has been installed. With the purchase of a server to house our records, the Department will move forward by combining all of our existing records, so they are housed in one location. Spillman has set the date of August 25 as our official “go live” date. Spillman technical staff will be on site to provide training and troubleshoot any unforeseen issues with our system.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

The addition of the server has opened many possibilities to our facility. At the current moment, there is not a clear path to confirm documents issued by the Nez Perce Tribal Court for our Officer's on the road. Law Enforcement Departments across the nation typically store hard copies of such documents (which include warrants, civil papers and No Contact and Civil Protection Orders) at their Dispatching Center. NPTPD Officers will soon have the ability to confirm and/or serve those documents in real time! Housing a records management system, with "Live" capabilities will eliminate potential delays in reporting runaways and/or missing people. Since those reports require that they are signed by the reporting Officer and the person entering them into the National Criminal Information Center, there have been delays previously. It is commonly known that time is essential in finding missing people. This has never been a reality for the NPTPD and their Officers as the Department has never had a "live" system to account for such crucial records. We are pleased that our efforts have led us to a viable solution to the existing "gap" in our Public Safety efforts.

With the approval of the Spillman Jail records management system, we were able to upgrade our current fingerprint system to a digital system. One of the machines will be utilized in the jail to process inmates. The second device is to be used in employment verifications, visitors to the jail, and National Indian Gaming Commission background checks.





# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **Nez Perce Tribe Restorative Justice Center Policies**

A draft version has been submitted for review through our OLC. After being reviewed and updated a second draft version has been issued to key administrative staff for review. Once the staff are afforded the opportunity to comment, the Policies will be submitted through the process to be adopted. It should be noted that during the drafting process, the NPTRJC retained the services of Daren Ward (Ward) to assist with the review process to ensure that all policies and procedures met the standards set forth by the Idaho Jail Administrators Association (IJAA). Ward served as both a Vice President and a President to the IJAA during his tenure as the Jail Commander for Idaho's second largest County jail facility (at the time) in Canyon County. Ward has been instrumental in assisting NPTRJC staff in developing policies that meet and/or exceed industry standards.

## **Licensing and certifying the Nez Perce Tribe Restorative Justice Center**

This remains the last remaining obstacle in opening the facility. Since the licensing process to become a certified Bureau of Indian Affairs facility typically takes four or five years, the decision has been made for the Tribe to express its sovereignty and license and certify the facility on its own. NPTRJC staff has had many detailed conversations with both the highest rated facility in all of the BIA Corrections Programs (Nisqually) and the most recent certified facility (Puyallup) to ensure that we are taking every precaution necessary to open our facility. Currently we are working with several internal entities to develop and implement a process that will allow the Nez Perce Tribe to certify the NPTRJC facility and policies.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **BIA Division of Safety Inspection**

On November 5, 2025, Ryan Binford, BIA Northwest Region Safety Manager, inspected our facility. During the inspection, Binford made several recommendations noted in a report that was issued to the Department with the BIA Corrections Program Specialist, Justin Garner. In response to the report, the NPTRJC staff is in the process of taking the following action:

1. Changed out the porcelain sink and toilet in the booking waiting area. Binder stated that since this was going to be the primary restroom used by inmates during the booking process and for those housed temporarily in our safe cell, those amenities needed to be replaced with stainless steel.
2. Shower heads throughout the facility were replaced with heads that did not “represent a strangulation point”.
3. Several doors throughout the facility did not have the appropriate assembly tags visible. Per BIA Standards, doors need to be rated for “one hour fire protection,” and the tag needs to be visible.
4. The kitchen needed several upgrades to meet industry standards and was listed as “still under construction”. It should be noted that a range has been purchased that will allow NPTJC staff to heat up and serve up to thirty meals in under seven minutes at a time!!
5. The south emergency exit egress needs to be cleared. Weeds and gravel will make it difficult for inmates (who will typically be in belly chains and leg irons) to exit the facility in the event of a fire. In addition, the emergency exit needs to be clearly marked, and fire escape route signage needs to be posted throughout the building for all to see.
6. The generator outside of our building needs to be protected by fencing as it presently could be subjected to damage and/or vandalism.
7. Signage that indicates “Authorized Staff Only” for our gated compound area, as that parking area is shared with our Patrol/Investigations Divisions.

Binford personally noted that he liked the layout of our facility and looked forward to working with our staff to see it open. Binford also stated that he would be providing yearly inspections.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **Surveillance system**

The system is 100% installed. According to our BIA Correctional Program Specialist, our facility is the most technically advanced Correctional Facility in all Indian Country, with approximately 90 days of video and audio retention throughout the system.

## **NPT Department of Corrections graduates two staff from the Indian Corrections Academy and hires an entry level candidate**

On November 14, 2024, Cadet's Armani Bisbee and John Williamson graduated from the ICA in Artesia New Mexico. Cadet's Bisbee and Williamson graduated with nineteen of their classmates, from a class that started with forty-five Cadets.

## **Stats 2024-2025**

- Jail Refusals: 11
- Arrests: 56
- Prisoner Transports: 88

There were seven "long distance" transports to our partnering facility in Nisqually, Washington. These trips alone have accounted for 5,145 miles for the seven and a half hour, one way trip.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

# In Loving Memory of Officer Alan Reuben



He lived a life of service to the  
community with grace and kindness



# PROSECUTOR

## **Mission Statement**

To strive for the protection and safety of the people of the Nez Perce Tribe and its communities, through the zealous enforcement of the laws of the Nez Perce Tribal Code. To effectively and fairly administer a balanced approach to the administration of justice in support of the Sovereignty of the Nez Perce Tribe on and off the Reservation.

## **Vision Statement**

To adequately protect the safety and interests of the Nez Perce Tribal Community through the zealous enforcement of the Nez Perce Tribal Code.

## **Staff**

- Anne Kelleher, Lead Prosecutor
- Mathew Eggers, Deputy Prosecutor
- DelRae Kipp, Victim Coordinator and Legal Assistant



**Prosecutor  
Anne Kelleher  
208.843.7361**

# PROSECUTOR

The Nez Perce Tribe Prosecutor's Office is fully staffed and continues to expand its knowledge and experience as we strive to find the right balance of justice and equity in serving the Nez Perce Tribe. In addition to addressing crime within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation, the Prosecutor is actively collaborating with community groups focused on mental health, crisis intervention, and improving relationships with law enforcement. She is also developing a reputation as a reliable source of information for legal education and Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction. Overall, the past six months have been busy, and our team is committed to representing the Nez Perce Tribe passionately and diligently, both in and out of the courtroom.

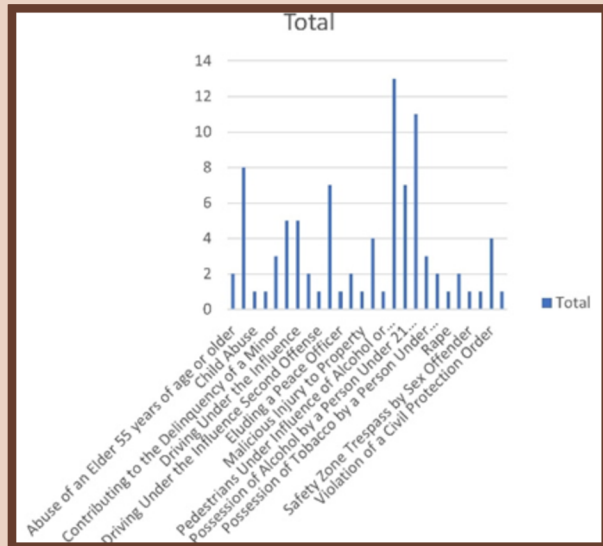
## **Charging Statistics**

The Prosecutor's Office has made significant use of its record management system, Prosecutor by Karpel, to understand better the crime problems facing the tribe. Between October 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, the office has 90 active cases involving 184 counts. This includes 71 new charges against 65 defendants, totaling 126 criminal counts. Of these, just under 21 percent are classified as felonies, most of which are related to drugs or alcohol. Regarding demographics, most offenders were men between 18 and 47.

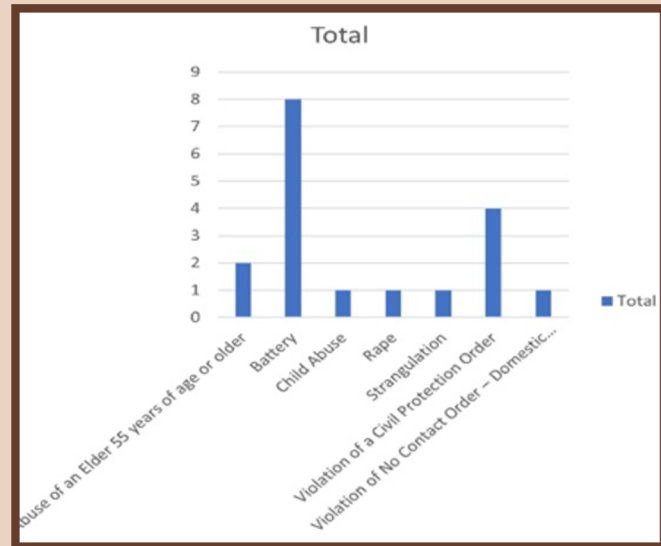
During this period, there were 46 violent offenses reported, including 20 battery charges, which represents a slight increase from last year. However, domestic violence incidents decreased significantly, from 21 to six over the past six months. There has been virtually no change in drug and alcohol offenses between the Fall and Spring General Counsel sessions, with 50 offenses last term and 49 this term.

The Prosecutor's Office successfully resolved seven felony cases, including three particularly severe instances of domestic battery, for which enhanced sentencing was applied. One defendant has already been accepted into the Bureau of Prisons' BIA program, which provides long-term housing at no cost to the Tribe for serious, primarily violent offenses.

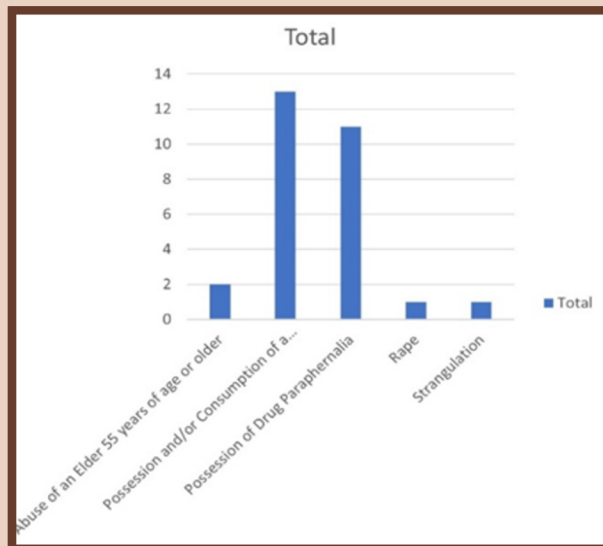
# PROSECUTOR



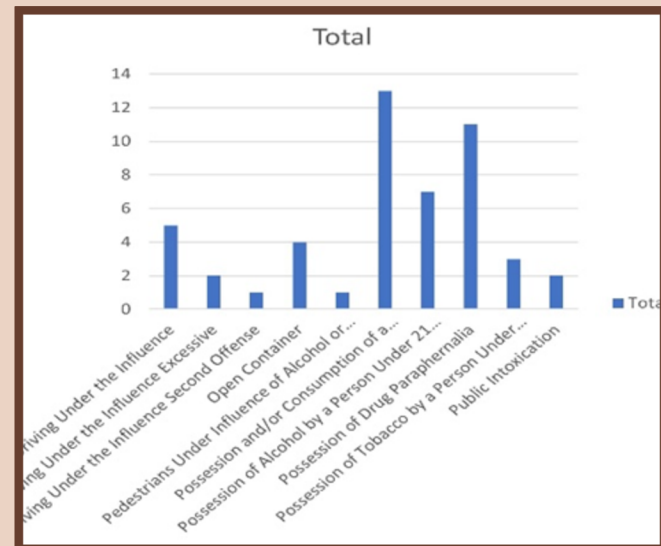
Total Offenses  
Oct 1, 2024-March 31, 2025



Violent Offenses  
last six months

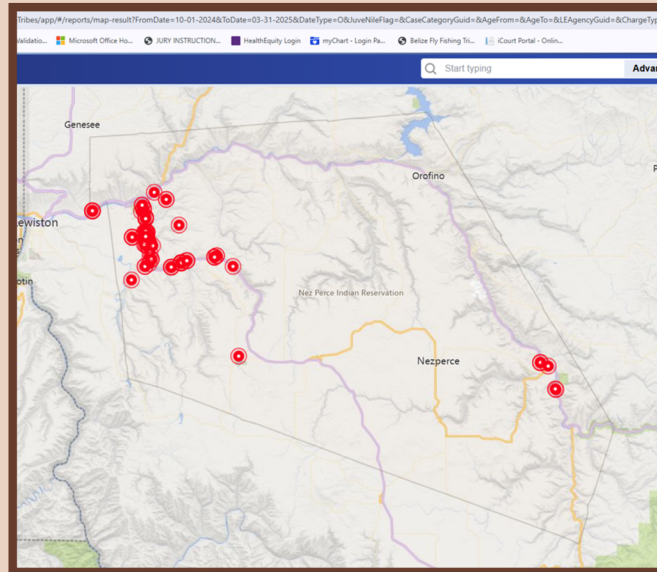


Felony Offenses  
last six months



Drug and Alcohol Offenses  
last six months

# PROSECUTOR



Charged Crimes Map  
October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

## **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

Over the past six months, the prosecutor has gained recognition for her efforts related to Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ). Her article, "Implementing Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction," was featured in the October edition of The Advocate, the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Bar Association. Additionally, she was invited to serve as a panelist at the Tribal-State Court Forum in January to discuss VAWA and STCJ.

## **Mental Health**

Over the last six months, there have been ten mental health calls for service, including one tragic death by suicide. This situation highlights just a tiny portion of the mental health crisis in the community. During the Tribal-State Court Forum held in Lapwai in January, we discussed the current state of Idaho Law regarding mental health holds. Participants recall this as being an everyday conversation, and one for which there has been no apparent action on the part of the State to address. Your prosecutor volunteered to participate with the stakeholders' team to review and recommend code revisions to address this gap, specifically to define Tribal Police as "peace officers" at least for this relevant

# PROSECUTOR

section of the state code. Though this amendment was presented to the Idaho legislature this year, we were advised it would not be placed on this year's agenda but would be considered again next year.

We also improved addressing resource gaps for mental health emergencies, utilizing the 988-crisis hotline. Anne has prioritized this issue and actively participates in the Crisis Intervention Team Collaborative (CITC) and the Nez Perce County Justice/Behavioral Health Stakeholders.

## **PROSECUTOR STAFF ACTIVITIES**

DelRae Kipp continues to serve on the Idaho Juvenile Justice Association board, representing the interests of Tribal Youth. Her long-standing involvement on this board has created opportunities to educate state partners about Tribal Sovereignty and to demonstrate how the Tribe incorporates culture and tradition into juvenile justice. Her presentations and discussions have been well received, and DelRae is recognized as a substantial source of knowledge and experience in this field.

The transition to a new record management system has also allowed DelRae to engage more in victim coordination, which is invaluable given her commitment to the community and her sensitive approach to addressing the needs of victims.

Mathew Eggers, Deputy Prosecutor, manages most of the criminal docket. He has streamlined processes using Karpel effectively, letting us know as soon as we file a case, the scheduling of speedy trial dates, what is included in each discovery packet, and when defense counsel downloads discovery. With one person overseeing most of the criminal docket, we consistently resolve matters, ensuring fairness and equity. We are also better equipped, thanks to the Tribal Law and Order Act and enhanced sentencing, to address serious offenses such as strangulation, suffocation, and fentanyl, with longer sentences and extended periods of probation. Mathew also emphasizes treatment where it is most likely to be effective, particularly after a period of enforced sobriety.

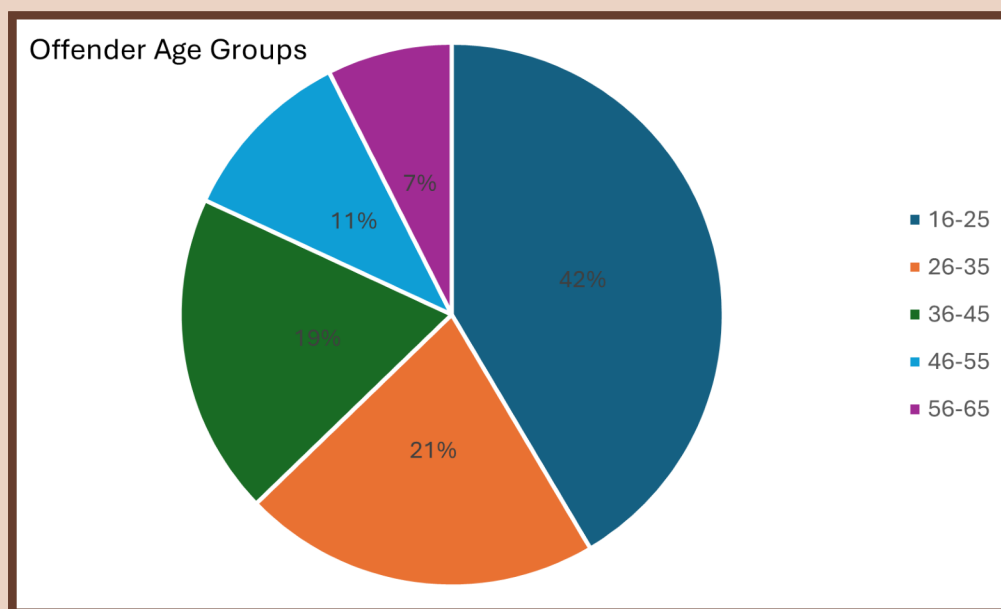
Mathew recently attended a conference on the system we use to extract data from electronic communication devices. This training will enhance our ability to process and disclose information to defense counsel and create exhibits anticipating litigation. We have several cases involving evidence from electronic communication devices so that this training will be implemented immediately.



# PROSECUTOR

## Summary

In summation, the prosecutor's office continues vigilantly striving to find solutions to the problems uniquely associated with crime and criminality.



Most offenders are between the ages of 18-29 (n=55) and 30-49 (n=47). This interesting statistic means criminal activity is not just a youthful indiscretion, but a lifelong endeavor for many people.

# PUBLIC DEFENDER

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Office of the Public Defender is to provide quality representation and zealous advocacy to adults and juveniles accused of criminal offenses filed in the Nez Perce Tribal Court.

## Staff

1 full-time attorney; one full-time office specialist II

## Contact Information

Nez Perce Tribe  
Office of the Public Defender  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, ID 83540  
208-621-3866  
Email: [carmelm@nezperce.org](mailto:carmelm@nezperce.org)  
[leslieg@nezperce.org](mailto:leslieg@nezperce.org)



**Carmel  
McCurdy**

**208.621.4750**

# PUBLIC DEFENDER

## Overview

The Public Defender appears in tribal court to represent adults and juveniles accused of committing criminal offenses. The purpose of the Office of the Public Defender is to safeguard individual rights in all criminal and related matters, from arrest or threat of confinement through all stages of the criminal proceedings, including appeal and probation matters, if any, consistent with applicable laws, court rules, and rules of professional responsibility. This Office also represents clients engaged in the Nez Perce Tribe Healing to Wellness Court. The Public Defender participates in various working groups for the Tribe, such as the Code Revision team.

The Office Specialist II handles tasks such as creating and organizing case files, keeping digital files, and adding documents to individual files. She tracks the number of cases filed and the categories of charges for each. She fields numerous phone calls, calendars court hearings and meetings, coordinates with the conflict public defenders, and works with Nimiipuu Behavioral Health on receipt of treatment recommendations. She assists clients with identifying additional tribal resources available to them.

This office works to negotiate favorable plea bargains and deferred prosecution agreements for its clients. It is always the decision of the client to either take a case to trial or to accept a plea bargain. We research, draft, and file suppression motions, request additional discovery as necessary, and advocate for clients with sentencing and probation issues. We also repeatedly seek the reduction of bail both at initial arraignment hearings and in formal bail-reduction proceedings. We work closely with Healing to Wellness Court participants to ensure that their needs are met and help our clients with intake forms to coordinate appropriate assessments with Nimiipuu Behavioral Health.

The Public Defender continues to be available to provide guidance to individual tribal members on questions concerning civil matters before the Court, so long as the opposing parties in a civil matter are not both Nez Perce tribal members.



# PUBLIC DEFENDER

## **Accomplishments**

Current active caseload: 246 charges are open and pending (including Juvenile matters), of which 80 charges are part of the outside conflict attorneys' caseload. In addition, there are 80 cases (spanning from 2021 to March 2025) that are pending for active bench warrants, including one juvenile. The bench warrant cases will move from pending to active and open upon defendants being picked up by police on their warrants and brought before the Court.

The Public Defender meets with persons charged in the tribal criminal court regarding the charges, their rights, and the maximum penalties faced, represents these clients in court hearings, and pursues motion practice to protect the individual defendants' rights under the Code and the Indian Civil Rights Act.

In the six-month period from October 2024 through March 2025, the Office received a total of 110 new charges. Twenty-five (25) were charged at the felony level. One juvenile petition was filed (misdemeanor level). Of the 110 charges, 50 involved alcohol and/or drugs, and 10 were domestic violence/family violence charges. Conflict counsel was required for 26 of the charges.

Conflict public defenders were required for 26 of the 110 charges. This translates to 76.4% of cases being handled by the Public Defender "in house," and 23.6% being transferred to outside contract counsel because of conflict or continuity of representation concerns. Over the past year (April 2024 – March 2025), there were 269 newly filed cases, of which 70 were charged at the felony level. In terms of percentages, 26% of the cases over the past year received were felony level cases.

During this last quarter, the Public Defender collaborated with the University of Idaho Legal Aid Clinic to provide legal interns an opportunity to practice in the Tribal criminal court under the supervision of their bar licensed supervising attorney. This collaboration benefits not only the legal interns but serves to introduce law students to tribal court practice to encourage new attorneys to seek positions in tribal courts after graduation.

# PUBLIC DEFENDER

As part of this collaboration, the Public Defender presented a class for the UI Legal Aid Clinic students on Tribal Court and the Public Defender's role.

The Public Defender takes an active role in grant programs, including the Healing to Wellness Court Team, the VAWA implementation team, the Sex Offender Registry grant, and the Special Domestic Violence Jurisdiction program.

The Public Defender works in conjunction with the Center for Children and Family Futures to draft policy manuals and participant handbooks for implementation of the Family Treatment Court (Family Wellness Court) grant program.

The Public Defender is a member of the LC Valley Domestic Violence Community Response Team and a member of the Nez Perce County Justice/Behavioral Health stakeholders.

A letter of support was submitted to the Department of Justice for the 2025 CTAS grant proposal, outlining the need for a part-time deputy public defender and a professional case management system.

Draft changes to the SORNA (sex offender registry) code were reviewed, and comments were submitted to the Code Revision Team.

The Public Defender maintains professional associations in the Idaho Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and served as an At-Large Council Member for the Idaho State Bar Indian Law Section.

This Office recognizes the graduates and participants of the Healing to Wellness Court for the time, effort, and hard work these individuals put in on their journey to sobriety and wishes to thank our community for supporting the efforts of all those seeking to maintain sobriety.

# PROBATION

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Adult and Juvenile Probation Program is to deliver high quality probation services to all eligible clients, encouraging the rehabilitation and recovery of all defendants on probation by following fair, consistent, and transparent procedures that are consistent with the historical, cultural, and traditional practices of the Nez Perce Tribe.

## **Vision Statement**

The goals of the Probation program are:

(a) to help probationers meet the conditions of their probation while assuring that probationers are held accountable for their conduct;

(b) to reduce recidivism of offenders by assuring that their needs for services (therapy, job skills training, etc.) are identified and, insofar as possible, met by available service providers, educators, etc.; and

(c) to assure the safety of probationers, themselves and the public by notifying appropriate law enforcement officials when a probationer reasonably appears to be a danger to him or herself or others.

## **Staff**

1 Probation Supervisor

1 Probation Officer II

**Kenneth  
Bourgeau Jr.  
208.621.3618**

# PROBATION

## **Accomplishments**

The Probation Department has actively participated in various community events, including the NMPBH Sobriety event, the Pride Parade, and the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations. We foster positive relationships and encourage our clients to abstain from substance abuse, not only to comply with Court requirements but also to promote a healthier community.

Probation Supervisor maintained contact with a juvenile male client, volunteering to take him to cultural events, teach him life skills in the mountains, and tour the welding program at Lewis-Clark State College. I support his high school sports and educational progress, and he is currently preparing for buffalo hunting in Montana.

Probation Supervisor attended the Intertribal Working Group on Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction, which was implemented Oct 01, 2024. The training took place at Columbia, SC, in December of 2024. There is a need to maintain current education, even though we don't have numerous cases of VAWA Special Jurisdiction cases.

We collaborate effectively with the NPT Police Department, Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office, Idaho State Felony Probation, and US Federal Probation. In January, the Probation Department partnered with NPT PD SRO Kamelle Bourgeau and LCSO K9 handler Deputy Forest Robinson to conduct a K9 search at Lapwai Middle/High School. The event was successful, and all parties involved expressed satisfaction and eagerness to collaborate again.

We have reached out to other departments in the Tribe for comment reference more cultural based or influenced activities with clients. There has been a generous flow of comments and ideas which we plan to implement during the Spring and Summer months with our clients.

# PROBATION

The Probation Supervisor has been focused on recruiting for the Diversion Program, for which we received an extension. The NPT Human Resources Office provided a list of candidates from the Job Seekers list and will continue to assist in this effort. Two individuals were contacted for the position, but unfortunately, neither worked out.

Probation has taken clients out for medicine gathering. We recognize that it can often be challenging for clients to get to these areas for variety of reasons. We took the opportunity and established connections with our clients that extended beyond a meetings at the NPT Probation office or at their place of residence. During this time, we were able to gather traditional medicines used by our community. The clients and their families expressed their gratitude for both the opportunity and the gathered traditional medicines.

# CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

## **Mission Statement**

Among the NiMiiPuu, children are seen as a gift of the Creator. They represent the future of the Tribe and a link to the values of our culture. In our language, there is no word for orphan. Each child is the center of a circle with deep relationships to his biological parents, his blood relatives and his fellow Tribal members. Adults must put the children first to ensure they are properly nurtured and developed.

## **Vision Statement**

The ultimate goal of the CSEP Program is to protect the welfare of the children on the Nez Perce Reservation, through the establishment and enforcement of Child Support orders. By assuring, financial support is provided for these children we believe the cycle of non-support will be broken and future generations of children will be provided for by their parents without intervention.

## **Contact Us**

CSP proudly offers fee-free services, from child support order establishment to paternity testing. For more information or to get involved:

☎ (208) 843-7362

✉ [childsupport@nezperce.org](mailto:childsupport@nezperce.org)

**Lilly James**  
**208.843.7362**

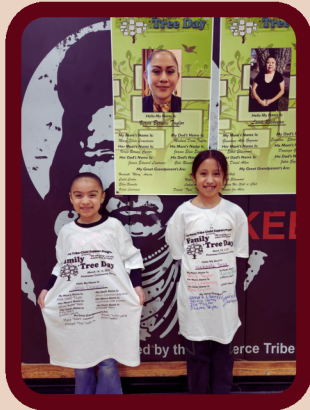


# CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

## Accomplishments

### Family Tree Day and High School Outreach

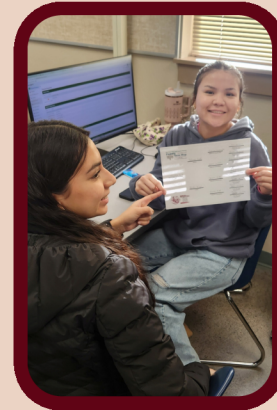
On March 14–15, 2025, CSP hosted Family Tree Day at the Pineewaus Community Center in Lapwai. The event included food, door prizes, and personalized t-shirts featuring each participant's family tree. Families explored their heritage, strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories.



CSP Family Tree Day I



CSP Family Tree Day 2



CSP Family Tree Day HS

The event aligns with CSP's Strategic Plan and Whole-Person, Whole-Family, Whole-Community Approach, encouraging youth to discover their history, build identity, and foster connection. CSP also brought Family Tree Day outreach to high schools in Lewiston, Clarkston, and Lapwai, along with informational booths at community events, providing proactive and educational engagement with tribal child support services.

# CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

## **NCSEA Policy Forum & Podcast Feature**

CSP Director Lilly James participated in the 2025 NCSEA Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. in January, joining a panel alongside the North Dakota and North Carolina State Child Support Directors to discuss Holistic Approaches to Child Support. As a featured plenary speaker, she presented on “Holistic Family Supports: Integrating Comprehensive Supports for Thriving Families,” sharing CSP’s culturally grounded, community-centered model that emphasizes interconnectedness and tradition-based support.

CSP Director was also interviewed in March on the “NCSEA On Location” podcast, hosted by Tim Lightner of eWorld Enterprise Solutions. The episode spotlights the Nez Perce Child Support Program—its mission, services, and the values that guide its work—and is available to stream on Spotify.

## **Native Wellness Institute Training**

CSP Case Manager Charlotte Watters attended the Native Wellness Institute’s “Being Trauma & Healing Informed” training in March. The program promotes Native well-being through ancestral teachings focused on healing, empowerment, and balance. Her participation furthers CSP’s mission to deliver culturally responsive, compassionate services to families.

# CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

## **Homemade Christmas**

CSP's annual Homemade Christmas brought families together for crafting, sharing traditions, and building stronger community ties. The event featured community resource booths, offering services and teaching homemade gift-making rooted in cultural knowledge and creativity.



The event supports the Strengthening Families Protective Factors, particularly social connections, parenting knowledge, and emotional well-being. It served as both a celebration and a prevention strategy, promoting positive, culturally relevant family experiences.

## **New Child Support Legislation**

Two key pieces of federal child support legislation are currently in the implementation phase and will require tribal consultation before full rollout. These developments present significant opportunities for tribal programs like CSP to expand services and strengthen enforcement efforts.



The first legislation aims to integrate employment services into child support programs. This would allow CSP to support parents through access to job readiness resources, training, and education, promoting long-term financial stability and self-sufficiency.

# CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

The second legislation enhances tribal access to the Federal Tax Refund Offset Program (FTI), allowing tribes to intercept federal tax refunds for past-due child support more effectively. This shift improves equity between state and tribal enforcement capabilities.

CSP plans to pursue both employment services and FTI access once federal requirements are finalized and tribal pathways are confirmed.

Community input is welcome. If you have ideas or suggestions on how CSP can implement employment support or prepare for FTI access, please contact the CSP Director. Your feedback is essential in shaping services that reflect and respond to the needs of our community.

# TERO

## **Mission Statement**

To ensure that economic opportunities for employment and for contracting within lands subject to the jurisdiction of the Nez Perce Tribe are provided to members of the Nez Perce Tribe and other Native Americans and to businesses owned by members of the Nez Perce Tribe or other Native Americans.

## **Vision Statement**

Full employment for all Nez Perce tribal members in the job market on the Nez Perce Reservation and surrounding areas.

## **Staff**

- DIRECTOR, MELVIN WHEELER
- CLIENT ADVOCATE/YOUTH APPRENTICE SPONSOR, LAATIS LAWRENCE
- COMPLIANCE OFFICER, CALVIN ALLEN
- TOSHA OFFICER, VACANT
- OFFICE SPECIALIST, JULIA GOULD



**Melvin  
Wheeler**

**208.843.7363**

# TERO

## TERO Training Programs

Sage Truck Driving School  
4259 W. Seltice Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

First Aid/CPR & AED  
Jim Babino  
Lewiston, ID 83501

Laborer Union Local #238  
Spokane, WA 99206

Baker Technical Institute (BTI)  
Baker City, OR 97814

## TERO Projects 2024-2025

1. Aht'wy Overpass-Knife River

Started: May 30, 2023      End: October 2024

2. Lapwai Sewer Collection-Williams Brothers

Started: March 2024      End: September 2024

3. Assisted living Facility- Kenaston Corporation

Started: April 2023      End: Pending Water Issues April 2025

4. NPT Wellness Center-Kenaston Corporation

Started: February 2023      End: Pending Water Issues April 2025

5. US Highway 12 Orofino Sidewalk

Started: March 2025      End: May 2025

6. Webb Road Project

Starts: June 2024      End: May 2025



# TERO

## TERO Dispatches

Carpenter-2  
General Labor-25  
Flagger-35  
Flagger/Labor-20

## TERO Waivers Signed

Carpenter-0  
General Labor-0  
Flagger-0  
Flagger/Laborer-0

## TERO/TYAP Client's Going on Training

Mr. Wilson Flagging-20	First Aid/CPR/AED Training-20
BTI Training 5-weeks-20 (Fall)	LIUNA Concrete Training-17
BTI Training 5-weeks-15 (Spring)	Sage Trucking School-0

## TERO Service to Participants/Shared Cost

Work Boots-\$4,146.79	Work/Flagging Gear-\$4,146.79
First Aid/CPR/AED Class-\$4,146.79	BTI Training 5-weeks-\$190,000.00
	(Grant paid \$190,000.00)

**Total= \$12,440.37 (October 2024-March 2025)**

## Accomplishments

The TERO Youth Apprenticeship Program (TYAP) started November 14, 2022, Registered with the State of Idaho. TYAP currently has 70 registered clients, and they are all working towards their construction trades. Each client will do their first year of training with us then work for the next three years to journey out.

Two TERO/TYAP clients signed up for the BTI 5-week training for construction that happened from October 9, 2024, to November 8, 2024, here on the Nez Perce Reservation. They graduated from this program on November 8, 2024.

Nez Perce Tribe TERO/TYAP (TERO Youth Apprenticeship Program) is being highlighted for being in the top five Tribal Apprenticeship Programs. Idaho Business for Education is highlighting this program for National Apprenticeship Week May 6-8, 2025.

# TERO

**TERO/TYAP Training  
October 2024-March 2025**





# TERO

## Baker Technical Institute (BTI) Spring 2025 Fifteen TERO/TYAP Clients Trained





# TERO



# GAMING COMMISSION OFFICE

## **Vision Statement**

The Nez Perce Tribe Gaming Commissions (NPTGC) vision is to protect the assets of the Nez Perce Tribal Gaming Enterprise by insuring adequate internal controls are in place and conformed to. Ensure that all gaming activity is honest and fair. Regulate all forms of permissible and authorized gaming within the jurisdiction of the Nez Perce Tribe.

## **Purpose**

Nez Perce Gaming Commission, the single tribal agency primarily responsible for regulatory oversight and for monitoring compliance with tribal, Federal and applicable state regulations.

## **Commissioners**

President: Gabe Bohnee

Vice President: Darryl Reuben

Secretary/Treasurer: Eva Higheagle

## **Staff**

Director: Leotis McCormack

Chief Compliance Officer: Mark Souza

Internal Auditor: Alene Powaukee

Gaming Agent: Ken Kipp

Licensing Agent: Liz Minkey

Office Assistant: Vacant

## **Meeting Schedule**

Regular Gaming Commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

**Leotis  
McCormack**

**208.621.4802**

# GAMING COMMISSION OFFICE

The Nez Perce Tribal Gaming Commission was created under the provisions established in the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which was enacted to support and promote tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments through the operation of gaming on Indian lands. The Act provides a statutory basis for the federal regulation of Indian gaming and the authorities for Tribes to regulate Tribal Gaming. The Nez Perce Tribe established the Commission to regulate and support tribal gaming as a means of generating revenue for tribal communities.

The Commission consists of three part-time members appointed by the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee and full-time supporting staff to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities of the Commission. The President, Vice President, and the Secretary/Treasurer are all selected by the commissioners and affirmed by NPTEC action.

The Nez Perce Tribal Gaming Commission's responsibilities:

- regulating and monitoring certain aspects of Nez Perce gaming;
- coordinating its regulatory responsibilities with appropriate jurisdictions;
- providing training and technical assistance to tribal entities;
- reviewing and approving tribal gaming ordinances and management agreements in conjunction with the NPTEC;
- reviewing the backgrounds of individuals and entities to ensure the suitability for gaming licenses of those seeking to work or conduct business with Nez Perce Tribal gaming;
- overseeing and reviewing the conduct and regulation of Nez Perce gaming operations;
- enforcing violations against the Nez Perce Tribal Code and IGRA and its regulations; and referring law enforcement matters to appropriate tribal, Federal, and state entities.



# GAMING COMMISSION OFFICE

## Accomplishments

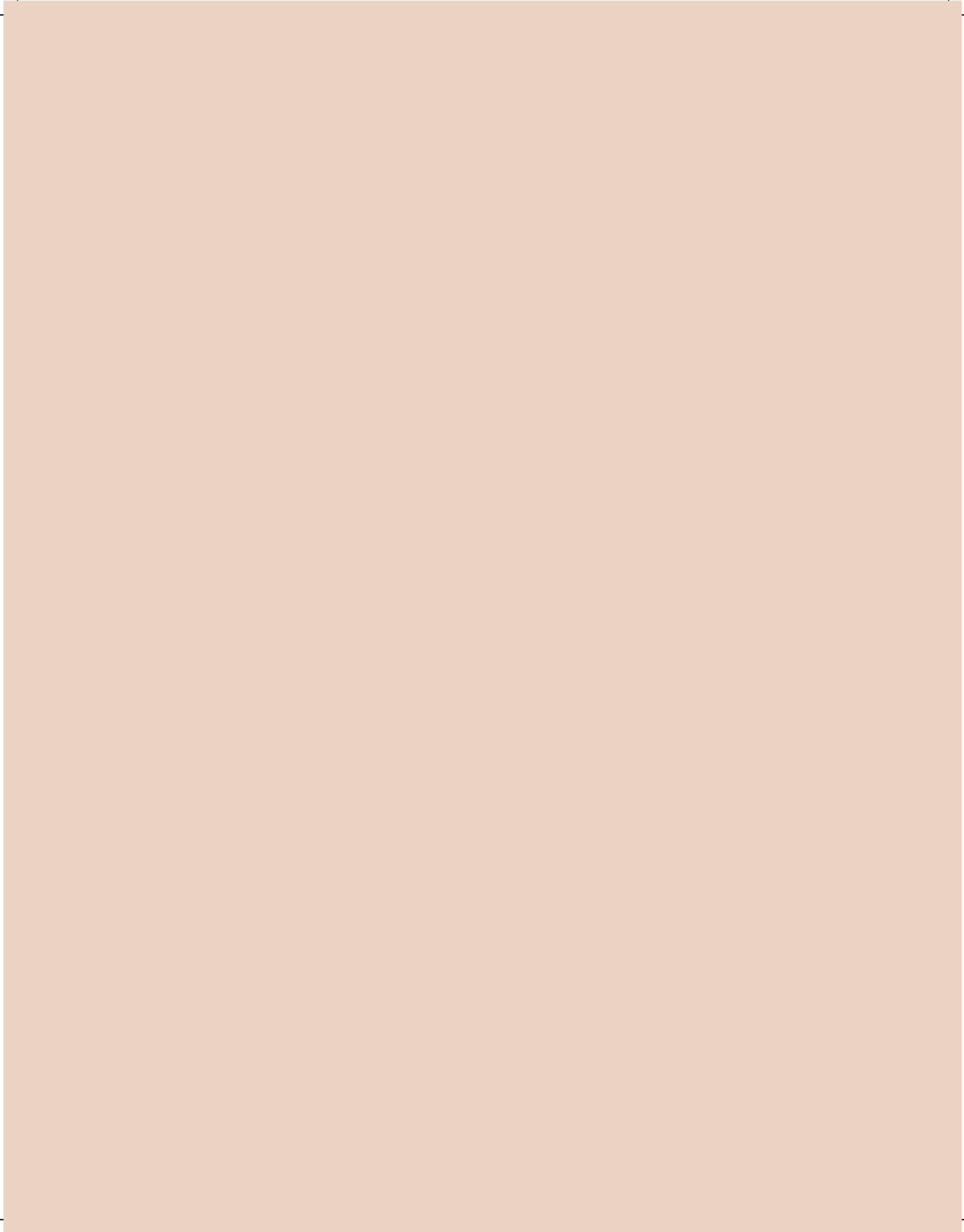
- In December, Leotis McCormack was selected as the new Gaming Commission Director for the Nez Perce Tribe. His role is to assist the leadership of the Gaming Commissioners and carry out the day-to-day operations of the commission staff. We want to thank Chantel Greene for her leadership and wish her well in her future endeavors.
- The Gaming Commission is fully moved into their new offices as of May 2024. From the last report, all security measures have been put in place with the storage of files, security systems, and surveillance capabilities.
- We have begun holding our meetings in our building as we rebuild the offices.
- We have finished both the inspection audit to continue doing background investigations, and our NIGC compliance audits. A lot of recommendations have come forward and we have communicated the work that has been done to address the recommendations. We are pleased to report that almost all of the administrative recommendations have been made up to date.
- All Gaming Commissioners and appropriate staff have completed their Confidential Information Certification Courses and comply with NIGC regulations.
- We are continuing to organize and getting up-to-date our internal guiding policies and working together with the Enterprise management team on a routine basis to continue to foster a positive relationship. We hold regularly scheduled meetings with Gaming Staff Leadership to ensure the relationship can continue to grow as we work on the updating of our compliance with internal controls.

# GAMING COMMISSION OFFICE

- Blue Bird completed their Audit, and the team met and held the final exit interview. We are currently waiting for the finalized report.
- The team is working on updating the format of the background processes and consolidating them into one set of accessible regulations. This has shed light on the Gaming Commission licensing fees, which we are hoping to develop language in the regulations to allow those fees to be used by the Gaming Commission. Currently, the fees go to the General Fund. The Commission would like to utilize those fees for training, infrastructure, and equipment to stay in compliance.
- Working with the Senior Citizens Program staff to develop a set of regulations that will set parameters and ensure compliance with all Charitable Bingo operations within the boundaries of the Reservation.
- Updated a robust tracking system for all reported variances from the Gaming Staff. This allows for a documentation and recording mechanism to allow for reports to be developed, and charts can be established to show upward or downward trends for variances. This also allows for follow-up and recording of how each variance was addressed by supervisors to ensure variances are all being addressed and not being followed up on.
- Overall, the Gaming Commission has continued in a positive direction and has been building great continuity with the current team structure. We are excited for the vision of leadership to broaden our commission regulatory reach in the new jurisdictions.

# NOTES

# NOTES





**THANK  
YOU**