



# CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION 2024 Annual Report





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Wildflowers bloom in the Blue Mountains on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

# From the Chairman



Dear General Council and  
Community Members,

The Confederated Tribes of the  
Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)  
Board of Trustees is honored to serve  
you and proud to share the 2024  
Annual Report, highlighting our  
employees’ hard work, achievements,  
and improvements from the past year.

Through its 17 departments  
and Tribal Court, more than 500  
employees strive to provide quality  
services for our children, elders,  
veterans, families, and community  
in its entirety. This report shows a  
glimpse of the work we’re doing.

My fellow Trustees and I are  
thankful for the dedication and  
devotion of our employees in  
protecting our natural resources, First  
Foods, and keeping our communities  
safe.

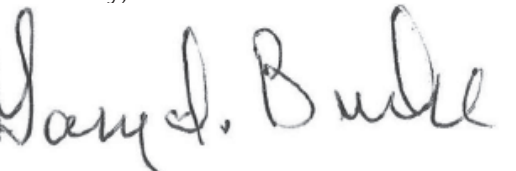
With an annual operating budget of  
more than \$500 million, the CTUIR  
has invested in our community and  
people by appropriating funds to  
education, workforce development,  
economic development, climate  
initiatives, and natural resource  
protection and enhancements.

The Board of Trustees has  
established goals to further CTUIR  
excellence as well as protect our treaty  
rights and economy.

This report gives you a look at how  
our employees achieve key outcomes  
and accomplishments in order to serve  
you.

As a people, we carry ourselves in a  
manner that respects those who have  
passed, those still among us, and those  
to come as we strive for excellence.  
The goal of this Board is to adhere  
to the priorities it has set, continue to  
serve the General Council, and meet  
the needs of our people.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,  
thank you for trusting us to make  
policy as your elected leaders and  
striving for a better future for the  
CTUIR. As always, it’s an honor to  
serve.

Sincerely,  
  
Gary I. Burke  
Board of Trustees Chairman





# Board of Trustees



**Gary I. Burke**  
Chairman



**Aaron Ashley**  
Vice Chairman

Land Acquisition Committee  
Science & Technology Committee  
Wildhorse Foundation



**Raymond Huesties**  
Treasurer

Land Protection Planning Commission  
Cayuse Holdings  
Nixyáawii Community Financial Services Board



**Roberta J. Wilson**  
Secretary

Housing Commission  
Culture Coalition



**Alan Crawford**  
General Council Chairman

Health Commission  
Veterans Committee



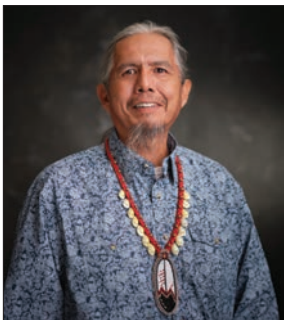
**Corinne Sams**  
Member at Large

Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Law & Order Committee



**Lisa Ganuelas**  
Member at Large

Education & Training Committee  
Farm Committee  
Water Commission



**Toby Patrick**  
Member at Large

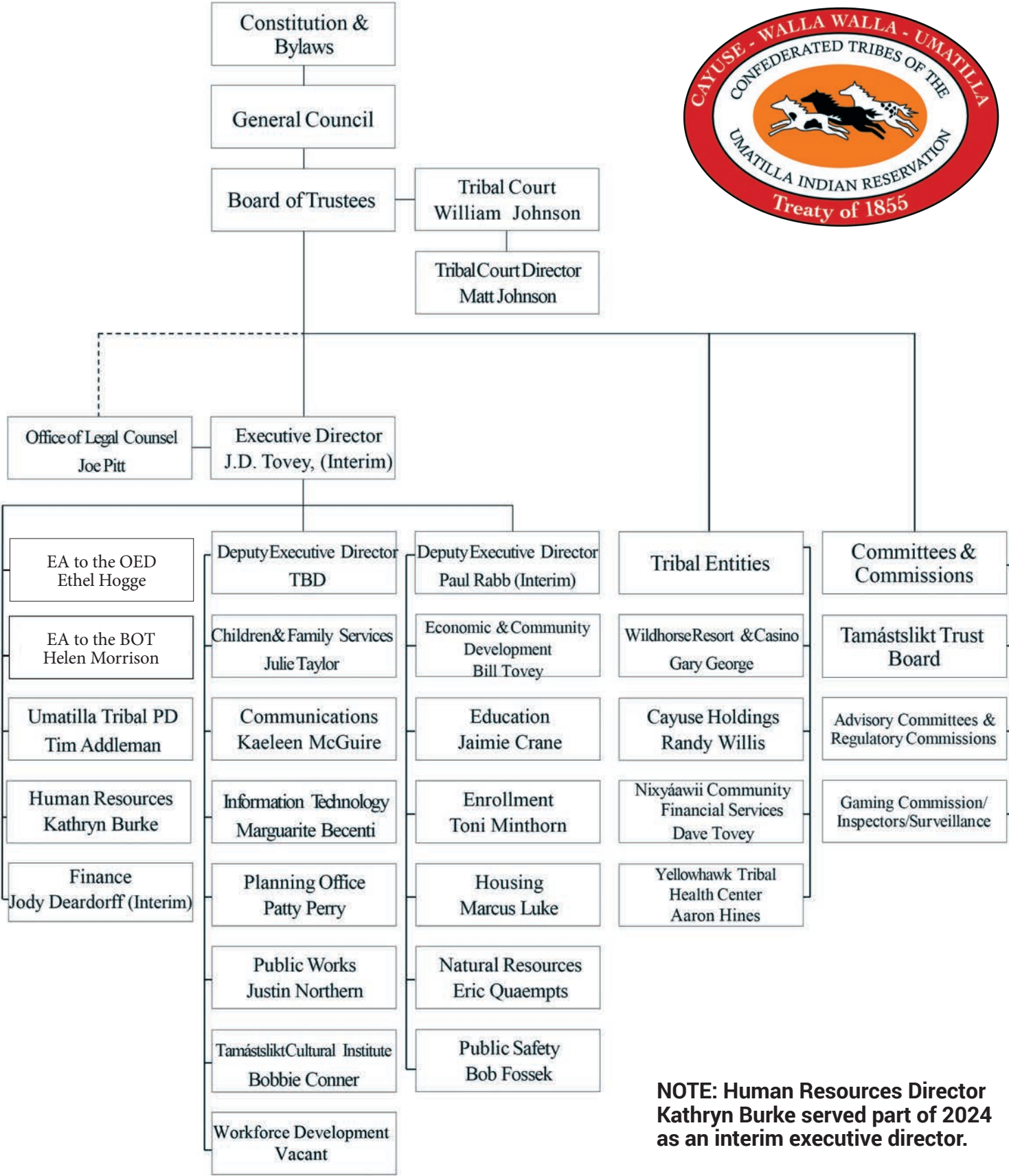
Cultural Resource Committee  
Tiicham Conservation District



**Steven Hart**  
Member at Large

Community Wellness Improvement Collaborative  
Economic Community Development Committee  
Tribal Employment Rights Office Commission

# Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation



**NOTE:** Human Resources Director Kathryn Burke served part of 2024 as an interim executive director.



# Who We Are

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is governed by a constitution and by-laws adopted in 1949.

Elected every two years, the Board of Trustees (BOT) governs the CTUIR with a chairperson presiding over the BOT, which consists of eight other members.

The BOT sets policy, decides tribal affairs, and takes a lead role in prioritizing projects and issues. It holds weekly meetings, work sessions with staff, and meetings with people and organizations. BOT members, except the chairperson, participate in commissions and committees set up to oversee issues such as natural resources, water, health and welfare, fish and wildlife, etc.

The BOT is elected by the General Council (GC), which consists of all CTUIR members age 18 and older. The GC elects officers every two years and meets monthly to hear from its chairperson, the BOT, and working groups. This is also an opportunity for GC members to provide recommendations and input to tribal officials.

More than 500 employees execute the government’s work. The executive director and two deputy executive directors lead the staff, which is organized by departments and programs.

The CTUIR is comprised of the Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla Tribes. It has more than 3,200 tribal members. Nearly half of those tribal members live on or near the Umatilla Indian Reservation, which is about 172,000 acres.

In 1855, the three tribes signed a treaty with the U.S. government, in which it ceded more than 6.4 million acres. The tribes kept rights to fish, hunt, and gather foods and medicines such as roots and berries, as well as pasture livestock on unclaimed lands.

Members still exercise these rights in the CTUIR’s traditional use area, which extends to and beyond harvesting fish at Willamette Falls in Western Oregon to hunting buffalo in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Many members still practice the religion of Washat, and some still speak their native languages.



Board of Trustees Chairman Gary I. Burke and Gov. Tina Kotek.



Digging for roots.



From left are CTUIR Vice Chairman Aaron Ashley, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator Audie Huber and Cultural Resources Protection Program Manager Teara Farrow Ferman in New Zealand.

# Children & Family Services

Members of CTUIR Youth Councils attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Nixyáawii Governance Center.



• Family Engagement aided with Cultural Nights to increase youth participation in cultural activities and knowledge of Longhouse etiquette and dancing protocols.

• Youth Summits held to motivate and encourage participants to get comfortable taking part in their community and public speaking. Twenty-two Senior Youth Leadership Council members and 23 Junior members were elected.

• Family Engagement implemented excursions. On the Tule Excursion participants wove mats using the reed they gathered. On the Nchi Wana Excursion participants went along the Columbia River during the summer salmon migration visiting tribal scaffolds in Rufus, petroglyphs/pictographs at Horsethief Butte, and exercised treaty fishing rights on the Columbia River in Zone 6.

• Along with the Housing Department, two “Houseless Pods” were built and located behind the Family Engagement Building, across from the east doors of the Longhouse.

• Food Distribution with the senior class of Nixyáawii Community School and BOLSTER participants assisted in prepping for each of the monthly distributions.

• Workforce/BOLSTER bought CPR/ First Aid equipment and teamed with TERO to hold monthly CPR/ First Aid classes. These classes were available to Workforce/ BOLSTER/TERO/TVR, employees and foster parents.

• BOLSTER had 121 participants in 2024, up from 78 in 2023. Workforce had 14 adult participants and 8 youth participants, up from 11 and 3 respectively in 2023.

Director: Julie Taylor

The Department of Children & Family Services supports, guides, and invests in the health of our tribal community, and promotes respect and consideration of lifestyles, life quality, and community and cultural values.

This includes the needs and rights of all tribal members and community.

Its core values include encouraging and supporting continuous learning and collaboration for optimum service delivery while respecting and having consideration for diverse lifestyles, including the quality of life and community and cultural values.



# Communications

Director: Kaeleen McGuire

The Communications Department assists the Board of Trustees and staff in communicating with tribal members and the public, foster public understanding of CTUIR treaty rights, First Foods, culture, as well as tribal government programs, services, functions, and activities, and promotes CTUIR interests through strategic public relations and by proactively disseminating information.

With the KCUW radio station, monthly Confederated Umatilla Journal newspaper, website, Legislative Affairs, and a social media following of more than 11,000, the department provides news and information to CTUIR members and the public. It also prepares the Annual Report.



Voter registration event at Hamley's Slickfork Saloon.



CUJ accepts IJA awards.



Irma Totus, right, registers to vote for the first time.

- Partnering with the Umatilla County Elections Department and Oregon Secretary of State, the Communications Department held a voter registration event at Hamley's Slickfork Saloon in October. It also held a voter registration booth during the Community Picnic in August to boost voter participation in the 2024 elections.
- The Confederated Umatilla Journal (CUJ) received 2 Indigenous Journalists Association awards for news writing at the IJA's annual conference in July.
- The CUJ began providing coverage of area sports teams after a local newspaper chain discontinued its sports reporting.
- Communications hosted a visit by Gov. Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek-Wilson in April.
- Communications hosted a summit for the Board of Trustees and Oregon, Washington State, and federal lobbyists in April.

- Legislative Affairs hosted a town hall by Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley in May.
- Communications organized the CTUIR's inaugural sponsorship of the Tri-Cities Water Follies in Kennewick, Washington.
- Communications initiated and completed a Communications Community Survey with approximately 400 participants.
- Communications launched a communications audit and began drafting a CTUIR branding guide.
- Communications issued more than 50 press releases and approximately 25 videos.
- Communications initiated a redesign of the CTUIR website with planned completion in 2025, and with Office of Information Technology updated the CUJ website.
- KCUW celebrated its 20th year on the air on Feb. 2, 2024.

# Communications



CTUIR federal and state lobbyists meet with the Board of Trustees and CTUIR management.



First Lady Aimee Kotek-Wilson and Gov. Tina Kotek visit.

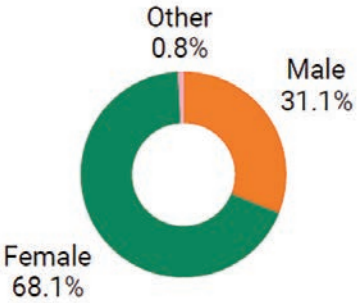


Lee Gavin shoots a video with Plant Ecologist Cheryl Shippentower.

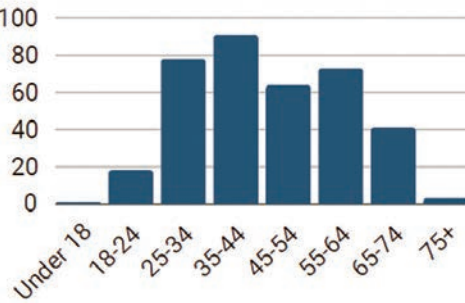


Sen. Jeff Merkley hosted a Town Hall at CTUIR.

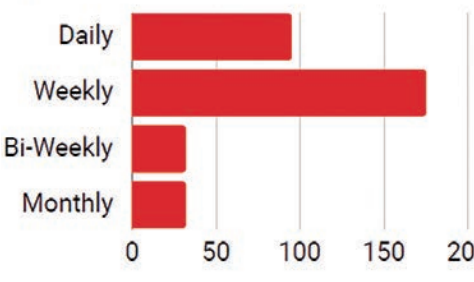
Gender Distribution



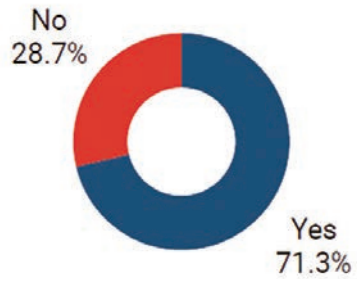
Age Distribution



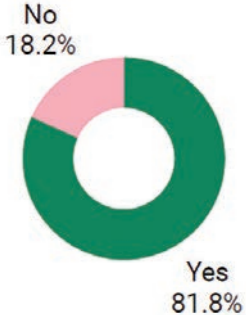
How often would you like to receive updates from CTUIR?



Would you be interested in a CTUIR podcast?



Would you be interested in more Tribal video content?



Would you be interested in a free virtual and printed newsletter?



Samples of 2024 Communications Community Survey results from people who consume news about the CTUIR.



# Economic & Community Development

Department of Economic & Community Development Director Bill Tovey works at his desk.



Director: Bill Tovey

The Department of Economic & Community Development's diverse programs include Indian Lake, Environmental Recovery Facility/Solid Waste, Tribal Farm Enterprise, Land Program, and Tax Program.

The programs contribute to the growth and diversification of the CTUIR's economy while respecting cultural values. It develops job opportunities for tribal members and diverse revenues the tribal government uses to fund services. As for community development, it develops infrastructure for economic and community development via projects such as housing, small business support or workforce development.

- Signed lease with Cairnspring Mills to expand on Coyote Business Park South.
- Purchased the Diggins property and created a Hay Operations Plan to guide expanded hay business.
- The Land Program processed 160 probate Umatilla cases. It processed 5 Fee-to-Trust applications for 170.16 acres. Fee patents requested stood at 26, and 23 were issued.
- The Tribal Environmental Recovery Facility (TERF) transported 4,094.93 tons of municipal solid waste off the reservation.
- Over a 3-week period, TERF successfully accepted and transported 807 tons of materials from the Wildhorse Hotel demolition project. Over 210 tons of recyclable materials were diverted from the waste stream.
- Tribal Farm Enterprise hired an assistant farm manager and hired 1 of 2 farm staff. It also planted an experimental crop and harvested Phacelia for the first time for the Go Seed grant.
- Harvested 4,061 acres of wheat/barley. Grew the first crop of tribally owned grain/alfalfa, barley, and alfalfa from the purchased Diggins and King hay ground.

# Education

Children's Root Dig in April.



Átaw Miyánašma booth at picnic.



Week of the Young Child in April.

- Higher Education supported 84 tribal members via higher education and vocational training scholarships, with 20 earning college degrees or completing certificates.
- The GED program welcomed 52 new learners, 7 of whom earned diplomas, while 3 graduates transitioned to secondary or vocational education.
- Expanded Early Learning staff via the Átaw Early Learning Plan.
- Was awarded birth-through-5 Early Literacy Funds from Department of Early Learning and Care for early literacy Strategic Plan.
- The GED program launched a 6-week pilot credit retrieval class in partnership with Nixyáawii Community School and Title VI staff,

supporting 3 students in working toward earning credits for high school graduation.

- The Language Program increased access to classes, teaching language at Sunridge Middle School, Pendleton High School, Nixyáawii Community School, online via Zoom and YouTube and at Eastern Oregon University and University of Idaho.
- Increased enrollment in the Indian Education Classes at Sunridge Middle School and Pendleton High School teaching weaving, beading, regalia sewing, and making moccasins, parfleches, and chokers. At McKay and Sherwood elementary schools, students learned basketry.
- Food Service maintained accurate monthly claims and reporting to ensure appropriate reimbursements.

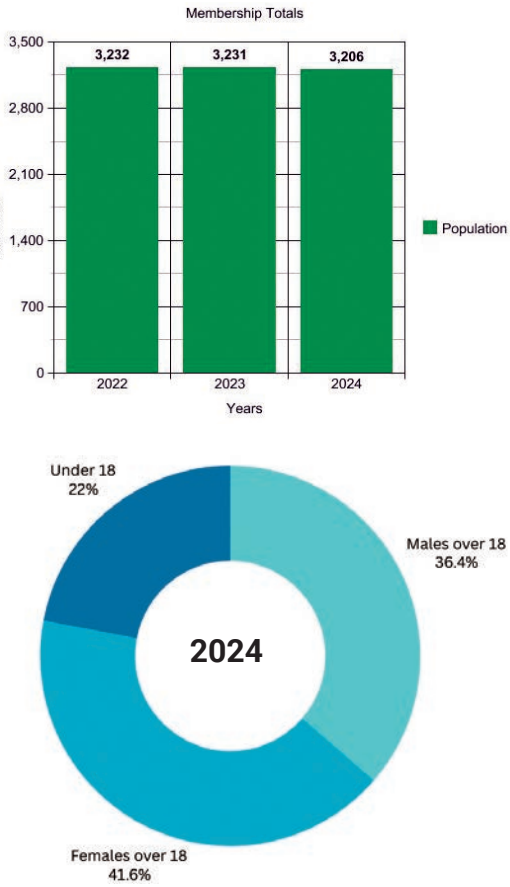
Director: Jaimie Crane

The Education Department provides services and opportunities by overseeing Adult Basic Education, Continuing Education, Higher Education, Vocational Education, Summer Youth Employment, College Internships, Head Start, Day Care, Middle and High School Education, Title VI, Language Program, Recreation, After School Program, and Summer School. The Education Department practices tribal ways by learning and preserving language, cultural practices, and historical and sovereign knowledge within all services.



# Enrollment

Daddy-daughter members at Root Feast.



Director: Toni Minthorn

Tribal Enrollment issues Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood and processes enrollment applications, relinquishments, tribal identification cards, and traces family genealogy. It also maintains records of tribal members and demographic information for uses by other departments and outside agencies. Also, it administers tribal member benefits such as the quarterly general welfare payments, minors' gaming trust accounts, elders' pensions and Supplemental Security Income plans, and the CTUIR burial assistance plan.

- Changed the quarterly distribution payments from gaming distributions to general welfare distributions, enabling tribal members to receive the payments tax free.
- Changed the Rabbi Trust to the General Welfare Savings Trust, and began making monthly distributions for all tribal members aged 18 and over with appropriate paperwork.
- Worked with Children & Family Services and Tribal Court to protect tribal member minor and incapacitated adult accounts.
- Provided funeral assistance for 41 tribal member funerals.
- Paid out monthly elder payments to an average of 365 tribal members aged 65 and older.
- Updated approximately 587 addresses, enrolled more than 30 people for direct deposit of the quarterly distributions, issued about 530 tribal identification cards, 141 new employee identification cards and 34 replacement employee badges, as well as 9 concealed carry identification cards.
- Enrolled 32 people for tribal membership.
- Continued implementing Enhanced Tribal Identification cards for CTUIR tribal members.
- Secured funding and contracted with Taylor Policy Group to continue a population study of tribal members and enrollment.
- Provided verifications of enrollment and descendency to dozens of entities, as well as copies of birth certificates, death certificates, certificates of Indian blood and Social Security cards.

# Finance

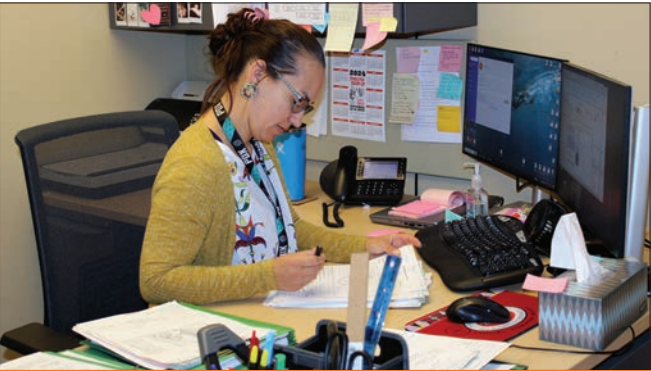
Julie Johnson is all smiles in the Finance Department.



Director: Paul Rabb

The Finance Department maintains accurate and timely financial data for the Board of Trustees and staff. It also maintains internal controls, audits, and reporting systems that adhere to Generally Accepted Accounting Practices using an integrated accounting system, as well as manages the tribe's investment portfolio and ensures insurance policies are in place to protect tribal assets. Its work, systems, and practices are used to report to funding agencies and other government agencies that provide resources to the tribe.

- The CTUIR has more than 561 separate funding agreements with federal, state, and local agencies as well as the many tribally generated sources of funds. In 2024, the tribes received 17,944 separate payments totaling \$121,341,363.81.
- Finance processed 26,567 payments totaling \$83,737,931.46.
- The payroll office processed 14,369 paychecks for a total gross payroll of \$40,965,970.83.
- Assured the tribal 2025 budget was completed and approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Ensured all required insurance policies were in place to protect tribal assets.
- Reviewed all financial-related policies and made recommendations to the Board of Trustees for changes.
- Monitored the CTUIR's investment portfolios.
- Total stipends totaled \$505,307, while total utilities totaled \$1,579,047.



Chelsey Dick thoroughly reviews financial documents.



# Gaming Commission

Surveillance room at Wildhorse Resort & Casino.



Director: Brad Spencer

The Gaming Commission ensures the honesty and integrity of Class II and Class III gaming on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, as well as the adherence to the Tribal Gaming Code.

It is responsible for licensing employees and gaming contractors' operation as required by the Gaming Code. It also enforces regulations and ensures compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and compact between Oregon and the tribe.

Additionally, it investigates all violations of the Gaming Code, Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and compact. It also ensures compliance with applicable laws and safe handling of gaming operation assets.

- Aside from the 5-member Gaming Commission, the Gaming and Surveillance staff is comprised of 25 employees.
- Gaming Commission conducted 98 meetings, including 44 weekly meetings with Wildhorse Resort & Casino management.
- Gaming Commission hosted an Oregon Association of Indian Gaming Commissions meeting.
- Gaming inspectors issued 15 exception reports and completed 2 compliance audits.
- Gaming Commission staff conducted 344 gaming license actions and participated in 1,093 machine events.
- According to a Surveillance report, there were 723 procedure violations, 73 incident reports, 130 gaming investigations, and 26 discs given to law enforcement.
- Also, there were 1,811 video files created, as well as 289 evictions, 62 arrests, 139 trespasses, 225 patron falls and 314 medical incidents.
- Brad Spencer, gaming inspector for the Gaming Commission, was elected vice chairman of the Oregon Association of Indian Gaming Commissions in March 2024.

# Housing

Children playing on slides at Walla Walla Court.



Serving food at Housing's community picnic.

Director: Marcus Luke

The Housing Department's mission is to provide and maintain quality, affordable, and family friendly housing services to various income level households. Policies enacted are to protect, maintain, and build upon tribal housing assets, as well as reinforce and support tenant self-determination and self-sufficiency. It provides quality, community housing services and empowers self-sufficient living for future generations.

- Held annual community picnic that fed more than 400 community members and offered more than 40 educational vendors.
- Completed Nixyáawii Senior Center parking lot upgrades for safety and compliance.
- Replaced dilapidated outdoor basketball court and playground equipment at Walla Walla Court.
- Replaced all roofs in Mission Creek for safety and compliance.
- Fully spent CARES ACT grant from COVID-19, to Prevent, Prepare & Respond from 2021-2024.
- Worked with Children & Family Services and with Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) grant battling homelessness on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- CTUIR development team worked on application process with OHCS for veteran and elder development award for 2025.
- Board of Trustees approved Housing development to build transition housing using American Rescue Plan Act to fund 3 cottage style units for 2025.
- Received award notice for "Solar for All" grant from Oregon Department of Energy to add solar panels to 30 units per year for 4 years.
- Received notice for "Heat pump grants" from the U.S. Department of Energy and Oregon Department of Energy for 2025.









# Past



# Present



# & Future Leaders

# Human Resources

Director: Kathryn Burke

Employees get awards for 5 years of service at CTUIR Christmas Party.



Human Resources, as a partner with all tribal departments and enterprises, delivers quality services to the CTUIR and its community by guiding and facilitating the employment and qualified staff.

It also cultivates, develops, and grows its most vital resources – its tribal members – to become qualified for positions in the CTUIR and its enterprises.

The department also provides employee benefits and maintains a safe and legally compliant environment for CTUIR employees.



Employee Halloween Party.



TERO graduates line up for a photo.



Simulated heavy equipment training.



A student at HR's Career Fair.

- Held annual CTUIR Career Fair with 40 CTUIR programs, 19 outside vendors, and 130 students from surrounding high schools.

- Saw 49% of incoming applications stem from tribal applicants (CTUIR and other tribes).

- Saw 43% of vacant positions filled by CTUIR tribal members.

- Saw 31% of leadership roles (supervisor, manager or director) filled by CTUIR tribal members.

- Three tribal member HR employees completed Tribal Human Resources Professional II training and certification through the National Native American Human Resources Association.

- Three HR employees completed Tribal Management Professional training and certification through the National Native American Human Resources Association.

- One HR tribal member employee completed the Program Manager module through the Pamawaluukt Empower Program.

- Tribal Government Employees: women, 267; men, 301; tribal member, 258; other Indian, 71; non-Indian, 239; total, 568.

- Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center: women, 135; men, 57; tribal members, 69; other Indian, 25; non-Indian, 98; total, 192.

- Government & Yellowhawk: women, 402; men, 358; tribal members, 327; other Indian, 96; non-Indian, 337; total, 760 (previous year, 696).



# Information Technology



Drone photo of Nixyáawii Governance Center by GIS.

Director: Marguarite Bencenti

Three programs – Information Technology Services, Geographic Information Systems, and Records Management – comprise the Office of Information Technology.

Together the programs help achieve the office's goal of facilitating and encouraging beneficial use of information systems by tribal programs while also maintaining hardware and software systems needed for the CTUIR government to operate efficiently.

- GIS' Content Data Management System (CDMS) updates included: freshwater mussels survey data, Energy and Environmental Sciences Program Burn permit data, ground water level monitoring data, and tribal permit internal review system that integrates between Planning and Natural Resources for reviews and approvals of permit applications.

- Updated and migrated the CUJ website to its WordPress version and all of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries websites to WordPress.

- Collaborated with DNR/Water Resources on the CTUIR Drought Early Warning System.

- Developed workflow solution for Cultral Resources Protection Program (CRPP) to collect accurate GPS data using iPads and the CDMS.

- Created Field Maps data collection workflows using iPads and GIS Portal for fire, forestry timber cruising, and weed treatment as well as documenting weed surveys and Walla Walla large wood implementation planning.

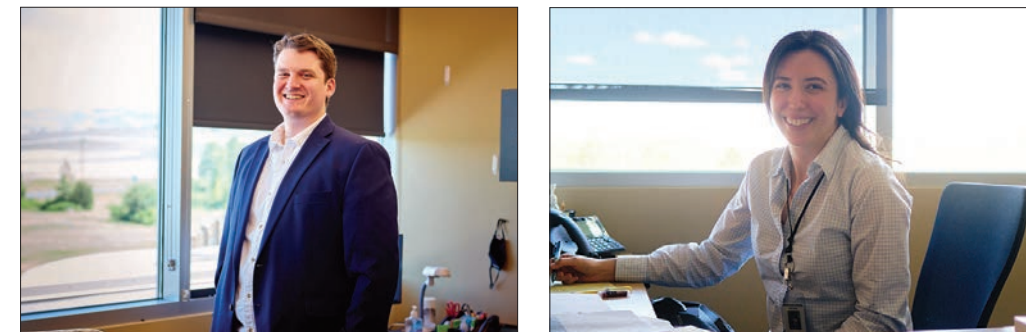
- Created survey forms for field data collection using iPads and the GIS Portal for Timber Cruising Plot, Plant Communities, Proposed Weed Treatment online survey, Grande Ronde Fish and Wildlife Mussels Field Survey, CRPP Photo Point, CRPP Site Form, CRPP Shovel Test Probe, CRPP Daily Monitoring, CRPP Isolate Form, Indian Lake Dam Monitoring, monthly ground water level readings, on-reservation kitchen inspections, and Public Works daily municipal well readings.

- Redesigned the Board of Trustees work session application website.

# Legal Counsel



Lead Attorney Joe Pitt hangs with Jim Thorpe at a Super Bowl party.



Legal Counsel attorneys Garrett Brown and Annie Brown.

Director: Joe Pitt

The Office of Legal Counsel promotes and defends the tribal government's legal rights and interests with legal services to all government divisions and entities.

Staff attorneys, support staff and contract attorneys provide legal services to the CTUIR government; litigate before tribal, state, and federal courts; draft tribal statutes and regulations; write legal correspondence on behalf of the Board of Trustees (BOT); and advise tribal staff, the BOT, and tribal subsidiaries on legal matters. Its work affects areas involving the CTUIR government such as preserving and protecting treaty rights and jurisdiction, assisting in land acquisitions and economic development, and supporting tribal social welfare and environmental protection.

- Advised the Board of Trustees and Wildhorse Resort & Casino on impacts related to the proposed Colville Casino in Pasco, Washington, by drafting comments regarding the National Environmental Policy Act review of the fee-to-trust application associated with the proposal.

- Filed an appeal before the Board of Indian Appeals challenging the Department of Interior decision to take land into trust for a proposed Colville Travel Plaza in Pasco adjacent to the proposed casino location.

- Secured Bureau of Indian Affairs funds and aided in contracting with a Family Violence Services attorney to assist survivors of domestic violence with legal matters.

- Worked to advance draft Oregon legislation that would formalize a

process by which any Oregon tribe may request and receive a grant of civil retrocession regarding PL-280.

- Worked to advance state and federal legislation to address potential impacts of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta to prevent the exercise of state criminal jurisdiction within the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

- Continued working with the Six Sovereigns and the federal government to implement the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative and Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement to restore Columbia River salmon.

- Monitored and consulted in the Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee to work toward a tribal member tolling exemption in relation to the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project.

- Negotiated an agreement to minimize and mitigate for impacts to CTUIR treaty fishing rights associated with the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project.

- Continued negotiations with the United States and trade partners to advance the Umatilla Basin Water Rights settlement.

- Challenged in the Oregon Court of Appeals the Oregon Fish Passage Rule revision that would place fish traps on the same level as volitional fish passage.

- Helped complete a Request for Proposal and contracting for completion of a CTUIR Enrollment Population Study to aid in determining the impact of potential changes to CTUIR enrollment eligibility criteria.



# Natural Resources

Director: Eric Quaempts

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protects, restores, and enhances the First Foods – water, salmon, deer, cou, and huckleberry – for the CTUIR’s cultural, economic, and sovereign benefit.

It uses traditional ecological and cultural knowledge and science to inform population and habitat management goals and actions as well as natural resource policies and regulatory mechanisms. DNR works to increase First Foods’ abundance and reliability for tribal members’ use by studying climate variability and its impacts on First Foods, pollution from chemicals, energy development, and transmission that pose threats to cultural resources, as well as big game habitat, food plant habitats, water quality, and fish.



Spring Chinook smolt at the 'Imtwaha Hatchery.

- The Cultural Resources Protection Program (CRPP) completed an agreement among the CTUIR Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, and Wanapum Tribe of Priest Rapids for the Patánaknuwit Commission to manage Rattlesnake Mountain.
- CRPP conducted outreach on First Foods culture, goals, and treaty rights, including more than 2,150 adults and 895 students, with 16 presentations to over 430 people.
- CRPP conducted 17 First Foods excursions with nearly 310 CTUIR community participants.
- CRPP completed 3 repatriation reburials.
- Water Resources (WR) contributed to a publication regarding groundwater recharge and flow system from headwaters through the Umatilla Indian Reservation

- (UIR) to the valley bottom to better manage groundwater resources for First Foods, tribal culture and community, and economic development.
- WR completed an investigation to sample groundwater from wells and springs for geochemical tracers in the upper Umatilla River to help age groundwater and identify flow paths in the basin and inform groundwater management.
- WR began creating a Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) Project to develop community information and resources for drought indicators, including adding 3 observation wells to the CTUIR’s 14 observational wells to monitor groundwater.
- The Fisheries Program’s Fisheries Habitat began implementing the Umatilla River Birch Creek restoration projects to improve

- in-stream habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed and non-listed fish, while benefiting channel morphology and in-stream processes and protecting existing infrastructure.
- Project milestones included moving an irrigation well to a location out of the floodplain, excavation of 1 mile of primary stream channel, installation of 77 structures for river complexity and fish habitat, excavation of 2 wetland ponds and alcove, and coyote willow planting along wetted portions of the new channel.
- It also includes a 943-acre conservation easement that will be protected in perpetuity, 3.5 cubic feet per second of water rights permanently transferred instream and will permanently restore about 316 acres of floodplain along the Umatilla River and Birch Creek.

# Natural Resources



Kindergarten students tour Pendleton Acclimation Facility.



Cultural Resources Protection Program booth at community picnic.



Umatilla Army Ordnance Depot tour.

- Since July 2024, DNR has placed about 100 lab-propagated mussels of Western Pearlshell and California Floater in a field trial in Yellowhawk Creek. DNR monitors these mussels to improve experimental design for larger studies. In 2024, DNR produced more than 8,000 Western Ridged mussels and are continuing experiments to improve propagation and restoration.
- The Artificial Production Program spawned, reared acclimated, and released Spring Chinook, Fall Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead smolts.
- Umatilla Basin**  
Spring Chinook: 878,795 smolts  
Fall Chinook Yearlings: 793,727  
Fall Chinook Sub-Yearlings: 717,048  
Fall Chinook for Southern Resident Killer Whale Program: 156,919  
Coho: 495,168  
Steelhead: 175,819
- Walla Walla Basin**  
Spring Chinook: 534,196

- Grande Ronde Basin**  
Catherine Creek Spring Chinook: 163,921  
Upper Grande Ronde Spring Chinook: 252,807
- The Fish and Wildlife Commission authorized tribal fisheries in 11 tributaries in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. Spring/Summer Chinook returns provided a harvest of more than 305 adults.
- Coordinated a seed bank fund for \$150,000 with the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State University Extension with \$25,000 to gather and store First Foods and culturally significant plant seeds.
- The Range, Agriculture and Forestry Program’s BIA Tribal Climate Resilience in March 2024 received \$120,673 to monitor huckleberry development and production in response to weather patterns.

- Additionally, the program partnered with the Wallowa Whitman National Forest on the Meadow Creek Project through the Good Neighbor Authority encompassing approximately 80,000 acres of forest, rangeland, and aquatic restoration.
- It also provided support in suppressing more than 30 wildland fires on and near the UIR.
- The First Foods Policy Program began its “Nixyaawii, Don’t Throw It Away!” Project to reduce food waste and trial test a Longhouse anaerobic digester that converts food waste into clean energy.
- Continued to negotiate a Umatilla Basin Water Rights settlement that would secure and protect instream flows for tribal treaty fishing rights in the Umatilla Basin and for consumptive uses on the UIR.



# Planning Office

Director: Patty Perry

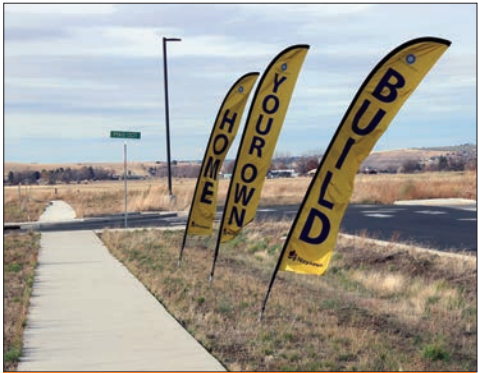
The Planning Office provides the CTUIR with comprehensive planning, development code administration, construction and safety inspections, environmental health, and public transportation operations. It has roughly 38 employees in Comprehensive Planning, Inspection Services, and Kayak Public Transit. It provides research, findings, and policy opinions to guide long-term planning and support the planning, land use, regulation and development decisions across other CTUIR departments and for the Board of Trustees and General Council. It also works with area jurisdictions such as Pendleton and Umatilla County to ensure policies complement each other and further CTUIR treaty rights within the ceded territory.

Gov. Tina Kotek rides in 1 of Kayak Transit’s 2 electric vehicles.



- Completed the Oregon Safe Routes walking trail along State Highway 331 with intersection improvements. A second project was also completed with an Oregon Community Paths grant to connect the Hwy 331 trail to the Nixyáawii Governance Center.
- Provided support to landowners to partition, subdivide, and obtain Development Permits for allowed land uses, the construction of all structures, homes, and businesses on the Umatilla Indian Reservation (UIR), including regulating flood plain development.
- Removal of Fill Permits to regulate surface mining activities and Forest Practices Permits to regulate the UIR forest.
- Filled the Environmental Health & Safety Specialist position and part-time EH&S Technician.

- The tribal member well water-testing project through a Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board/ Centers for Disease Control grant was continued. Approximately 70 wells were tested.
- The Planning Department continued to contract with the Umatilla County Health Department to provide the professional certifications as needed for specific Environmental Health inspections.
- Kayak Public Transit provided free public transportation for the northeast Oregon region to and from the UIR, Umatilla, Union, and Morrow counties in Oregon, and Walla Walla County in Washington State.
- Kayak provided transport for employment, medical appointments, shopping, education, etc. in 19 regional towns and communities.



Nixyáawii Neighborhood plots.



Testing wells in Umatilla County.

# Planning Office

Ribbon-cutting for a Safe Routes walking path at Nixyáawii Governance Center.



Planning’s Career Fair booth.



Gov. Kotek sees Thornhollow Bridge.



Shooting targets at Johnley Pond.



Johnley Pond cleanup begins.

- Kayak continued to see a rebound of ridership in 2024 (81,325) from a 66% decline in 2020 because of pandemic response.
- Improved services such as enhanced cleaning activities, modifications to the buses for operation and separation, replacement buses, and expansion planning. Expansion projects included Hermiston-Boardman connector, a Tri Cities route/ feasibility study, and a new Hermiston Bus Barn facility.
- Began remediation of Johnley Pond after a vehicle was found in it. The cleanup includes the pond and the surrounding area.
- Administering the CTUIR Comprehensive Plan, the 20-year plan that identifies the goals and priorities of the CTUIR government while incorporating benchmarks

- to measure goals. Data is collected from the programs and departments associated with the benchmark. The data trends over time assist the Board of Trustees (BOT) to set priorities that are needed to better achieve these goals.
- Comprehensive Planning provided research, demographic information, and policy advice to CTUIR departments, BOT, General Council, committees, commissions, tribal members, and residents. It also coordinated with regional jurisdictions and entities such as counties, cities, utility companies, and state and federal agencies, to ensure that policies are aligned to support CTUIR sovereignty and interests in the lands it manages.
- Comprehensive Planning handled daily code enforcement, permitting, and land use application processes.



# Public Safety

Director: Bob Fossek

Public Safety is responsible for overseeing the CTUIR’s police department, fire department, and Emergency Management.

It also includes the Office of the Tribal Prosecutor, Family Violence Services, and the Office of Child Support Enforcement.

Its mission is to coordinate quality service to the community by protecting lives and property through prevention, planning, preparedness, education, and response.



• Umatilla Tribal Fire Department responded to 1,038 calls for service, provided 389 ambulance transports, and worked 83 motor vehicle accidents, 86 public assist calls, seven structure fires, 28 wildland fires, 40 vehicle fires, 583 EMS calls, and 11 Life Flight calls.

• Child Support Enforcement collected \$489,161 in 2024 for the benefit of children and families.

• Family Violence Services (FVS) provided financial assistance to clients that included vehicle fuel, safety cameras, groceries, meals, phones, auto repair, U-Haul, safety locks, pets, rent, and hotel/motel.

• FVS Hosted Tribal, State & Federal Summit with 140 participants.

• Prosecutors Office received 181 reports in 2024, 42 warrants, 35 felony complaints filed, 19 driving

under the influence of intoxicants, 10 minor in possession alcohol cases, 25 domestic violence reports, 65 criminal complaints and 2 civil complaints filed, and 3 CRITFC fishing citations.

• Victim and Witness Assistant Services served 45 new victims. During 2024, 30 crime victims were enrolled tribal members.



People participate in a walk for Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

• Emergency Management was approved for a mobile command/communications vehicle. It also received a \$222,000 resiliency grant through HB3409 Section 86: Resilience Hubs & Networks. Purchased 2 Deployed Logix emergency shelters. ICS Training week sponsored locally for ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 and ICS for Senior Leadership.

# Public Works

CTUIR and Indian Health Service officials mark the spot of a future wastewater facility.



Chairman Burke signs an IHS MOA.



Public Works employees fill sandbags.



Cooking at BAAD Tournament BBQ.

• In coordination with Indian Health Services (IHS), Public Works received \$41 million in federal funds to complete the Mission Community Wastewater System Upgrade Project. The IHS funding allocation came from IHS Regular funds, American Rescue Plan Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds.

• This project is the largest funded project in the history of the IHS Portland Area Sanitary Facilities Construction Program. Once completed the facility will have the ability to treat up to 1.5 million gallons of wastewater per day, conserving aquifer water by maintaining current demand levels while meeting demand from CTUIR's growing community.

• Oversaw the completion of 2 walkways funded by \$1.5 million in state grant dollars. The walkways

serve Nixyáawii Community School students and staff with foot and bicycle access to the Nixyáawii Governance Center and Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center campus.

• Served the tribal community by performing 26 burial services.

• Carried out 26 building inspections of tribal facilities, in addition to the required annual alarm and fire suppression systems inspections in all facilities.

• Competed energy saving lighting upgrades in the Nixyáawii Governance Center.

• Installed a walk-in refrigerator in the Longhouse kitchen.

• Public Works and roads staff completed crack sealing and striping of the Nixyáawii Governance Center parking lots.

Director: Justin Northern

Public Works oversees the CTUIR’s water and sewer utilities, tribal facilities, and the tribal transportation and roads programs.

Examples of Public Works’ responsibilities include maintaining Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal roadways, maintaining CTUIR buildings and property, and the development and operations of water, sanitary, sewer, and storm sewer systems.



# Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

Director: Bobbie Conner

Tamástslikt Cultural Institute visitors can immerse themselves in the history, culture, and hospitality of the Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla Tribes.

Tamástslikt presents the tribes' storied past, rich present, and bright future via interactive exhibits, special events, and a Living Culture Village.

With dramatic exhibits, renowned artwork, and interesting events year round, the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute offers a 10,000-year voyage in a single afternoon. A world-class facility inside and out, Tamástslikt is the only museum on the Oregon Trail that tells the story of western expansionism from a tribal point of view.



Customers shop during an anniversary sale.

- Completed multi-year project to replace the entire exterior facility envelope with improved insulation and add an exhibit wing American Disability Act-accessible restroom. A basalt apron surround was also installed as part of xeriscape migration.

- Tribute to the 5 Cayuse men hanged in Oregon City on June 3, 1850, completed and dedicated in Wáášat ceremony and reception on June 3, 2024.

- Reprinted 2,000 Čaw Pawá Láakni, They Are Not Forgotten, Sahaptian Place Names Atlas copies with 3,500 sold and donated over 9 years.

- Curated, installed, and presented public programs for 4 temporary exhibits: Extraordinary Elk: Beaded Big Game Icons from the Fred L. Mitchell Collection; 12th annual youth Artworkz Show; Portraits

in Red Missing and Murderd Indigenous Women & Girls Painting Project, Letitia Carson Enduring Spirit of Hope & Freedom.

- Frontline staff provided 7 in-service field trips: Pendleton, Tri-Cities, Col. Gorge, Baker-Union counties, Walla Walla, NEPE-Spalding, and Wanapam.

- Oregon State Library enabled purchase of Microfilm Scanner System and computer for work on East Boundary.

- Gave tours to 1,746 students, 197 teachers/chaperones, and 128 Cruise Vessel visits.

- Received contributions include Oregon City, Miller, Collins, Roundhouse, Oregon Community, Nixyaawii Community Financial Services, Blick Art, and others.



Fred L. Mitchell Collection opening.



Fred L. Mitchell Collection opening.

# Tribal Court

Director: Matthew Johnson

The CTUIR Constitution vests judicial power in the Tribal Court and authorizes it to adjudicate disputes and state principles of law. The Court applies all tribal laws and safeguards basic rights of due process, equal protection, and fairness mandated by tribal and federal law.

It is an independent branch of government exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction. It provides a forum for settling disputes, contributes to the protection of the community's general welfare, and preserves individual rights. The bench contains a chief judge, 5 associate judges, and judges pro tem. The staff includes the director, clerk, adult probation officer, juvenile coordinator, and truancy specialist.



CTUIR judges after a robing ceremony.

- CTUIR tribal members - Louisa Allman, Naomi Stacy and Matthew Johnson - were appointed as associate judges by the Board of Trustees.

- Louisa Allman and Naomi Stacy are the second and third women to serve as CTUIR judges, and the first 2 CTUIR women tribal members to serve as judges.

- The Court administered oaths of office to 35 members of CTUIR Committees/Commissions, 6 Umatilla Tribal Police Officers, and 3 attorneys admitted to the Umatilla Tribal Court Bar.

- Individuals completed 348.5 hours of community service that were ordered by the Court as part of a judgment and sentencing.

- The Court saw 289 cases filed. Traffic had 115 case filings. Other cases filed included:

- Criminal filings at 64,
- Child Support cases at 28,
- Domestic Abuse Protection Orders at 15,
- Collections were at 9,
- Evictions and Truancy had 8,
- Delinquency at 7,
- Youth Guardianships at 5,
- Dogs at 4,
- Special Domestic Violence Jurisdiction over non-Indians at 4,
- Custody/Parenting Plans at 3,
- Civils Rights at 3,
- Fish & Game at 2,
- Environmental Health & Safety, Tort Claims and Probate at 1.



Associate judges take oaths.



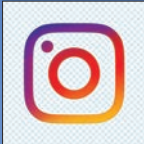


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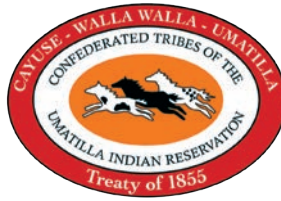
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**Confederated Tribes of the  
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