



News Release

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

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UPDATE: Shooting Incident on Umatilla Indian Reservation

Mission, OR – The fatal shooting of a man on the Umatilla Indian Reservation is still being investigated, but law enforcement officials have confirmed the identity of the deceased as Jeremiah James Johnson. Johnson, 39, was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Umatilla Tribal Police Department (UTPD) officials say on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at approximately 10:36 A.M. Umatilla Tribal Police Dispatch received information from Umatilla County 911 of a domestic disturbance on Bingham Road in the area of Mile Post 18, Adams, OR, which is within the boundaries of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

A Pendleton Police officer responded along with a UTPD officer at the request of the UTPD for mutual aid assistance. According to law enforcement officials, the officers were confronted upon arrival by an armed suspect, identified as Jeremiah James Johnson. During the confrontation, the officers fired their duty firearms at Johnson, killing him.

The FBI is leading the investigation, and the Oregon State Crime Lab is assisting with the collection and processing of evidence. Both officers involved in the incident have been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

The CTUIR Board of Trustees (BOT) understands this is a very unfortunate and tragic event, and they share their deepest condolences to the entire tribal community. Because the investigation is ongoing, details are limited. CTUIR is working diligently with law enforcement agencies to provide information as it becomes available.

The BOT also acknowledges the duty and responsibility of the UTPD, as well as local law enforcement, to protect the safety of our tribal citizens and community members. The BOT reminds the community that grief counseling and support services are available at Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center by calling 541-966-9830.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is made up of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes, formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley, 12 Stat. 945. In 1949, the Tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve and enhance the treaty rights guaranteed under federal statute.

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