



# News Release

**Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

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## **CTUIR names new Confederated Umatilla Journal Editor**

Mission, OR – The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) has hired Lisa Snell as the new editor of the award-winning Confederated Umatilla Journal (CUJ).

Snell, who has spent her career as a journalist serving tribal communities, started her role on Monday, July 17. She moved to the area with her husband, who is also a journalist, and their two children, for the position.

“Lisa brings extensive experience in tribal newspapers and journalism to the CUJ,” said CTUIR Communications Director and CUJ Publisher Kaeleen McGuire. “Lisa is excited to learn about our community, and her energy, ideas, and professionalism are a great match for the CUJ.”

Snell, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, has spent most of her career with publications serving tribal communities. She got her start in journalism working for the Cherokee Nation’s newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix. Snell then worked for the Native American Times, which she eventually bought and managed.

In addition, Snell also launched a magazine, Native Oklahoma, to meet a demand for more feature stories about Indigenous people and tribal nations in Oklahoma. She also wrote a travel guide, “American Indians & Route 66,” for the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, in partnership with the National Park Service, to highlight tribal perspectives and the voices of Indigenous people living along the historic route. Most recently, Snell taught English in the Czech Republic. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Tulsa.

“I’m really thrilled to have the opportunity to be here and to learn about a tribe that’s not my own, and at the same time, contribute the best way I know how, which is to put together a quality publication,” Snell said.

As editor, Snell will oversee operations of the monthly newspaper – writing and editing local, community-focused news stories, designing and laying out the paper, selling advertisements to generate revenue, and establishing and maintaining subscriptions.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is comprised 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 reserved treaty rights guaranteed under federal statute.

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