Nevada Indian Country celebrates wins at Legislature, including greater access to higher education for students.

By: Jazmin Orozco Rodriguez, The Nevada Independent

COVER PHOTO:

Tribal Council Members with Governor Sisolak and First Lady Kathy Sisolak. (left to right): Tribal Council Secretary Marlene Yarrow, Vice-Chairman Verna Nuno, Governor Steve Sisolak, First Lady Kathy Sisolak, and Chairman Arlan Melendez.

Photo Provided by Bucky Harjo

*With RSIC helping to pave the way, Continues on Page 4*
*Open to RSIC Tribal Members Only, During COVID-19.

JOIN OUR ONLINE

Tribal Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14 & 28, 2021 | 6PM

*PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE READ INTO GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES
Deadline to Submit is Wednesday of Meeting, July 14th at 12pm.
For Public Comment Form, email bsam@rsic.org or 775-329-2936

DOWNLOAD THE ZOOM APP

To Attend ZOOM Tribal Council Meetings or Questions,
Contact Public Information Officer, Bethany Sam,
at bsam@rsic.org or 775-842-2902

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DUE TO COVID-19

ALL IN-DOOR EVENTS CANCELLED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Social Media / Virtual Events:
*Sign up for RAVE Alerts to know when to tune in for Chairman Melendez’s Facebook LIVE Updates on RSIC’s Facebook Page.

Mondays:

Tuesdays:
- July 27th, Commodity Distribution, 8am-12pm. Info: 775-781-4856.

Wednesdays:
- July 28th, Tribal Council General Virtual ZOOM Meeting at 6pm. Email bsam@rsic.org for Zoom link.
- RSIC Language & Culture Virtual Zoom Bead Session 6pm-8pm (Email Stacey Burns for Zoom ID and Passcode).
- Hungry Valley Alcohol Anonymous Virtual Zoom Meetings every Wednesday @ 6pm. More info, call 775-433-5327

Thursdays:

Fridays:
- July 23rd, Food Bank at Hungry Valley Gym Parking Lot, 9am-10:30am.
- Last Friday of every month, PPE Distribution to ALL RSIC Homes. To request PPE, call Griselda Maya at 775-560-9041.


Find the most up-to-date info on RSIC’s Facebook. If you’d like to receive RAVE Alert text messages, call/text 775-842-2902 or jcastillo@rsic.org.

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Tribal leaders and advocates are eyeing their communities’ futures with more hope after priority bills for Native leaders made it across the legislative finish line last week.

“I say unequivocally there’s never been a better time to be Indigenous and live in the state of Nevada,” said Stacey Montooth, executive director of the Nevada Indian Commission, during an event last week at the Stewart Indian School in Carson City, where Gov. Steve Sisolak signed three bills affecting Nevada tribes — AB262, AB88 and AB270 — into law.

The legislation prioritized by Native leaders that cleared the lawmaking session include measures that waive fees at Nevada colleges and universities for Native students; prohibit racially discriminatory language or imagery in schools; and provide environmental protection for sacred sites, among others.

Marla McDade Williams, an enrolled member of the Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone and lobbyist for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, said legislation crafted with input from Native community members has been steadily increasing over the last few years in the Legislature, a trend that continued this spring.

“As long as people just continue to keep issues at the forefront, there’s always going to be a legislator who is willing to bring those issues forward and see how we can craft a solution that is beneficial for the Native American community and tribes,” she said.

Assemblyman Howard Watts (D-Las Vegas) said the inclusive legislation fosters unity amid an era of reckoning with historical injustices.

“This is, I think, a groundbreaking legislative session for advancing the rights and issues of Indigenous people and fostering inclusion among all of us, because while we come from many different communities, we’re also all one community and all Nevadans,” he said during the bill-signing event.

Here’s a look at the bills that passed during the session, all of which have also been signed into law by Sisolak, that affect Nevada tribes:

**AB262: Fee waiver for Native students:** One of the top priorities this session for Native leaders and advocates, AB262 waives registration, laboratory and other mandatory fees at Nevada System of Higher Education institutions for Native people who are members of federal-ly recognized tribes in Nevada or descendants of enrolled tribal members. With in-state tuition, waiving fees at universities and colleges significantly reduces the financial burden to attend school for students.

The law goes into effect on July 1st.

At the signing event, Montooth...
said the measure “exponentially broadens” the futures of 70,000 Native Americans in the state.

“I use that large number, not to scare NSHE (Nevada System of Higher Education), but because in Indian Country, when one of us earns a degree, our entire family earns a degree,” she said.

Tribal leaders, such as Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Chair-
man Arlan Melendez, who advocated for the bill during the session said the increased access to education will help lift tribes and their community members out of disproportionate poverty rates.

Assemblywoman Natha Anderson (D-Reno), who sponsored the bill, told The Nevada Independent that her hope is that it will ultimately benefit those who live on tribal lands.

“The goal is really for students to be able to attend school and then come back hopefully to the community so that way we can get Native American doctors on the Native lands, we can get an attorney on Native American land — those things make a difference,” she said.

Cheryl Simmons, an enrolled member of the Washoe Tribe, said she’s excited for the measure to be implemented in time for her classes to start in the fall. As a single mother of two children who is also helping raise her grandchild, she said the fees pose a barrier to people such as herself who want to work toward an associates or bachelor’s degree.

“I’d like to see that change in our school system because it’s penalizing [students] to learn more,” she said, adding that she’s working toward her fifth associates degree in criminal justice at Western Nevada College. She has other degrees in general studies, art and business management.

Besides being an enrolled Nevada tribal member or descendant of one, students also must be eligible for enrollment in a university or college, be a Nevada resident for a year or more, maintain a 2.0 grade point average and fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to be eligible for the fee waiver.

The bill also requires the Board of Regents to submit a report to the Legislative Counsel Bureau regarding the number of students eligible and the total funding available for the waived fees by Sept. 1, 2022, in order to provide accurate data for future legislative bodies.

The original version of the bill included providing in-state tuition at colleges and universities for members of tribes outside of Nevada, which was amended out of the final version.

In a fiscal note, the Nevada System of Higher Education stated it could not determine the financial impact of the bill as it depends on how many students will take the opportunity to use it.

The Assembly approved the bill nearly unanimously, with Assemblyman John Ellison (R-Elko) as the lone lawmaker who voted against it, and the Senate unanimously approved it on the final day of the session.

**AB88: Bans offensive, racially discriminatory imagery in Nevada schools**

Sponsored by Watts, the measure bans offensive or racially discriminatory language and imagery, names, logos or mascots in Nevada schools.

The legislation came about during a time of reckoning across the country, with Native people calling for sports teams, businesses and schools to remove offensive names. Earlier this year, UNLV retired its Hey Reb! mascot after taking its statue down last June in response to a history tied to confederate symbolism and, last year, the Squaw Valley Ski Resort announced it would drop “squaw” from its name after years of protest from the Washoe Tribe. On the national stage, the Washington professional football team announced a name change in January, dropping the “Redskins” title after 90 years.

Watts said the goal of the measure is to continue promoting awareness about the injustices of the past in order to move forward.

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“That's really what Assembly Bill 88 tries to do is help educate people about some of the racially discriminatory aspects of our history, from our school mascots, to the names that we've given to places, places that were named first by Indigenous peoples, and then renamed when settlers arrived, and also addressing the issue of sundowner sirens,” he said during the bill-signing event. “I believe that by confronting these issues, and working together to address them, we can all move forward together and have a brighter future for the state.”

Nevada schools may still use language, imagery or mascots in connection with tribes as long as they have consent from local tribal leaders to do so. For example, the Elko band of the Te-Moak Tribe allowed the Elko High School Indians mascot to remain the same.

The bill also prohibits Nevada counties, cities and unincorporated towns from sounding sirens, bells or alarms historically used to alert people of color to leave town at a certain hour, known as a “sundown ordinance.” The bill specifically applies to Minden in Douglas County, which repealed the sundown ordinance in 1974 but continues to sound the siren at 6 p.m. each day. Tribal leaders have asked for years that the siren be removed, or at least changed to a different hour of the day.

Serrell Smokey, chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, said the measure gives the tribe a better “foothold” in its fight against the siren, which is triggering for some tribal elders who lived through the era of sundown ordinances.

“We’ve seen this even in some elders nowadays, if you ask them about the siren, they'll say, ‘Don't mess with that, don't talk about it,’” Smokey said. “That's historical trauma. They're still scared about it and they don't want to address it. Us younger generations have more fight in us and we know we need to capitalize on taking action with social injustices that have been going on throughout the world.”

The bill also asks that the State Board on Geographic Names recommend name changes for geographic features of places in the state that have racially discriminatory language or imagery. The board includes two Native representatives.

The Assembly and Senate approved the bill 36-6 and 12-8, respectively, with some Republican lawmakers voting against it. Sisolak signed the bill into law during the event on June 4.

**AB270: Stewart Indian School preservation**

Sponsored by Assemblyman Philip O’Neill (R-Carson City), the measure allows the museum director of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum designate certain buildings and grounds of the former boarding school for Native children for special events and authorizes the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at such events.

The bill also earmarks any funds made through the special events to be paid into the State Treasury for credit to the Nevada Indian Commission Gift Fund. Those funds must be used by the commission to maintain and preserve operations and cultural integrity of the Stewart Indian School.

During the bill-signing event in Carson City, O’Neill said the
measure will help ensure the museum can continue to educate the public on the harsh history of the boarding school. The measure also includes preservation efforts for the State Prison.

“[The Stewart Indian School and the State Prison] are long standing in our Nevada history, both good and bad. And we need to teach that, have that available, so our future generations do not repeat. And that's the strongest part of all of our bills today is that we prepare our future generations to be better than we are,” he said.

The Stewart Indian School was one of hundreds of federal boarding schools in the United States that housed Native children, often kidnapped from their families and forced to attend, in order to assimilate them into white culture. Their traditional long hair was cut short and their languages and spiritual practices were forbidden. It reopened last year, after receiving funding from the state, as a museum to share the story of what happened there, as told by school alumni, some of whom are still living in the state.

The Assembly and Senate approved the bill unanimously, and Sisolak signed it into law during the event on June 4.

**AB261: Expand historical contributions of diverse groups in education**

Sponsored by Anderson, the measure requires that education curriculum used throughout the state promote greater inclusion and accurately reflect societal contributions made by various demographic groups.

The bill requires the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of charter schools ensure educational material includes contributions to science, arts and the humanities made by Native Americans and tribes, people of marginalized sexual orientation or gender identity, people with disabilities, people from African American, Basque, Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander backgrounds and more.

The bill addresses frustrations expressed by Native leaders and educators that education generally focuses on Native people as historical figures and fails to acknowledge the historical contributions and modern day presence of Native people and tribes in Nevada.

The Assembly and Senate approved the bill in 26-16 and 12-9 votes, respectively, with Republican lawmakers voting against it, and Sisolak signed the bill into law in May.

**AB321: Expanded voting measure becomes law**

Sponsored by Assembly Speaker Jason Frierson (D-Las Vegas), the bill sets in stone the expanded voting measures implemented last year in response to the pandemic. Native leaders and advocates have widely supported the measure as it includes extended deadlines for tribes to request polling locations and so-called “ballot harvesting,” which allows people to submit ballots for non-family members.

McDade Williams, Te-Moak tribe member and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony lobbyist, said the law improves access to voting for tribes.

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“Being able to recognize that tribal communities are isolated and figuring out ways to help them participate in the state selection process — these are all good things for tribes,” she said.

The next step: Educating Native voters about how to access the ballot in time for the midterm election season next year, she said.

“Hopefully those initiatives can really bear some fruit over the next 12 months, getting some resources at the tribal level to start training voters on how to access the process and how to understand candidates and what to look for in candidates,” McDade Williams said.

The bill passed along party lines in the Assembly and Senate, and Sisolak signed it into law on June 2.

AB103: Protecting Indian burial sites in Nevada

A follow-up to legislation approved in 2017, the bill clears up ambiguities in the law regarding excavation of Indian burial sites across Nevada. Sponsored by Assemblywoman Susie Martinez (D-Las Vegas), the measure clarifies that entities engaged in lawful activity, such as construction, mining and ranching, are exempt from obtaining permits from the State Museum so long as the activity will not affect a known burial site.

The Assembly and Senate approved the bill unanimously and Sisolak signed it into law following the end of the session in May.

During a hearing for the bill in March, Michon Eben, manager for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony cultural resource program, said the current law does not protect Native items or objects found across Nevada and is something Native people would like to change in the future.

AB171: State protection for “swamp cedars”

The measure sponsored by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee grants state protection to Rocky Mountain juniper trees, known as “swamp cedars,” outside of Ely in Spring Valley. Native elders and tribal leaders widely supported the measure because the site where the swamp cedars are found, known as Bahsahwahbee in Shoshone, is sacred to Indigenous people.

The Assembly approved the bill 29-13. It later passed the Senate in a 13-8 vote, with Republicans voting against it, except for Sen. Ira Hansen (R-Sparks), who crossed the aisle to approve the measure despite raising concerns about historical inaccuracies regarding massacres of Indigenous peoples cited in the bill. Sisolak signed the bill before the session ended in late May.

AJR3: Naming Avi Kwa Ame a national monument

Sponsored by Assemblywoman Cecelia González (D-Las Vegas), the resolution heads to Congress to establish Spirit Mountain, known as Avi Kwa Ame in the native Mojave language, as a national monument. Avi Kwa Ame is a spiritual center for several tribes spanning across Nevada, California and Arizona, including the Fort Mojave Tribe.

The Assembly and Senate approved the bill largely along party lines, with Republican lawmakers voting against it.

Adding Native representatives to state groups:

AB72: State Board on Geographic Names

The measure adds another spot for a Native representative from the Nevada Indian Commission on the State Board on Geographic Names. The board already included a spot for a member from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and includes representatives from the state Bureau of Mines and Geology, UNR, UNLV.
the U.S. Forest Service and more.

The Assembly and Senate unanimously approved the bill and Sisolak signed it into law on May 21.

**AB52: Land Use Planning Advisory Council**

Sponsored by the Assembly Natural Resources committee, the bill adds a voting member appointed by the Nevada Indian Commission to the Land Use Planning Advisory Council. The Assembly and Senate approved the bill unanimously and Sisolak signed it into law May 21.

**AB54: Advisory Traffic Safety Committee**

Sponsored by the Assembly Growth and Infrastructure committee, the bill creates the Advisory Traffic Safety Committee, which will be tasked with reviewing, studying and making recommendations regarding best practices for reducing traffic deaths and injuries. As part of the committee, the bill adds a member representing Nevada tribal governments recommended by the Inter-Tribal Council.

The Assembly approved the bill 36-4 and the Senate 12-9, with Republican lawmakers voting against it. Sisolak signed the bill into law on May 21.

**AB95: Legislative Public Lands Committee**

Sponsored by the Assembly Legislative Operations and Elections committee, the bill adds a member representing Nevada tribal governments recommended by the Inter-Tribal Council and appointed by the Legislature to the Legislative Public Lands Committee.

The Assembly and Senate approved the bill unanimously and Sisolak signed it into law on May 27.

Jazmin Orozco Rodriguez is a Nevada Independent staff reporter covering Nevada’s Native American and Latino communities. Follow her on Twitter: @jazminlorozco or email jazmin@thenvindy.com.

Governor Steve Sisolak, First Lady Kathy Sisolak, Bill Sponsors: Assemblywoman Natha Anderson, Assemblyman P.K. O’Neill and Assemblyman Howard Watts all attended the bill signing ceremony at Stewart Indian School. Governor Sisolak also sports his gift-ed Stewart Indian School beaded ball cap made by RSIC Tribal Member Ramona Darrough. Photo by Bucky Harjo.
SATURDAY JULY 24TH 2021
"PROTECT PEEHEE MUHA PRAYER RUN"

From Winnemucca to Thacker Pass
Relay Style - 65 Miles
Friday night camping at Water Canyon
Saturday Morning -
Morning Prayer for Opening Ceremony
Relay begins at Water Canyon

Monetary Donations:
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"WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY TO PROTECT AND DEFEND THACKER PASS!"

Contact Henrietta Snapp on Fb
Jolene Snapp (541) 413-0615
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
COVID-19 Assistance through Human Services

Crisis Relief Under the CARES Act
Have you been financially affected by COVID-19 through layoff, furlough, reduced hours or employer/business closure?

If so, you may qualify for assistance with essential needs such as housing payments, utilities (water, garbage, power), and groceries.

The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to families who are experiencing a financial crisis due to COVID-19 and cannot meet their basic needs.

To download the policy or an application, visit http://www.rsic.org/covid-19-crisis-relief-policy-application/

For more information, call Human Services at 775-329-5071 x 7930 to speak with Griselda Maya, COVID-19 Case Management Coordinator.

COVID Case Management
Case management is offered to tribal and community members who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 OR have been recommended to self-isolate due to an exposure. The purpose of this program is to remove barriers to allow families to heal and self-isolate, and to limit further viral spread.

Case management includes:
- Grocery shopping
- PPE delivery
- Care coordination

Open 7 days/week 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Delivery available to RSIC Residents, Homebound Seniors, Disabled & RSIC DI Reservation Tribal Members living within Reno Sparks area.
COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown has brought about a sense of fear and anxiety to our families and community as we have not seen in a while. As we are rightfully somewhat isolated from each other it makes sense to that we need to pull together with increased family and community wellness. There are key elements to these protective measures for our community.

1) In protection of our physical wellbeing and the wellbeing of others we stay isolated from each other. 2) we avoid substances like alcohol and other drugs as they have a direct relationship to increased risk and poor decision making.

We can break this isolation by using the new technologies and old to reach out in care for one another. This time of COVID has led to short term as well as long term psychosocial and mental health implications for children and adolescents. It has led to increased isolation of elders as well as children from peers and extended family. The strength of magnitude of impact on our elders and children are determined by many vulnerability factors like developmental age, educational status, pre-existing mental health condition, struggling to make ends meet or being quarantined due to infection or fear of infection. This is magnified by the lack of social and family interacts which we need to stay healthy. We can break the cycle of violence, substance use and grow the strength of our family by focusing our homes on wellness and kindness. While these sound like simple goals, we will likely need assistance or to assist others who are committed to setting our family on a path of wellness, not isolation.

Care for Children, Our Future

Although the rate of COVID-19 infection among young children and adolescents is lower, the stress confronted by them increases their vulnerability to the infection and the long-lasting effects of isolation. Many cross-sectional studies have been conducted to analyze the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on children and youth. The results of these studies show that the nature and extent of this impact depend on several vulnerability factors such as the developmental age, educational status, existing mental health or behavioral issues, struggling financially as a family or being quarantined due to infection/fear of infection. Studies show that young children show more clingingness, disturbed sleep, nightmares, poor appetite, inattentiveness, and significant separation problems. The containment measures like school and activity centers closures for long periods together expose the children and families to the increased emotional effects on educational, psychological, and developmental attainment as they experience loneliness, anxiety, and uncertainty. Compulsive use of internet gaming and social media puts them at higher risk. Children and adolescents with mental health conditions are not used to variation in the environment. Hence there could be dramatic increase in symptoms and behavioral problems.

The children who receive training, therapy, and other treatments are at high risk of being derailed from therapy and special educational services. Increased family stressors and substance use makes children particularly prone to exploitation and abuse. Children quarantined are at high risk for developing higher risk for mental health-related challenges. We multiply the impact of these factors on the lives of our children and elders through adverse experiences which we are at higher risk for in these times of loss and struggle.

**Elders in Our Prayers**

Interestingly the same dynamics that put children at risk are also somewhat associated to increased risks of elders. This impact is multiplied many times by the increased impact of the infection on our elders, the increased health issues which our elders may have and by the tendency of elders to suffer quietly without wanting to bring attention to their own needs or need for medical care.

The remedies for these issues which can build on the resilience of our family and community to have increase contacts of care, spiritual support and strengthening our connections to one another. We can take advantage of our ability to connect with every means available, from visiting on the front porch from the door, to facetime, Instagram, through drive by gifting.

While we as treatment providers are connecting with many adults there is a need of elders, children and adolescents access mental health services by using face to face as well as digital platforms. For this collaborative network of adults, parents, caregivers, medical providers, community volunteers, and tribe are required. The focal point of the Tribal Behavioral health care is committed to prevention, promotion, and interventions corresponding to the wellness needs of our communities and families.

**What Can I Do?**

Consider the following thoughts and actions to increase the resilience of the family and community:

- Family spirituality
- Reenter family spiritual activities informal
- Family prayer, find or rediscover the spiritual or faith-based heart of your family.
- Eating at a table together, Praying for the meal.
- Using immunity boosting teas such as elderberry tea
- Bringing family together around church, prayer activities and ceremony within the home
- This is unique time to ask our family elders to lead us in coming closer together in both prayer and support.
- Beading and basket making and other artwork as a family effort

**Mobilizing youth and youth leaders in wellness**

- Assign young family members to practice and teach safe distancing, masking, and sanitizing skills.
- Organize small groups of youth to visit elders and practice active care (such as getting wood, yard cleanup, getting or seeing to sanitizing products and food for the elders)
- Sit with and actively assist children in their school studies, discuss the learning points of the day (what did you learn today? What did it make you think or feel? Teach me about what you are learning)

**Bringing the community together**

- Organize youth and elders to secure vaccination and to teach peers about the importance of reaching community immunity.
- Assist elders and youth to schedule and access nation building services such as behavioral health services.
- Promote behavioral health and other family wellness services not as a way of addressing bad behaviors or issues but to build strength and resilience to the family. This will focus on the family wellness activities of spiritual strength, family organization and safety, increasing the emotional response skills and mindful self-care.

With these simple steps we can come through the time of COVID stronger as individuals and families to build a stronger community. Please feel free to reach out the RSIC Behavioral health for assistance, coaching or strength build during these difficult times. We are here to serve as partners in building and strengthening your family and wellness activities.
The COVID-19 pandemic is not over, and it may not be over for a while. There are three easy ways to help your community reach immunity.

1. **Get vaccinated.**
   - No matter which vaccine you get, all available COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing serious and potentially deadly effects from COVID-19 while also lowering your chances of infection with the virus.
   - Most clinics are now able to provide vaccines for everyone 12 years of age and older.

2. **Get the second dose.**
   - If you receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, you need to get a second dose a few weeks later. The second shot is especially important, as it provides the full protection you want from a vaccine.

3. **Continue to protect yourself and your loved ones.**

   COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

   You are not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after you receive the 2nd dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or 2 weeks after receiving the single dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

   Until then, there are three easy steps to stay safe:
   - Wear a mask.
   - Wash your hands.
   - Watch your distance (6 feet or more)

   Protecting yourself will help to protect those around you who may not be able to get vaccinated.

   For more information on vaccine safety, community supports, and continued protection against COVID, visit [https://www.ihs.gov/vaccine](https://www.ihs.gov/vaccine)

   Together, we can reach community immunity.
Myths about the COVID Vaccine

**MYTH: Getting the vaccine will give you COVID.**

**FACT:** This is absolutely false. To become ill with COVID, there must be contact with the coronavirus. None of the vaccines available contain coronaviruses so they don’t have what is needed to cause infection. Building up immunity takes time and so it is possible to contract the virus either before you get the vaccine or while your body is still building protection from the vaccine. That’s why wearing a mask is so important.

**MYTH: You don’t need a vaccine if you’ve had COVID.**

**FACT:** We don’t know how long immunity lasts once you recover from the virus, but there is a possibility of catching the virus a second time, so the vaccine is still important. If you’ve had COVID, you may receive the vaccine after your symptoms have gone away and you have finished your isolation period. If you received certain medicines when you had COVID, you may need to wait to be vaccinated. Talk to your provider about what’s right for you.

**MYTH: The vaccine will change my DNA.**

**FACT:** Your DNA is the blueprint for your body and is very difficult to change. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain a different type of genetic material called messenger RNA, or mRNA. Your cells break down the mRNA after a short period of time. And mRNA does not affect or interact with your DNA in any way.

**MYTH: I can’t get the vaccine if I want to have a baby.**

**FACT:** There is no evidence the vaccine does anything to a baby during pregnancy, nor that it does anything to the mother’s body to prevent pregnancy in the future. For men, there is no evidence to suggest it affects the sperm or male reproductive organs either, meaning it won’t prevent someone from becoming a father. Your provider can help answer any specific questions.

For more information on vaccine safety, community supports, and continued protection against COVID, visit [https://www.ihs.gov/vaccine](https://www.ihs.gov/vaccine)

Together, we can reach community immunity.

Facts based on the CDC page Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines.
COVID-19

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (ERA) & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE?

- In need of financial assistance, due to being directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19.
- Applicant must be renting their primary place of residence.
- Applicant must meet household local median income guidelines.
- Open to all RSIC Tribal members and other Federally Recognized tribal members in eligible service areas. (Must provide proof of Enrollment)

WHAT DOES THIS ASSISTANCE COVER?

- Rent/Rental Arrears
- Costs Associated with moving into a new rental.
- Utility Bills/Utility Arrears (electric, water, gas)
- Internet Costs (if services were purchased/installed after March 13, 2020)

RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY HOUSING DEPT.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE BY MAIL, EMAIL, OR DOWNLOAD VIA OUR WEBSITE.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD AND INFORM FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIVING OFF THE COLONY.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT THE HOUSING DEPT. @ 775-785-1300 OR EMAIL RDARROUGH@RSIC.ORG

WWW. RSIC.ORG
Recently have you said?
“I can’t sleep,” “I have been sleeping too much and I’m still tired,” “I’m on edge, angry, worried, scared,” “Nothing I do matters,” “There is no way out,” “I have no reason to live,” “I have no purpose in life.”

Recently have you felt?

Recently have you noticed in a friend or family member?
Increase in the use of alcohol, drugs, or smoking? Not being able to focus to? Talking more about death? Giving away prized possessions? Caring less about what happens to them and being risky? Sudden mood changes? Writing or talking about death, dying, or suicide? Withdrawing from friends and/or family?

Recently have you noticed in your child/children that are close to you?
Fall in grades? Trying hard and still having poor grades? Refusal to go to school? Refusal to participate in normal activities? Frequent physical pains? Changes sleeping and/or eating habits? Negative mood and attitude? Mood swings? Use of alcohol and/or drugs? Withdrawal from friends and/or family?

These Can Be Warning Signs
These can all be warning signs of suicidal thoughts or ideation. Whether you have said them to yourself, said them out loud, can answer yes to some of those questions, or if someone else is displaying any of these signs, there is help. Lately these feelings have become more and more common for people of all ages. We have all lost a sense of connectedness from the increased social isolation and social distancing in some form or another. We have not been able to attend sporting events, concerts, family gatherings, or go out to eat at our favorite restaurant like we used to. Everything has changed and life is different now. We find ourselves having to create a “new normal”. We miss our family and friends. We miss gatherings. We miss picking up and going wherever we want. We miss not having to take extra precautions to do normal daily activities. For some people this can be scary and overwhelming. There are multiple ways to cope with the feelings we are having. Different things work for different people, so be open to trying more than one thing.

How to Help Yourself
Do not keep thoughts of suicide to yourself. Silence does not prove you are strong. Open up and talk to someone that you trust (family, friend, counselor, support group, etc.). It is very important that you find people in your life that you can confide in, feel comfortable with, and are available at any time, day or night. There are support life-lines that are also available 24 hours a day. Build your circle of trust and have a plan.

Find an activity that you enjoy doing. Self-care is very important. In order to care for others you have to take care of

Behavioral Health Check-In
By Vanessa Williams
B.S. Community Health Sciences / RSTHC Prevention Outreach Coordinator

Continued on Page 22
yourself first. You cannot pour from an empty cup. Healthy activities can be something that connects you to your culture (beading, making regalia, quilting, gathering traditional medicines, drum making, etc.). The goal is to feel good about yourself.

Build a support network. You are part of a larger whole and you make a difference. Your family, your community, your tribe, the state you are from are all a part of what makes you, you. You may feel less isolated when you find a sense of connection to these things. Ask yourself who are the people you can count on when you are feeling down? Who can you call if you just need to talk? Are there groups you can join with people who have the same interests as you? Social media is a great outlet for sharing feelings and being able to hear stories of others who have the same feelings. Making a list of these connections and creating bonds will be helpful to your emotional health.

Use your support network when you find yourself in a difficult situation. The normal reaction for you may be to shut down and shut people out, but that also makes it harder for your support system to reach out and help you.

Make a safety plan. It is a step by step plan that you will follow when you feel depressed, suicidal, or in a crisis. The goal of your safety plan is to feel safe. Follow the steps and each one will take you to a higher level of feeling safe. https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-yourself/ has templates to help you create your own safety plan. It also has a link to MY3 app, free app, that can be used as another tool to keep you connected during a time of crisis.

What You Can Do If YOU Are In Crisis

If you yourself are in a crisis here are some steps that you can follow to keep yourself safe:

Recognize what warning signs you are having. What thoughts, images, moods, situations, and behaviors are you experiencing?

Use your coping skills/strategies. What works for you? Deep breathing, taking a walk, writing, listening to music, painting, drawing, exercising, meditation, yoga, singing, smudging, beading, calling someone? It may take more than one activity to get you to start feeling safe, and that is ok.

Get out and go somewhere with others who may offer support. Remember your support network and lean on your supports, because they may serve as a distraction from the crisis. Being out in social settings may also help take your mind off of the difficult thoughts or feelings that you are experiencing.

Contact a family member(s) or friend(s) who you can confide in. Know those in your support network that are supportive and who you feel most comfortable with to talk to when you are under stress. Choose individuals that help you feel safe.

Do not be afraid to seek professional help. It may be a therapist/counselor or a support group. Just simply speaking to someone can make you feel better and improve your mental health.

Create a safe environment. Have you thought of ways in which you might harm yourself? Work with a counselor to develop a plan to limit your access to these means.

What You Can Do If Someone Else Is In Crisis

If you are with someone who is in crisis here are steps to keep them safe:

ASK: “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” It’s not an easy question, but studies show that asking at-risk individuals if they are suicidal does not increase suicides or suicidal thoughts.

KEEP THEM SAFE: Ask the person if they have a plan. If they do, you can remove items, or keep them from going to where they plan to complete their plan. While this is not always easy, asking if the at-risk person has a plan and removing or disabling the lethal means can make a difference.

BE THERE: Listen and let them talk without judging them. Do not make them feel guilty, and don’t make it about you. Listen and be as understanding as possible. You will learn what the individual is thinking and feeling. Research shows that

Continued on Page 23
accepting and talking about suicide may reduce rather than increase suicidal thoughts.

HELP THEM CONNECT: Get them help. Be the warm, caring handoff. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s (1-800-273-TALK (8255)) and the Crisis Text Line’s number (741741). You can also help make a connection with a trusted family member, friend, spiritual advisor, or mental health professional. Ask them about their support network or if they have the MY3 app. Local crisis centers offer immediate counseling to everyone and can connect the individual to local services.

STAY CONNECTED: Check in with the person who was in crisis. Staying in touch after a crisis or after being discharged from care can make a difference. Studies have shown the number of suicide deaths goes down when someone follows up with the at-risk person.

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE. WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

If you need to make a behavioral health appointment please call us (775) 334-4307 and we will be more than happy to schedule it for you.

RENO SPARKS TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
### RSIC Senior Program – Menu

**775-785-1343**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5) Closed -</td>
<td>6) Roast</td>
<td>7) Chicken</td>
<td>8) Seasoned Pork</td>
<td>9) Shrimp Scampi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>Beef and</td>
<td>Alfredo with Whole Wheat</td>
<td>Chop</td>
<td>Brown Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provolone</td>
<td>Noodles</td>
<td>Asparagus</td>
<td>Vegetable Blend</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sub</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pears</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sandwich</td>
<td>Lettuce and Tomato</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Crust</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Baked Lays</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lettuce and Tomato</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Salad</td>
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<td>Watermelon</td>
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<tr>
<td>12) Sloppy Joe</td>
<td>13) Turkey</td>
<td>14)</td>
<td>15) Senior Center Closed - no meal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on Whole Wheat</td>
<td>and</td>
<td></td>
<td>staff is relocating to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bun</td>
<td>Provolone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reno Senior Center, packing and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Zucchini Mix</td>
<td>Cheese on</td>
<td></td>
<td>unpacking. Meals will resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pineapple</td>
<td>Whole Wheat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday July 19. Meals will continue</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrap</td>
<td></td>
<td>as homebound delivery only. No</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lettuce &amp;</td>
<td></td>
<td>dining in. Thank you for your</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td></td>
<td>understanding.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pasta</td>
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<td>Salad</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Watermelon</td>
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<tr>
<td>19) Pork Meatball</td>
<td>20) Cheese</td>
<td>21) Chef Salad with Turkey, Egg,</td>
<td>22) Chicken</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Marina</td>
<td>Burger</td>
<td>Cheese, Tomato, Cucumber, Boiled</td>
<td>Breast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sauce on Whole</td>
<td>Macaroni</td>
<td>Whole Wheat Roll</td>
<td>Rice Pilaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat Bun</td>
<td>Green Beans</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Brussel Sprouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Salad</td>
<td>Cantaloupe</td>
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<td>Pineapple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
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<tr>
<td>26) Bison Gravy</td>
<td>27) Pork</td>
<td>28) Chicken Salad Sandwich with</td>
<td>29) Spaghetti with</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over Brown Rice</td>
<td>Loin</td>
<td>Meat Sauce on Whole Wheat</td>
<td>Italian Spaghetti on Whole Wheat</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Baby Roasted</td>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>Pasta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dark Green Salad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honey Dew</td>
<td>Asparagus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cantaloupe</td>
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</tbody>
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Please tie up your dog(s) during delivery times 10 am-1 pm, staff will not enter yards with loose dogs.

Reminder to call before 10:00 am to cancel or add your meal delivery.

*Vitamin C – Daily +Vitamin A – 3x per week 1% Milk Daily*

Menu is subject to change without notice.

**COVID 19 Reminder**- Your meal will be in a plastic bag and placed on your doorknob or driveway fence if you have loose dogs. Please listen for staff to honk and knock then pick up your meal bag after they leave. Staff will return within 15-20 minutes. Meal bags that stay on the door or fence will be removed and a "missed you" note will be left. This ensures safe temperatures of food.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reminder to stay hydrated daily and to keep cool. See flyer for more information</td>
<td>Call if you need a Fan 785-1343</td>
<td>Use umbrella when outside</td>
<td>1) 6:00 pm Last Shoshone Language Class</td>
<td>2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Center Closed No Lunches Delivered</td>
<td>6) Farmers Market Coupon Book Distribution Call 775-785-1343 to sign up or more information</td>
<td>7) 1:00 pm Paiute Language Class</td>
<td>8) Stay Hydrated and keep cool daily</td>
<td>9) Stay Safe in Extreme Heat Tip – Wear loose, light weight, light colored clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12) <strong>Hydrate daily</strong></td>
<td>13) <strong>Stay Safe in Extreme Heat Tip</strong> Avoid strenuous activity or work until it cools down</td>
<td>14)</td>
<td>15)</td>
<td>16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center Closed – no meal delivery or activities. Staff is relocating to Reno Senior Center, packing and unpacking. Meals and limited zoom activities will resume Monday July 19. Meals will continue as homebound delivery only. No dining in and no on-site activities. Thank you for your understanding</td>
<td>19) 9:00 am Food Pantry</td>
<td>20) Painting Picture Frames 1:30 pm on Zoom</td>
<td>21) 1:00pm Paiute Language Class</td>
<td>22) Painting Picture Frames 1:30 pm on Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23) Food Bank 9:00 am</td>
<td>24) Food Pantry 2:00 pm</td>
<td>25) Stay Hydrated</td>
<td>26) 8:00 am Commodities Drive Thru only @ 34</td>
<td>27) 8:00 am Paiute Language Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29)</td>
<td>30) <strong>Stay Safe in Extreme Heat Tip</strong> Take cool showers to cool down</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Wednesday Paiute Language Class & Zoom beading with Language & Culture meeting ID: 973 902 8272. If you have any questions or if you need help call Language & Culture 775-785-1321.

To participate in activities, please call the Senior Center at least 24 hours before scheduled activity, so we can give you the supplies needed 775-785-1343. 3 Participants required for Zoom Class Activities, but if you would like to do an activity on your own we can deliver supplies. Zoom ID: 727 207 1025 Passcode: kNub6P
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE MONEY & ADD YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOUR FURNACE?

Nekoda Pete, RSIC Housing Dept.

Think of your furnace as you would your vehicle. The better you take care of it, the more efficient it will function, and the less wear and tear it gets, the longer it will run. Not to mention you will save money on your monthly energy bill. While these tips may seem tedious, they are quite simple. You just have to do them. It will be worth it! Follow These 6 Simple Tips and Make Your Furnace Run At Peak Efficiency:

Replace the Return Air Filter Frequently.
The purpose of the filter is to prevent dust, hair, debris from getting into the furnace. Once the filter is fully packed with dust, the furnace has to work much harder to pull air through it. Check your filter/filters once a month. A good reminder is to check the filter every time you receive your monthly energy bill. A good rule of thumb is to change it every 3 months, or more often, if needed. Factors such as having animals, or open dirt areas around the exterior of your home can lead to having to change the filter more often. The proper filter size can be found by removing the existing filter and purchasing the same size. You can purchase different quality levels of filters, but the upper-grade filters aren’t really necessary unless you have severe allergies.

Clean/Clear All Vents and Registers.
Make sure all of your vents are open, uncovered, and debris-free. You always want the air to move freely.

Use a Programmable Thermostat or Manually Adjust the Temperature.
Setting your thermostat to 68 degrees, while you are home and awake, has been found to be the most efficient setting. If you are sleeping, or away from home, turn/set your thermostat 7-10 degrees cooler. If you’re not quite comfortable with this temperature, throw on another layer of clothing. This may have been what Gram or Grandpa used to do, but will save on energy and money in the end.

Use Your Curtains Wisely.
On bright sunny days, we have plenty of those here in Nevada, fully open your curtains, and allow sunshine to naturally warm your home. This is usually only helpful on South or West-facing windows. Then, close them at dusk to help prevent heat loss.

Use a Ceiling Fan.
This may sound weird to do in the winter, but if you have a fan, by running it on low, you can push the rising hot air back down towards the floor.

Schedule an Annual Furnace Service.
By having your furnace cleaned and inspected annually, you can keep it running efficiently, and possibly avoid any sudden breakdowns. Your RSIC Housing Department has the proper contact information for a reputable HVAC technician, and this service can be had at a reasonable cost. We highly recommend utilizing this service.

More info, 775-785-1300

--Your RSIC Housing Team
MEMORANDUM
Chairman’s Office

Date: July 1, 2021

TO: RSIC Tribal Members & RSIC Community

FROM: Arlan D. Melendez, Chairman and Tribal Council

RE: Strategic Re-Opening Plans during COVID-19

This is to inform all RSIC Tribal Members and RSIC Community Members, the Tribal Council decided to make strategic changes to further the process of resuming normal RSIC government operations following the COVID-19 Pandemic closures. See below for changes.

MANDATORY CURFEW AND STAY AT HOME ORDER LIFTED: As of July 1st, Tribal Council has lifted the Mandatory Curfew and Mandatory Stay at Home Orders. Be advised, however, the curfew pertaining to minors and persons age 29 years of age and younger, as established by RSIC Ordinance No. 33 (Curfew Ordinance), remains in place and will be rigorously enforced.

PARKS REMAIN CLOSED: RSIC parks will remain closed for the month of July 2021. The Tribal Council will reconsider this directive prior to August 1, 2021.

ALL INDOOR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: All indoor community buildings will remain CLOSED for the month of July 2021. Tribal Members may not rent indoor community spaces for birthday parties, funerals, craft fairs, tournaments, or any other event. The Tribal Council will reconsider this directive prior to August 1, 2021.

TRIBAL COUNCIL AND BOARD/COMMITTEE MEETINGS: All Tribal Council and Board/Committee meetings must remain virtual (Zoom meetings) for the month of July 2021. The Tribal Council will reconsider this directive prior to August 1, 2021.

CHURCH / SWEAT LODGES: As of July 1st, Tribal Council made the decision to allow religious organizations to reopen their facilities and gathering sites, provided CDC guidelines are followed. RSIC Tribal Members may attend at their own discretion.

2021 NUMAGA POWWOW: Tribal Council made the decision to move forward to host the 2021 Numaga Powwow, September 3-5, 2021, following all COVID-19 safety protocols.

If you have any questions regarding the directives and protocols described above, please contact Tribal Administrator, Angie E. Wilson. We deeply appreciate your continued compliance and understanding during these unprecedented times, and look forward to making progress toward resuming normal community and governmental operations during the summer months.

AM;bs
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

**Reno Colony**

Free Summer Meals for kids ages 1-18

**KIDS CAFE Summer Meals**

Where: 34 Reservation Road  Time: 11:30 AM-12:15 PM  
Day: Fridays, each child 7 will receive 7 breakfasts & 7 lunches  
DATES: 6/18/2021 - 7/30/2021-No Service 7/5/2021  

Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
Together we can solve hunger.  
For all questions, please call the Food Bank at (775) 331-3663  
RSIC is an Equal Opportunity Service Provider and Employer

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

**HUNGRY VALLEY**

Free Summer Meals for kids ages 1-18

**KIDS CAFE Summer Meals**

Where: 340 Eagle Canyon Dr.  
Parking Lot across from Christian Fellowship Church  
Time: 2:30 PM-3:15 PM  
Day: Fridays, each child will receive 7 breakfasts & 7 lunches  
Dates: 6/18/2021 - 7/30/2021-No service on 7/5/2021  

Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
Together we can solve hunger.  
For all questions, please call the Food Bank at (775) 331-3663  
RSIC is an Equal Opportunity Service Provider and Employer
2021 Numaga Indian Days Pow-wow

Host Drum
Poundmaker Singers
Saskatchewan, CAN

Master of Ceremonies
Clif Goodwill

Arena Director
Michael Greer Sr.

Head Judge
Nelson Baker

Head Man Dancer
Ma Roberts

Head Lady Dancer
Osagewinashin Rean

Color Guard
RSJC Color Guard

Sound provided by
Hokah Sound

Dance Categories:
Golden age Men & Women (55+): Combined
Men (18-54): Traditional (Northern & Southern combined), Chicken, Grass, Fancy Bustle
Women (18-54): Traditional (Northern & Southern combined), Jingle Dress, Fancy Shawl
Teen Boys (13-17): Traditional, Grass, Fancy Bustle
Teen Girls (13-17): Traditional, Jingle, Fancy Shawl
Jr Boys & Girls (6-12): Traditional, Grass, Jingle, Fancy Tiny Tots Paid Daily

Committee Specials
SPOTLIGHT: Men's Grass & Women's Fancy Shawl (top 10 in each category), SWITCH DANCE: Women’s GRASS & Men’s FANCY SHAWL

Dance Specials
Men's All Around -Head Man
Sequin Jingle Dress Special - Head Lady
Teen Girls All Around - Miss Numaga
All Ages Old Style Jingle Dress Jr.
Miss Numaga Tiny Tot Special - Numaga Tiny Tot Princess
Women's Paiute Dress (Buckskin & Cloth Combined)

PRINCESS PAGEANT THURSDAY EVENING,
CHECK FB PAGE FOR MORE INFO & UPDATED SPECIALS

Due to COVID-19 there will be no Saturday Feed

Powwow Information: Anita Talanoa
(775)338-3723

Vendor Information: Jason Stewart
(775)399-2177 jasonstewart245@gmail

Princess Pageant Information:
Klarissa O'Neil (775)870-0828

Media Contact: Bethany Sam
(775)842-2902

Accommodations
Host Hotel Circus Circus Reno, NV
(800) 648-5010
Group code: SCUINAG
FREE DRY CAMPING @ PW GROUNDS

Grand Entry Times:
FRI 7PM, SAT 1 & 7PM,
SUN 12PM.

September 3, 4, & 5, 2021
Hungry Valley, NV

CDC Guidelines will be in effect
subject to cancellation due to COVID-19

Drug & Alcohol Free Event, RSIC Powwow Committee is not responsible for lost/stolen items or short funded travelers
Photo Collage of RSIC by Bucky Harjo & Bethany Sam

Retirements, Graduation Parade, Virtual Shoshone Reunion & Packaging, Cattle Drive, Hungry Valley Command during COVID-19, Sneak Peak of COVID Campaign Photos, Virtual Tele Town Hall w/ Miss Universe 2015 Ashley Callingbull.

Top Left Photo: Bernie Delorme Retires after 20 years with RSTHC.
Top Right Photo: Janice Gardipe Retires after 22 years with RSIC.
Center Left Photo: Judy Miller Retires after 29 years with RSTHC.
Center Right Photo: Tony Navarro Retires after 15 years with RSIC.

Bottom Left Photo:
RSIC Tribal Council takes photo Downtown Reno to help promote COVID-19 Vaccines and Safety.

Bottom Center Photo:
Scott Nebesky Retires after 18 years with RSIC.
Thank You Retirees for your Services to RSIC!

Bottom Photo:
Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive comes through Hungry Valley on June 17, 2021. Photo by: Bucky Harjo
Ruth Johnson modeling for COVID Campaign

*Congratulations Class of 2021!*
*Thank You Division B For All Your Support in Hungry Valley!*
*Way to go David Harjo in helping promote COVID-19 Vaccines on Channel 2 News!*

Thank You Models! Our COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign will be One Of a Kind! Thank you Shoshone Reunion Volunteers who made this virtual event a success!
An Indian, whether enrolled tribal member of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony or not, who has been accused of violating the laws of RSIC, is eligible to be represented by an RSIC Tribal Court Advocate in Reno-Sparks Tribal Court at no cost.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony currently has two in-house Tribal Court Advocates and one contracted conflict Court Advocate. They are court-appointed to represent parties who request representation subject to their eligibility.

Once an advocate is appointed by the Court to represent a party in a case, the Defendant has the obligation to maintain contact with the appointed advocate in order to remain informed of the case status and of dates when the party is required to appear in Court. Failure to appear in Court may result to contempt of Court, sanction and other adverse consequences such as dismissal in civil cases, revocation of probation or suspended sentence in criminal cases, issuance of a bench warrant, or filing a new criminal complaint for failure to appear or failure to obey lawful order of the Court. Having representation is not a substitute of clients’ presence in court.

Tribal Court Advocates provide zealous representation to clients and such other legal services with competence. They apply their knowledge and familiarity with the RSIC Law and Order Code and other applicable laws and learned skills, reasonably necessary for the performance of their duties and functions.

During this time of COVID-19 pandemic, communication with Tribal Court Advocates either by phone, video conference or email. They also visit clients who are detained to discuss pending cases, devise strategies and formulate defense. They is preferred to provide health and safety to the court staff, litigants and the tribal community.

Open communication between Tribal Court Advocate and clients is necessary. Confidentiality applies to encourage clients to openly share information with their Advocates and to let Advocates provide effective representation. Open communication requires truthfulness, clarity and transparency to have a better understanding of the litigation process.

Tribal Court Advocates provide legal advice, guidance and support to their clients. Subject to their ethical and professional obligations as officer of the Court, Tribal Court Advocates shall abide by the client’s decision. Example, in criminal cases, after consultation with Tribal Court Advocates and advise-ments of their rights, as to a plea to be entered, whether to waive jury trial, whether the client will testify, whether to accept a plea offer, the client’s decision prevails. To arrive at a thoughtful decision, Tribal Court Advocates has to present the probabilities and outcomes based on the evidence that may be presented in Court.

Negotiations between the Parties through their representation in Court is very common. In criminal and juvenile cases, Parties can negotiate and stipulate subject to the approval of the Court. Not all cases filed with the Tribal Court proceed to evidentiary hearing or trial. Tribal Court Advocates negotiate for their clients. In criminal cases, plea negotiation is also available. In exchange of a “No Contest” or “Guilty” plea, the prosecutor may recommend a lesser punitive approach such as but not limited to suspended sentence and probation subject to conditions that may include in-patient or out-patient treatment for substance abuse or mental health or both.

Tribal Court Advocates have to conduct legal research, interview witnesses, read reports, statements, review evidence,
and speak with the clients. All allegations in the pleadings should be supported by factual and legal basis. Tribal Court Advocates cannot file frivolous motions.

Tribal Court advocates attend hearings and trials. During their appearance in court for hearings and trials, they are expected to be prepared. They have to be cordial and respectful. Addressing the Judge “Your Honor” is the traditional and correct term to use when speaking directly to the Judge. Inappropriate behaviors in Court may be subject to direct contempt or civil contempt. The same apply to clients and any person inside the courtroom while in session.

Due to fluctuating rate of alcohol and drug related cases filed with the Tribal Court, the Reno-Sparks Tribal Court also operates as Drug Court. Tribal community members who are involved in the RSIC criminal justice system who are recommended for out-patient alcohol or substance program may opt to participate in the Healing to Wellness Court as an alternative sentencing. Tribal Court Advocates play a very important role in Healing to Wellness Court. Within non-adversarial courtroom environment, Tribal Court Advocates represents their clients’ best interest by assuring that they are not deprive of their rights as participants. They assist and support the participants and treatment providers in achieving participants’ treatment goals.

Tribal Court Advocates has other duties and functions as assigned by the Tribal Court Administrator. They assist in jury trials, they are actively involved in Court’s community outreach programs, attend trainings etc.

More info, 775-785-8775.
What To Do If You Think
You Have Symptoms

or

Have Been in Close Contact with Persons
Suspect, or Confirmed to have COVID-19:

#1 - Call RSTHC Nurse Call Line,
8am-1pm at 775-334-4319.

#2 - After Hours: Call Washoe County
Health District 775-328-2427

#3 – NV Health Response: 702-759-4636

#4 – CDC Hotline: 800-232-4636.

RSIC Farmer’s Market Coupon Book

Distribution begins July 6 - Tuesday
RSIC senior member or resident
Must be 60 years +
Senior Program client file must be up to date
You may sign up for the program
One book per household
Income restrictions apply (Per household)
1 Senior - monthly income lower than $1,986
2 Seniors - monthly income lower than $2,686
To sign up for more information, call 775-785-1343

2021 Senior Farmers
Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)
Eligible Product List

Eligible Foods: Only fresh unprocessed locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and
honey may be purchased with SFMNP coupons.
Non-Eligible Foods: eggs, butter baked goods, jams/jellies, salsa, nuts, flowers,
potted herbs and potted vegetables, etc., are not authorized for purchase with
SFMNP coupons.

SFMNP Coupons are good at local and surrounding NV Farmer Market locations.

REDA & GREEN
COVID-19 CARDS

The RED and GREEN cards are to help RSIC identify if your household
needs assistance during COVID-19 Home Sheltering.

The GREEN CARD
Is to identify your household is good. You don’t need any assistance.

The RED CARD
Is to identify your household needs assistance
(food, personal hygiene, cleaning supplies, masks, medication, transport to RSTHC)

*Place the color of card you feel fits best for your household in the
front window of your home/apartment.

*We ask you be a good neighbor and report any household(s) with a Red Card in window.
*Tribal Police, Hungry Valley Fire, and RSTHC CHR’s are also patrolling for Red Cards.

Need Immediate Assistance, Please Send a Text or Call Anytime to:
Public Information Officer, Bethany Sam 775-842-2902
Tribal Police Chief Michael Ford 775-530-1173
Emergency Manager, Danny Thayer 775-232-8116
COVID-19 Care Manager, Griselda Maya 775-560-9041
RECRUITMENT FOR
LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Notice to RSIC Enrolled Members

The Law & Order Committee is currently recruiting for three new members. Appointments made to the Committee are for a four-year term and members are appointed by the Tribal Council. The Committee, pursuant to the bylaws, are scheduled to meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The Committee shall be compensated at a rate approved by the Tribal Council.

The Standing Rules for Committees and Advisory Boards of RSIC has been revised and were adopted by the Tribal Council on 10-31-2012, Resolution No. 2012-RS-53. All Committee members must abide by these rules. Please see the Tribal Administrator’s Office for a copy of the Standing Rules.

Any interested RSIC enrolled member may submit their applications to the Tribal Administrator’s Office located at 34 Reservation Road.
Are you looking for work?

COVID-19 SUPPORT STAFF

HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY & SAFE

$15 Per hour / Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

All applicants must be 21 years of age with a Valid Drivers License & be able to pass a PL10-630 background check at time of hire.

775-785-1303 Contact Phone Number
STHOMAS@RSIC.ORG Contact Email

We are looking to hire 8 individuals for these positions.
These are SEASONAL positions
If you have any questions about available jobs, please contact Suzanne Thomas, RSIC Human Resources Dept. at 775-785-1303.
Family Painting Night

StarStories

“Now everytime the stars come out at night the Coyotes go up on the hills and cry out. They want to go back up in the sky and dance with the beautiful ladies dancing around the fire making starlight.” - Wilson Wewa

Kit Pick Up: 7/17/21 @ 5 pm
RSTHC Parking Lot

ZOOM Step by Step: 7/30/21
6:00 pm

Sign Ups Required

(775) 329-5162 ext. 2009
vwilliams@rsthc.org

Red Road to Wellbriety
JULY 2021 SERIES
Thelma Simon, LAOC

Friday's @ 1 PM
Starts July 23, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing Guidelines, there is a limited number of participants. Please call (775) 334-0989 to sign up.

Service
Spiritual Awareness
Perserverance
Justice
Forgiveness
Humility
Willingness
Integrity
Courage
Faith
Hope
Honesty

TALKING CIRCLE
with
Dr. Art Martinez
2nd and 4th TUESDAY
of the month
@ 12 pm

Limited number of seats due to COVID-19 Social Distancing Guidelines. Call (775) 334-0989 to sign up or get a ZOOM code.

You are never alone. We are here for you

Crisis Support of Nevada 24/7 all ages
welcome
1(800)271-8255 or
text "CARE" to 83963

Youth Crisis & Suicide 24/7
www.KNOWcrisis.com
(702) 486-7865

Anger Management
TUESDAYS AT 3PM
Due to COVID-19 Social Distancing Guidelines
Please Call to Sign Up
775-334-0989
OR
775-329-5162 extension 2010

THE BENEFITS

Knowing Your Triggers
Learn to identify what sets you off or worsens your anger

Communication Skills
Learn how to express feelings and needs assertively (not aggressively)

Respond Instead of React
Calm yourself down

Harnessing the power of change
I'm getting VACCINATED to keep my family safe!

Vaccine Hotline: 775-334-0444

Open to All Native Americans 12 years & older.

COVID-19 Vaccines Available!

WALK-IN Appointments Available for All Vaccines. Must be 12+ years old. Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm. Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen & J&J.

Reno-Sparks Tribal Health Center

All Native Americans 12+ years and RSIC Employees & Employee's Family.

*Now Accepting New Patients.