

**THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES
OF THE DUCK VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION**

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September 4, 2020

Tribal Membership,

First off, I am very thankful for the Duck Valley Community and everyone who continues to abide by the "Stay Home, Stay Safe and Curfew" Executive Order. Because of your efforts, even though at times it is frustrating and/or difficult or may seem unfair, the Duck Valley Indian Reservation is still at zero confirmed COVID-19 cases. Yes, it has been a rough ride and scary for many. However, we are all assisting in protecting each other and our loved ones. So, thank you all for your patience during these trying times.

The Shoshone Paiute Tribes have a lot going on with the CARES Act (COVID-19) funding. We are currently at a total of \$17,005,780.27 in federal and/or state assistance. As a reminder, any funds received are not a settlement, nor was it money received without "strings attached." The federal government provided the funds specifically to help governments, such as our tribal government, to prepare for and assist with actions necessary if the virus ever was to reach our Reservation lands. The Tribes must follow all laws and policies previously set by the United States Government when it comes to utilizing and spending the funds. Therefore, the Tribes are working closely with our attorneys and following their advice when it comes to abiding by the laws created by either Congress, the US Treasury and/or another governmental states or agencies. With that being said, the Shoshone Paiute Tribes are finding as many legal and allowable ways as possible to help our people; which includes stockpiling or providing necessary supplies, as well as, grants (not per-capita payments) to the tribal membership.

As many of you are aware, one of the grants provided by the Shoshone Paiute Tribes is the Emergency Family Assistance Program (EFAP) Grant. As a reminder, **September 30, 2020 is the deadline to submit applications** for assistance. Applications are still being received, reviewed and processed on a daily basis. The most recent batch was processed on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 and covered applications submitted from July 22nd to July 28th. Distributions are now at 67% of all tribal members being awarded grants, with a total distribution of \$1,915,500.00.

Another very important deadline at the end of September is the 2020 Census. People of Duck Valley, you all have until the end of the month to complete your submission either online or with a Census taker. I must emphasize the importance of getting your numbers in, as the 2020 Census could crucially cripple our funding for the next 10 years. This is because the numbers given during this Census directly affect each of you as the count dictates how much funding will be provided to our community, through grants and or other programs. Our completion percentile is very low, we are only at 13.8%, as of September 1, 2020; which means our funding could be completely gone for the next decade. This also means that services, programs, opportunities and jobs will be eliminated. So please fill out the Census as it is of the utmost importance for our community and our future.

On another note, the Shoshone Paiute Tribes have been working towards being more transparent and providing the membership with information. Which is why the Business Council began broadcasting our Council Meetings on Facebook Live. At this time, I am happy to inform you all that we now have a better video/audio system in place to allow you all to view and listen in to any Facebook Live public meeting or session, rather than staff utilizing cell phones. This new system will allow us to have more virtual meetings for the public but please understand that the system is new and staff will most likely still need to work out any kinks and we would appreciate your patience.

Our first opportunity for the Tribes to utilize this system for a public meeting, is this afternoon. There is a virtual public meeting set with Nevada Gold Mines at 2 PM, regarding the Collaborative Agreement with tribes. Feel free to tune in and listen in on the topic. However, be aware that written comments will need to be addressed appropriately and not in the "comment" section within the live feed.

In addition, the Tribes will also be holding several virtual public sessions throughout the day, on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, with investors/groups who will be presenting casino opportunities to the Shoshone Paiute Tribes and community.

Please understand that dealing with COVID-19 has really hindered opportunities that the Tribes could have been moving forward with, such as economic development; which would mean new jobs and opportunities for our people. Also take note that we are all adjusting and going through pivotal times. And even with the interferences, the Tribes will continue to move in a direction to help our community, now and in the future.

One matter that the Shoshone Paiute tribal leadership is moving toward is a government-to-government meeting with the Mountain Home Air Force Base leadership regarding the lowering of the airspace surrounding the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. This meeting is currently being scheduled but will not be broadcasted. However, please know that the Tribes are standing firm on our opposition. If you recall, the base personnel did come down and hold a Tribal Scoping Meeting in January. However, that meeting was not recorded, so if you verbally presented your opposition, it was not on any official record. Therefore, written letters are needed from the tribal and community members to support the Tribes' stance. I encourage you to submit your written comments to my office so that I can have the opportunity to hand them directly over to the Commander when onsite.

In closing, as your Chairman, I would like to express that I am whole-heartedly here to serve and help the Shoshone Paiute Tribes, along with the membership, as well as, to follow policies and laws. I deeply care for all of our tribal members and I truly do want better for our Tribe as a whole. I would like to see us flourish and prosper. I want to see our future generations being handed resources and opportunities, instead of debts or bills. And, I believe that I have been placed into this position because of my aspirations and dedication. However, I also realize that it is extremely difficult right now for everyone. Tensions are at a very high level and are continuing to rise. Frustrations, along with the unknowns, are evident. However, now is not the time to cause fearmongering or create bickering amongst ourselves. I ask that we all find a way to move forward together and in an appropriate and effective manner. We all must be considerate, patient and understanding during these troublesome times. Thank you.

With Kind Regards,



Colin Thomas, Tribal Chairman
Shoshone Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley