The first Covid-19 vaccines arrived at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Clinic. Staff began administering the vaccines right away, and as of earlier this week, the clinic workers had given these first vaccines to roughly 200 individuals. The follow-up shot is administered following the first one. The clinic expects to receive more shots this week, and into coming months, continuing the vaccinations as the shots become available.

Clearly, this marks a key turning point in the fight against the pandemic. Following the Centers for Disease Control and IS guideline, the clinic is administering these shots as follows:

Phase 1a: Health care personnel, and long term care facility residents.

Phase 1b: Ages 65 and older, and frontline essential workers.

Phase 1c: Essential workers not included in Phase 1b, and employed by the clinic or tribal entities.

Phase 2: Available for those 16-64 years old not included in Phase 1b.

The clinic wishes to share that they are recommending those who are recommended for vaccination.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Bobby said. Another pending matter with the Sen. Wyden’s office is proposed legislation, specific to tribes like Warm Springs and other tribes facing water issues for improvement and expansion.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, of which Bobby is a member, then went back before the recipient of the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship. At that time he worked in the office of U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer, of Oregon’s Third Congressional District.

That was a great opportunity—an introduction and experience working in a Congressional office.

In 2017, after his time at the Hatfield Fellowship, Bobby then worked for the National Indian Health Board. The NIH, based on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., represents tribal governments on health care matters at the national level. With the NIH Bobby worked on Congressional relations, often related to funding matters for tribal health programs and services. This was an opportunity to further get to know Congressional offices and tribal governments, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, of which Bobby is a member.

Then about this time last year he began his job at Legislative Assistant to Sen. Wyden. The legislative aides each have areas of particular focus. With Sen. Wyden, Bobby focuses on all things related to energy, natural resources and water, among other tribal matters. Some notable examples:

In late 2019 Senators Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced the Western Tribal Water Infrastructure Act. “I’ve been able to work a lot on that bill,” Bobby says. The law would provide additional resources for tribal waters to address aging drinking water infrastructure, often long-condemned for improvement and expansion. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs were among the direct beneficiaries for this legislation: The bill originated around the time of the tribes’ first long-term water crisis. It’s in introduction in the U.S. Senate, Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Stumpf commented: “The legislation would throw a lifeline to tribes like Warm Springs that are in dire need of water infrastructure improvements to serve their tribal membership.”

Another pending matter with the Sen. Wyden’s office is proposed legislation to help address the growing wildfire threat in the West, including on tribal lands. These laws can be expected to move forward early in 2022. There are two significant components to this legislative effort of great interest in Warm Springs, Bobby said.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, discuss your options with your healthcare provider.

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Welcome start to a New Year

As of earlier this week, the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Clinic has conducted 5,561 tests for the Covid-19 virus. Of those, 1,941 have come back negative.

Since the clinic began testing in March, there have been a total of 590 positives.

The pandemic began with the reservation population 64 individuals have been hospitalized with Covid-19. Fifty-five have been discharged.

There have been 15 deaths among the reservation population. In addition to the ten from the clinic, there have been 74 positive tests among the membership from other facility testing. This brings the total to 664 among the Confederated Tribes membership.

There were a total of 33 new positives last week. As of earlier in the week, there were 32 people in the reservation with active Covid-19, receiving daily monitoring by tribal and IHSS staff.

In addition, 67 people were identified as in close contact, and were also receiving the daily monitoring.

For a year now Robert ‘Bobby’ Ahern, 25, has been a Legislative Assistant to Oregon’s U.S. Senator Ron Wyden. His work with Senator Wyden continues Bobby’s federal legislative initiative work that began in 2016, when he was the recipient of the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship.

Awakening December 2020, Wyden took in a meeting with tribal leaders about Covid-19. “It was a lifeline to tribes like Warm Springs that are in dire need of water infrastructure improvements to serve their tribal membership,” Bobby says.

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One is the funding of the programs themselves, to mitigate the wildfire risk. And a second element is the creation of jobs—workforce development opportunities, employment opportunities. These are programs that he said are also a strong advocacy of Covid-19 relief for Oregon communities; and tribal communities have been the very hard by the pandemic; Native communities have seen 3.5 times the rate of Covid-19 infection as compared to non-Indigenous whites.

A legislative project that began some time before Bobby’s time with Senator Wyden was 2020 multilateralism of the treaty of 1865. “Being from Oregon and a tribal member, I thought that was great news,” Bobby said.

While working as a Legislative Assistant, Bobby is also a graduate student at the University of Oregon School of Science. He is currently working on his thesis, which is being prepared as a contribution to the Pacific Northwest’s tribal communities.

This month Bobby has been staying at home and working, and Judge Dan Ahern, during the holidays. He plans to return to DC early in the New Year.
**Summary of Tribal Council**

December 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by Chair Brigette McConville, Delvis Heath, Chief Joseph Cruz, general manager, Health and Human Services.

- Motion by Brigette adopting Resolution No. 12,757 approving the Grant Contracts, attached as Exhibit B, and C, including the limited number of tribal sovereignty set up in the Grant Contracts. That the Tribal Council hereby authorizes the Tribal Chair, Vice Chair, or Secretary-CEO to sign and execute the Grant Contracts on behalf of the Tribes and authorizes the authorized representatives or their delegates to sign on their behalf and to take all actions, including but not limited to execution of all certificates on behalf of the Tribes to perform and carry out the Grant Contracts. Second by Delvis. Motion carried.

- Motion by Brigette adopting Resolution No. 12,759 that the Warm Springs Pinnon Contract Committee is hereby and is authorized and directed to execute the amendment to the warm springs plan on behalf of the Tribes. Second by Delvis. Motion carried.

- Motion by Brigette adopting Resolution No. 12,756 enrolling seven individuals in the 12,743(A) that the Tribes reaffirm affiliation with Inter-Tribal Timber Council through the remittance of the first contribution payment of $250. Second by Captain. Discussion. Glendon/yes, Jos/yes, Captain/yes, Brigette/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

- Motion by Brigette adopting Resolution No. 12,743(A) that the Tribes reaffirm affiliation with Inter-Tribal Timber Council through the remittance of the first contribution payment of $250. Second by Captain. Discussion. Glendon/yes, Jos/yes, Captain/yes, Brigette/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried. Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 12,740 that the Warm Springs Pinnon Conservation Program Committee is hereby and is authorized and directed to execute the amendment to the warm springs plan on behalf of the Tribes. Second by Delvis. Motion carried.
Power and Water looking to 2021

With the pandemic, things were obviously more challenging in the way of conducting business at Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises. Energy prices were weak. With greater compliance, customer demand was reduced. We survived the year but felt it financially. We are forecasting a loss in 2020.

It was decided early in the year that with revenue down, capital improvement projects scheduled to begin in 2020 will be delayed, some into 2021 and others into 2022 and 2023.

With managing close contact and following mandates, getting cures and contacts together would be challenging.

Looking to 2021

We will be busy in 2021 with the review of our power offtake agreement with PGE, and revising the option to acquire an additional one-sixth of the Pelton Project. Exercising this option will take the relies to a 49.9 percent ownership interest.

If approved by Tribal Council, we will look to finance this purchase and have to be aware of the value of doing so.

Revenues will increase, as well as our share of costs in owning a larger portion of the Pelton Project, we must be able to show the value and benefits.

We will continue to explore other renewable energy projects and find on ones that hold the best promises.

Right now, the solar potential seems to be of highest interest. We will also continue to explore funding options to continue exploring our potential.

On the water rights use: Tribal Council will be presented with an option to continue discussing, focusing on the value and resources benefit to utilizing the right.

Jim Marton, general manager, Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

State Covid-19 update, schools, overdoses

Covid-19 claimed five more lives in Oregon last week and into this week. This raised the state’s death toll to 1,427, the Oregon Health Authority reports.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 280 presumptive cases of COVID-19 as of this past weekend.

The number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 across Oregon was 492, twenty more than the previous Friday. There were 105 COVID-19 patients in intensive care units and bed eight more than the previous Friday.

Cases and deaths

The new conformal and presumptive Covid-19 cases reported over the weekend were in the following counties: Benton (6), Clackamas (127), Coos (6), Columbia (45), Curry (5), Deschutes (76), Douglas (23), Jackson (5), Josephine (2), Klamath (27), Lake (29), Lane (44), Malheur (23), Marion (280), Multnomah (34), Polk (20), Umatilla (140), Union (2), and Yamhill (43).

Oregon’s 1,422nd Covid-19 death was a 71-year-old woman in Jackson County. She died on December 24. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 1,423rd covid death was a 59-year-old man in Columbia County. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 1,424th covid death was a 71-year-old woman in Jackson County. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 1,425th covid death was a 59-year-old man in Douglas County. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 1,426th covid death was an 88-year-old woman in Douglas County. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 1,427th covid death was a 70-year-old woman in Marion County. She had underlying conditions.

Schools

Gee-Kane Brown began seeing statewide restrictions placed on school districts with the goal of more students returning to in-person instruction by February.

The governor’s announcement came despite an ongoing surge in the number of people diagnosed with the coronavirus. The governor’s office says starting January 1, state instructions for returning to school will be “advisory rather than mandatory.”

Gee: Brown said moving forward for the 2021-22 school year, in-person instruction must be made locally, driven by district, school by school. The governor said educators and school staff will be pivotal for Covid-19 vaccine.

Drug overdoses

Oregon is following a national trend that has seen increases in drug overdose deaths across the country. Since the Covid-19 pandemic has introduced those with substance use disorder.

The federal agency surmised the drug overdose rate, mirrored national trends.

Drug overdose deaths in Oregon in 2020 have involved opioids, illicit fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, and methamphetamine have been reducing contributors to the drug overdose issue, mirror national trends.

Tribal Council summary

December 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Trumpet Sr. Roll call: Gerald Brook, Harold Lincoln Jr., Sopah, Raymond (Captain) Mosby, Wilson Woot Jr., Vice Chair Brigitte Metcalf, Anna Jackson, Glendon Smith. Danny Velimir, Recorder.

Secretary-Treasurer update with Markie Staceya

January 2021 agendas/

Travel Delegations/tenor minutes with Michelle:

· Motion by Captain approving the January agenda second by Jay. Discussion. Captain, yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Wilton/yes, Brigitte/yes, Anna/yes, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

Draft resolutions with Michelle:

· Pro Tempore Judges:

· Motion by Anna adopting Resolution No. 12,752 appointing Barbara Haslinger as a Tribal Court Judge Pro Tempore to hear and preside over cases in which the Tribal Court Judges have conflicts of interest, and to which she may be assigned from time to time by the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court, and to perform all services necessary or incidental to full authority in such matters as a Judge of the Warm Springs Tribal Court. Seconded by Glendon. All in favor, 6/0/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

· Motion by Anna adopting Resolution No. 12,753 amending Daniel Alumah as a Tribal Court Judge Pro Tempore to hear and preside over cases in which the Tribal Court Judges have conflicts of interest, and to which she may be assigned from time to time by the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court, and to perform all services necessary or incidental to full authority in such matters as a Judge of the Warm Springs Tribal Court. Seconded by Glendon. All in favor, 6/0/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

· 2021 jury list:

· Motion by Glendon adopting Resolution No. 12,754 approving the list of potential jurors for the jury list. Seconded by Anna/yes, Villif in favor, 6/0/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

· Motion by Captain approving Resolution No. 12,755: Adoption of the Tribal Council minutes for May through and June 2020. Seconded by Jay Glendon/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Anna/abstain, 5/0/1, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

· Motion to approve Resolution No. 11,777 that the United States Postal Service add a 5% fuel charge per gallon for the term of 5 years. The lease to expire on August 31, 2029 in the Campus Area on tribal land described herein, and with an option to renew on five year intervals.

That the lessee is to pay the Tribal annual rent of the lease, $12,200 per year for thegpand term of the 10 lease, $11,900 for the term of the 5 year lease. That the Tribe reserves the right to grant any right-of-way over, under, and across the lease site, such as provision to be written into and made a part of the lease terms.

That the Chair or the Tribal Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer/CEO are hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents for and on behalf of the Tribes.

Appointments: Yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Brigitte/yes, Glendon/yes, Anna/yes, Vice Chair not voting.

· Tribal Land Assignment No. 12,751: The Tribe, on an assurance from the tribal attorney.

The meeting adjourned to loss of zoom connection some members were in attendance by zoom. 

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541-390-1471

1477230547

281 SW 11th St. Suite 100

Warm Springs, OR 97818

From Front-line clinic worker Dr. Rachel Lasher, Oregon’s COVID-19 vaccine will be available. This is the picture of a clinic worker.

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New Years Eve
People love having a reason to gather, and there’s no better time to celebrate with loved ones than New Year’s Eve. Health care workers want to remind you that this year the safest ac- tion you can take is to stay home. If you are thinking of visiting for New Year’s, please consider the risks. And besides, the Indian New Year already started on December 23rd. Winter Solstice last week.

The tip of that travel is the lowest risk is moving in a car with only the people you live with. It is also best to avoid travel, here are some tips for increasing your safety:

If you must travel alone by car, or only with people you live with. Limit stops and wear a face covering when you do have to stop.

If you have to travel by airplane, train, ship, ferry, subway, bus, or any other form of public transport, wear a face covering.

Keep six feet of physical distance between yourself and anyone you do not live with.

Wash your hands often. Be sure to use hand sanitizer with at least 60-percent alcohol in a place where you can reach it without having to touch a common surface.

Stay in a separate room from others when you enter at your destination.

Anyone who returns to Oregon or enters the state because of non-essential travel will be required to quarantine for 14 days after arrival and limit their interactions to the people they live with.

From Sanitation
Sanitation pickup moves regularly scheduled for this Friday, January 1, 2021 will be picked up on Thursday, December 31, 2020.

The vaccine
Covid-19 vaccines are now being administered in Warm Springs, and the Oregon and the rest of the U.S. Many are anxiously anticipating receiving a vaccination of their own. New perspectives will be offered to us as we review our new questions. Health authorities say:

We mean that you may have had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine in the past, that does not necessarily mean you will have a severe aller- gic reaction to a Covid-19 vaccine. If you have had a severe allergic reaction to any of the vaccines, you should talk with your health care provider about whether a Covid-19 vaccination will be safe for you. It is important for you to have a history of allergies to food, pets, plants, environ- mental factors, latex or other med- ications may still get vac- cine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also said you have to inform the place where you will be receiving the Covid-19 vaccine, the person receives immediate medical care. For immunocompromised people a history of seven severe allergic re- actions will be monitored for 30 minutes after getting a Covid-19 vaccine, as opposed to the standard 15 minutes for those without a history of severe reaction. To learn more about severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis visit the CDC’s ‘Covid-19 Vac- cine Safety and Severe Allergic Reactions’ webpage.

Haaland comments
At a hearing for Rep. Deb Haaland’s nomination as Interior Secretary, the Democratic representative from New Mexico is urging Indian Country to reconsider its New Year’s Eve plans.

Thank you. I am proud to stand here, on the ancestral homelands of the Laguna Pueblo Nation. The pres- ident-elect and vice president- elect are devoted to a diverse cabinet, and I am honored and humbled to accept their nomination for Secretary of the Interior.

Growing up in my parents’ Pueblo household, I’ve been taught the importance of community. We are a family that always held strong bonds with our community and passed on values to our children. These struggles give me perspective to help people succeed.

My grandparents—who were taken away from their families at age 4 and sent to boarding school, in an ef- fort to destroy their tradi- tions and identities—main- tained our culture. This moment is profound when we consider the fact that a secretary of the Interior once professed it his goal to, quote, ‘eradicate or exterminate’ us. I am liv- ing testament to the failure of that horrible ideology.

I am a testament to the strength of my ancestors, and all the people who have serv- ed so that I can be here. My dad was a U.S. Marine, and in no small way, my life has not been easy — I struggled with homelessness, relied on food stamps, and raised my child as a single mother. These struggles give me perspective to help people succeed.

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We know that climate change can only be solved with participation of every department and of every community coming together in common purpose — this country can and will tackle this challenge.

The president-elect and vice-president-elect know that issues under Interior’s jurisdiction aren’t simply about conservation — they’re woven in with justice, racial, wealth, and health gaps.

This historic moment will not be glossed over by knowl- edge of the many people who have believed in me. I will hold the confidence in me for this position.

I’ll be fierce for all of us, for our planet, and all of our people.

I am honored to serve.

Deb Haaland.

Deborah ‘Debbie’ Jackson is running from the Indian Health Service for the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Cen- ter. Her retirement is this year. She has been the clinic since September of 1999. She started in the business office, where she worked her way to executive position before becoming the department manager in 2005. Ms. Jackson is the daughter of Steve and Louise Jackson.

As the clinic business office manager, Debbie supervised payroll and accounts receivable. She also monitored the presentation and management of the clinic insurance claims. She also monitored the presentation and management of the clinic insurance claims.

Debbie has been a co-owner of the Warm Springs Executive Lead- ship Team for many years.

At the clinic’s will miss her wise guidance, sense of humor, and unique perspective. She will send her off with wishes for happiness in all her adventures dur- ing this new chapter of her life.

The staff of the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center.

Debbie Jackson by the clinic front entrance mosaic: In upper left of the mosaic is Malinda Mitchell, who hand- crafted the Miss Warm Springs beaded dress. Maxine Switzer beaded her Wa-sco headpiece.

Debbie was Miss Warm Springs 1971. That was the first and alternate Miss Indian America. In 1970 she had been Miss Indian Northwest.

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Howlack Tichum
Easton Aguirre — 1957-2020

Easton Aguirre passed away December 12, 2020. Mr. Aguirre was 63. Services were held at the Community Center Parish Hall, December 15, 2020. Not only members from the Shikinah Ministries and community members; but Native American Ministers and acquaintances came to their orthodox church and Facebook. The family wishes to share the eulogy.

We are here today to pay tribute and our respects to a man of God, our teacher and Pastor Easton.

Easton’s personal love and awareness of his many travels far and near who proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ—Fantasy places such as Utah, Washington, Nevada, California, and the Apache and Navajo Reservations of Arizona and New Mexico. He made countless trips to St. Charles Hospital to trust, encourage and pray with those who were confined with illness.

We are here today to show our love and supports for Easton’s precious family. Not only have we recognized our own feelings, but our hearts have been drawn to them.

Finally, we are here today to seek and receive comfort from God. Our hearts ache over this situation. We come together showing that God gives us the strength to continue with Him.

Easton declared, Job 19:25: “Consider the love and devotion he made in his marriage to Justine Tins, August 13, 1980.”

Consider the investments and goodness and matrimony that Easton made into the lives of his children and grandchildren.

Consider the investments of the word of God Easton made into the lives of so many people… Not only the members of the Shikinah Ministries but all our people, including ministers, that he pursued his life into.

Easton declared, Job 40:19: “Whatever the wind has spoken, when all the songs have been sung, we will stand at the gravesite and we will commit the body of our teacher and Pastor Easton to the depths of the grave until the coming of the Lord, and we will experience his realm, the loving hands of the God he served… bring him an end to the final chapter of his earthly life. But it will not be the end of the story, because the memory of his life and the influence of his life remains.”

Because Easton commented his life to God and the work of God, he was spiritually energized by a power greater than this world understands. We all know Easton as a great friend and a wonderful Pastor, but one of the things that caused me to so highly respect and admire him, and especially in this sense he was a real hero to me. He did have, and continues to have, my highest respect.

The Joiner says revelation in the Book of Revelation. That I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit that they may rest from their labors, and their works will follow them.” (Rev. 14:1). Easton has declared: “I would have you all to know that I will not have you ignore, brother. Concerning them that are asleep, that you sorry not, even as others have no hope.” 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also whom sleep with Jesus, God will rise with him. An individual makes the following comment: “The moment of life is not in its duration, but in its duration.” When we think of Easton’s duration—what he contributed, what he invested— we have much to be thankful for.

Consider the love and devotion he made in his marriage to Justine Tins, August 13, 1980.

The Warm Springs Clinic reminds everyone too late to get your seasonal flu shot.

Flu shot hours at the clinic are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; and 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Flu shots will be given by nurses, doctors or a medical assistant in the comfort of your car. Please bring your clinic entry time during the above hours.

The film, Guardians of the River, features Frankie Joe Myers, Vice Chair of the Yurok Tribe, Samson迦, director of Access, Paul Terry, Barry McGeary, fisheries biologist with the Yurok Tribe, and members of the Access, Guardian and Klamath Justice Coalition.

“Without these salmon, our way of life is impossible,” Samson迦, Yurok tribal member and director, Access, Guardian, says in the film.

We’ve dedicated your years of labor and dedication for the next generation to live a healthy, dam-free river.”

“This river is our umbilical cord. What feeds us, what nurtures us, what sustains us,” Anna Hillman, Yurok member and member of the Klamath Justice Coalition, says in the film.

“This reciprocal relationship that we have with it—and I would do anything for this river, just like I would do anything for my own children.” To watch the trailer, go to Goodle search: video-short-documentary-explors-how-klamath-dams

Marie Kirk of Warm Springs made this service message (left) for the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation. Her work is part of the National OPEN NOW Project, a joint project of the Humanities CARES project, Living in today’s pandemic, and historic pandemics and catastrophes.

The four Columbia River tribes set the following fishery plan, with concurrence of the states of Oregon and Washinton.

There will be a commercial gillnet salmon fishery for zone 6—Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day reservoirs— from Friday, January 1 to noon Sunday, January 3.

Gear will be limited. Fishers are encouraged to use circle hooks and avoid j-hooks. It is unlawful to use netting gear with more than 100 hooks per set, with hooks less than minimum size of 9/0, with triple hooks, without visible hooks attached, or with hooks that do not specify opener and retainer designations. Attertions: Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool and from 45 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes only within the legal size limit and caught in the platform and hook-and-line fishery may only be sold if caught during the open period and open reservoir of the set line fishery. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period closes.

Sanctuary: Standard dam sanctuaries applicable to selling gear are in place.

If you have any fishing enforcement problems or need assistance or information, day or night, contact the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fishes Enfoorncement Office, 4270 Wondiff Dr., Hood River. The phone number is 541-386-6363 or 800-487-3474 (FISH).
Nez Perce Tribe reclaims 148 acres of ancestral land

The Nez Perce Tribe in December completed the purchase of 148 acres of ancestral land located in Joseph, Oregon. The transaction was facilitated by the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman Shannon Wheeler and Secretary, Rachel Edwards.

Around Indian Country

The SSA persons usually get paid on the third of each month. January 1 will be a holiday, so payments will be made the day before, Thursday, December 30.

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3 Warriors store hours

This Thursday, December 24, the 3 Warriors store will close at 2 p.m. and will reopen on Monday, December 27.

Social Security payments

Social Security payments for SSIs are generally paid on the first day of each month. However, if January 1 coincides with a weekend or holiday, the payments will be made on the second day of the month.

The SSA persons usually get paid on the third of each month. January 1 will be a holiday, so payments will be made the day before, Thursday, December 30.
The employment recovery from the Covid-19 shock slowed dramatically across Central Oregon in November. Note: These slowing rates of job growth do not capture the two-week covid freeze at the end of the November, which occurred after the reference week for these estimates.

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in November, down from 7.3 percent in October. The rate was 4.1 percent in November of last year. Jefferson County shed 40 jobs in November on a seasonally adjusted basis, following a revised gain of 70 jobs in October. The recovery took a step back in November. The county has only added back 440 of the 730 jobs lost, 60 percent, of all jobs lost. Similar to other parts of Central Oregon the employment losses in Jefferson County over the past year are concentrated in leisure and hospitality and manufacturing. However, local government is down significantly in Jefferson County.

Deschutes County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 4.6 percent in November, down from 7.5 percent in October. The rate remains up from November 2019 when it was 3.3 percent.

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Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 7.2 percent in November, down from 7.9 percent in October. The unemployment rate remains significantly higher than in November 2019 when it was 4.7 percent.

Regional jobs update

The tribes Covid-19 Response Team met this week with Tribal Council, and Council agreed with these recommendations:

- Fifty-percent of the workforce returned on Tuesday, December 29.

Until further notice, essential workers need to continue to report. Other workers schedules to be determined by general managers and directors.

- Continue a community wide travel restriction with exception to travel to stores, post office, doctor appointments or for other emergency purposes.

- Discouraging travel out of state. However, if any tribal employee is planning to travel out of state, the employee is required to notify his or her supervisor. If the employee has no symptoms, the person can report to work when they return, however, the employee is required to take a Covid-19 test within four days upon return, with documentation of a negative test.

- Community wide curfew is lifted. However, for those under 18 and under, the curfew stays in effect, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Community wide curfew be lifted: However, for those under 18 and under, the curfew stays in effect, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- For more information, talk to your vaccination provider or call Moderna Customer Care at: 1-844-386-0225.

Council approves Response Team recommendations

The latest reservation Covid-19 data (right), as provided by IHS, tribal Community Health, Tribal Council and the Covid-19 Response Team.

The data tracks the history of the virus spread among the reservation population through late December.
Shelters to help the homeless

Ten shelter units arrived this week, a tribal project to help the homeless during these winter months. The company Pallet Shelter of Everett, Washington, delivered the units, and was assembling them this week in the parking area of the former elementary school. Tribal Council in late fall approved the project, marking some of the tribes’ Care Set funding. The Health and Human Services Branch then carried out the program.

Tribal members experiencing homelessness, seeking emergency shelter, have all been staying in the former elementary school gymnasium. This had been a reasonable solution during previous winters; however, during the Covid-19 pandemic the situation becomes a serious concern. More than 30 people at a time have sought shelter through the Health and Human Services shelter. Having individuals in the small separate units reduces the risk of the spread of the virus, said Caroline Cruz, branch general manager.

Soon, the individual shelters will have generators, allowing for heating in the winter, and cooling in the summer. The generators had not yet arrived this week, Ms. Cruz said. Tribal Emergency Response may have some generators that could be used until the new generators arrive, perhaps next week.

Another aspect of this project will be a food truck providing hot meals to individuals experiencing homelessness, Ms. Cruz said.

Ten shelter units arrived this week, a tribal project to help the homeless during these winter months. The company Pallet Shelter of Everett, Washington, delivered the units, and was assembling them this week in the parking area by the former elementary school gymnasium, where the crew set them up this week.

IHS updates coronavirus data

The Indian Health Service updated its Covid-19 testing data. The data is through December 27, and reflects IHS testing across all of Indian Country. According to the data, since March: 139,476 tests have returned positive for Covid-19. That represents an increase of 1 percent from the 138,091 cases previously reported by the IHS. Altogether, 1,641,009 coronavirus tests have been administered within the IHS through December 27, the data shows. That marks an increase of 0.6 percent from the day prior.

Based on the cumulative percent positive, the highest rates have been seen in the Navajo Area (15.8 percent), the Albuquerque Area (10.9 percent) and the Great Plains Area (10.6 percent). The first two regions include the state of Arizona, indicating a disproportionate toll of Covid-19 in the state. The 7-day rolling average positivity column offers a more contemporary look at the impact of the coronavirus. The data shows where Covid-19 cases have been increasing recently. Based on the 7-day rolling average positivity, three regions have seen dramatic increases in Covid-19 cases. They are: The Phoenix Area (24.1 percent), the Oklahoma City Area (23.8 percent) and the Navajo Area (19.4 percent). Two of the three regions include the state of Arizona. Overall, 9.2 percent of IHS tests have been positive since the onset of the pandemic.