April 21, 2021 - Vol. 46, No. 8
April - Hawai‘i an – Spring - Wawaxam

Vaccination total climbing steadily higher

With many safety precau-
tions in place, the Jefferson County School District 509-J schools early this year began the second turn on-site. This was an achievement, as less than a third of the schools in the state were able to reopen on-site in the 509-J district, 80 per-
cent of pupils chose to return to in-person learning; so the de-
demands is obvious. “We’re proud of that, and I think it’s gone well,” said district superin-
tendent Kent Parshall. “Now we’re focusing on learning, and following the safety protocols.”
Graduation at Madras High School will be on Saturday, June 5. Last year the graduation cer-
emony followed the street Covid-19 guidelines, with each gradu-
ate showing up in a family ve-
hicle, picking up a minute or two, accepting his or her diploma, and returning the vehicle.
With 2021 graduation a month and a half out, the high school is considering how the event should proceed. “Right
now we’re planning both models,” Mr. Parshall said. The hope would be to have the more traditional cer-
emony, though this decision will follow the state’s safety guidelines in place at the time.
In the meantime, all staff in the district schools who have chosen to, have received their vaccinations. The new district superintendent, Jay Mathisen, coming here from George Fox University, will start July 1. “I think he’s very well pre-
pared,” Parshall. “He was a teacher for a long time, and then a princi-
pal assistant, and human resources director.” Mr. Mathisen’s most re-
cent position at George Fox Uni-
versity is that of Director of Edu-
cational Leadership.

School district board
Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors chair-
woman Laurie Danzau is running unopposed for re-election to po-
tion 1 on the school board. Two other seats on the school board will be determined during the May 18 election, and both are contested, each with two candidates.
The candidates for position 2 on the board are Jamie Hurd of Ma-
dras, incumbent; and Loren Struck of  Madras.

Jaylyn Suppah is the commu-
nity planner for the Health and Human Services Branch and the Confederated Tribes. She serves on the other Board on the National Indian Education Associa-
tion Board of Directors, and other education-related boards at the lo-
cal, state and national level.
In her job Jaylyn manages a pro-
gram for two years. Mr. Struck has three young children.

“T’m honored in serving on the board,” Jacob says, “because I grew up in the school district. I have three kids in the district. I love in the com-
unity. I love it and want to see it improve every day. I want to bring my positive attitude and experience to the table to help improve our school district.”

Send 509-J Candidates to 2

Commumity update

At the last count, as of this earlier this week, the Indian Health Service at the Warm Springs Clinic had provided 2,288 primary doses of Covid-
19 vaccination. In addition, 19 were receiving monitoring for severe reaction.
On Monday of this week, Warm Springs IHS conducted 39 covid tests. Twenty of these tested positive, bringing the total active to 45 vaccinations. This comes as the clinic now has vaccines avail-
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Mr. Beavcr: The Spiritual Beaver (right) by Ellen Taylor, now on display at the Museum at War-
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Candidates for 509-J school board

Jamie Hurd has served on the 509-J board for almost four years. Ms. Hurd is a former wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She and her husband Jeff are raising three young boys. Jamie has served on a number of community boards, including the Madras Aquatic Center, Evergreen Child Care, the Madras Runners, among others. “I’m running for re-election to the school board because I love our children. I want them to come to school engaged and excited,” Jamie says. “So when they leave our buildings they’re ready to face the world. If you’re thriving, your community ultimately is going to be strong. They are our biggest investment in the future.”

Lorien Stacona is a Tar- gunal Case Manager for the Health and Human Services Branch of the Confederated Tribes. In her job she works with people from diverse aspects of the community, helping them improve their lives. Ms. Stacona has three children, the youngest being a 1-year-old. Her two older kids are active in powwows and sports here in Warm Springs, and in youth cultural and education programs in Madras and the region.

A strength Lorien would bring to the school board is listening. Listening to the parents, students, teachers and staff from all of the dis- tricts. Rather than saying, “I know everything, here’s the policy,” Lorien says, the mean- ingful solutions will come from listening to determine the best way forward.

Howlak Tichum

— Elizabeth Furse —

Elizabeth Furse, who represents Oregon in Congress for the 2nd District, died peacefully at home on Sunday at age 84 from complications related to a fall. A lifelong activist, Ms. Furse championed the rights of Native Americans, helping feds Oregon tribes to re- gain federal recognition. She was frequently speaking guest, working on legislation with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and served, for instance, on the Kah- neea-Ti Resort board of di- rectors.

Ms. Furse worked to ad- vance the rights of women, children and farm workers, and advocated for peace and nuclear disarmament and en- vironmental regulation and land-use rules.

Her work on tribal issues dated from the 1970s. In 1992, running as a Democrat from Washing- ton County, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives without ever having held elected office.

After leaving Congress at the end of 1999, she became founding director of Portland State University Institute for Tribal Governance.

Applications are available at the Housing Authority office, 1238 Veterans Way. For more information call 541- 553-3250. You may also re- quest an application via email by writing to: era@wsha.us

A downloadable copy of the application is available through the Housing Au-

WHSA taking rental assistance applications

The Warm Springs House- ing Authority is taking appli- cations for the Covid-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program.

The WHSA Emergency Rental Assistance program is open to all members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, regardless of whether they live in the U.S. or abroad. The program is also open to all federally recognized tribal members residing in Jefferson, Wasco, Gilliam, Hood River, Clackamas and Marion counties. In addition: All community members who reside within the bound- aries of the Warm Springs Reservation are eligible, re- gardless of race or ethnicity. Rental Emergency Assis- tance is available to house- holds with income not more than 80 percent of the Area Median Income. For example: In the Jefferson County area of reservation, a house- hold of three with an annual income of $44,240 or less could qualify.

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The applicant must attest that he or she is the landlord, but could qualify.

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The program is open only to renters, and runs through September. Ms. Woods en- courages all qualifying tribal and community members to apply.

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A Memorial will be held for Frank Fusae, Kendrick and Aparo Arthur, and Kalista Howlak Tichum. There will be a Prayer Service on Fri- day, April 23 at 2 p.m. at the Community Cen- ter Pavilion, and a Ser- vice at the Agency Cemetery on Saturday, April 24 at 9 a.m.

Community notes...

Mushroom permits are available at the tribal For- estry office weekdays during business hours. A per- mit is required for tribal members who will harvest, possess or transport more than a gallon of mushrooms.

The Warm Springs Head Start and Early Head Start programs are doing their annual Community As- sessment. They seek to gather information about our community, about families, children and what local resources are known to those who live here as well as what local resources are being utilized. Their survey can be done online at the site: https://sites.google.com/wstribes.org/wsecehs/home

MADRAS CAMPUS

Rethink what’s possible at the COCC Madras Campus, where you can discover career and technical programs designed to immediately launch your career, transfer programs to pursue a bachelor’s degree, and engaging community courses and events. With all of these opportunities at your fingertips, it’s time to start thinking OUTSIDE OF EXPECTED.

Contact us today and we’ll help you get started!

In observance of College events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability, contact Joe Kids at 541.265.7775. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact Disability Services at 541.265.7783.

Community notes...
Report to register by April 27

An important local Election Day is coming in mid May. The deadline to regis-

ter is by the end of the day

next Tuesday, April 27. Bal-

lots will be arising at the end of the month, and the Elec-

tion Day is Tuesday, May 18.

The Warm Springs comm-

unity is holding voter reg-

istration events in the com-

ning days and weeks to in-

crease participation in the vote. There is a voter regis-

tration event this Wednesday, April 21 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. across from the

Warm Springs Post Office; and an

other registration event across the Post Office on

Monday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. These events to make registra-

tion readily accessible to indi-

viduals and the reservation community.

Host of these voter out-

reach events in Warm Springs is a non-affiliated grassroots group. For infor-

mation contact Jolene or

Ron at: rhdems20@gmail.com

If you don't feel well. For more in-

formation contact Charlene

Dimmick: charlene.dimmick@wstribes.org

The report comes as the

IHS Portland Area continues high covid incidence

The Portland Area of the Indian Health Service continues to be hard hit by the ongoing and increasing incidence of Covid-19 through mid April. This con-

tinued a trend that began to

beginning of the month.

The report comes at the national headquarters of the Indian Health Service up-

dated its Covid-19 data through mid April. Accord-

ing to the data, IHS-admin-

istered testing has seen 192,868 positive results, through mid April. That represents an in-

crease of less than 1 percent from early April.

Altogether since the pan-

demic began, IHS nation-

ally across Indian Country has administered 2,770,235

constant tests.

Based on the cumulative

percent positive, since the pandemic began, the highest two areas include the rate of Arizona. The area are the Navajo, the Phoenix Area, and the Oklahoma City Area.

Another set of IHS data looks at more recent testing, rather than the overall cumu-

lative trend.

This 7-day rolling average shows that the IHS Portland Area saw the highest increase in its positivity test rate. The Portland Area was followed by the Bemidji Area in the Midwest; the Califor-

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In April

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Normally, we would not be having our Hands Around the Countermine from 11 to 1 p.m. In- stead, for community safety, we are hanging on to our community. We hope to have our Domestic Violence Awareness Month started in May, and we hope to share the following messages:

Sexual assault, sexual and domestic violence are always present. We are speaking in April because we understand that the number of cases rises during this time. It is the time when we might be more likely to experience the need for support. We want to ensure that anyone who needs support is able to access it. We also want to emphasize the importance of understanding and addressing sexual assault and domestic violence.

This year, the month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We encourage everyone to learn more about sexual assault and domestic violence and to support survivors. We are all in this together.

Peer support

For anyone struggling with sexual assault or domestic violence, there is a Peer Support Group that will be meeting on a regular basis. The group will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. The group will meet at the Tribal Health Center on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Great youth opportunities

The Higher Education Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Education Department is developing a curriculum for Black History Month. The curriculum will be used in the schools of the tribes.

Great youth opportunities for online students

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JOM 40th anniversary

The Jefferson County Morning Messenger is accepting applications for funding of community projects in Jefferson County for the 40th anniversary of the newspaper. Applications are due by May 10. The deadline for applications is May 28. This is for students of Jefferson County in kindergarten through 12th grade. The deadline for applications is May 28. This is for students of Jefferson County in kindergarten through 12th grade.

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Tribes advocate Snake dams removal

Northwest tribal leaders are calling for the removal of four massive Snake River dams on the Snake River. This would stop the destruction of salmon runs of the river system, tribal leaders say.

In a letter to Pres. Biden and members of Congress from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, the 11 tribally cotransmitters—under the umbrella of the Northwest Tribal Salmon Alliance—are calling for a coordinated effort to stop the destruction of the dams and their effect on salmon and steelhead.

"Congress and the president must act boldly and urgently to remove the Snake River dams and put into place a permanent solution to this crisis before it passes a point of no return," they wrote.

Absent from the list were rep- resentatives from the Nez Perce and the Haida, who have treaty rights on the Snake River. Both tribes have endorsed Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson's proposal to build an undersized Snake River dam. And the Nez Perce have long been critical of legislation that would expand the dams and their effect on salmon and steelhead.

Other national and regional groups are against Simpson's proposal, saying it would hurt the salmon and steelhead based on the Endangered Species Act and other laws.

The Snake River dams pro- duce hydropower and allow tug- and-barge transportation between Lewiston and the Tri-Cities. But they also contribute to the endangered salmon species.

"Salmon are irreplaceable from who we are. We exist because salmon exist. They are our food, ceremony, our culture and the very heart of our economy and life," the letter to Biden and Congress groups.

"Even as our ancestors’ lives and homelands were threatened, they made sure to protect within the treaties our ancestral salmon lifeway. Those treaties were prom- ised made by the United States govern- ment. Those promises must be kept," they said. "They can't be taken from us if we are to continue living on the Pacific Ocean, despite includ- ing fish ladders.

"They are blamed as one of the top causes of Snake River salmon and steelhead fishing on the En- dangered Species List.

"Many of the tribes in the Co- lumbia Basin and elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest signed treaties with the federal government that reserved their rights to fish in "usual and accustomed" places. If salmon and steelhead are allowed to go extinct, the federal govern- ment will not be meeting the terms of the treaties, they argue.

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"Many of the tribes in the Co- lumbia Basin and elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest signed treaties with the federal government that reserved their rights to fish in "usual and accustomed" places. If salmon and steelhead are allowed to go extinct, the federal govern- ment will not be meeting the terms of the treaties, they argue.

"Salmon are irreplaceable from who we are. We exist because salmon exist. They are our food, ceremony, our culture and the very heart of our economy and life," the letter to Biden and Congress groups.

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From W.S. Corrections

Would you like to make a difference in your community? Have you ever wondered what happens in a jail facility? It is more than just arresting prisoners who have committed a crime or who have violated their probation.

A Corrections Officer position will provide training and skill attainment to be successful in many areas of the criminal justice system. The work of a corrections officer requires excellent communication skills, clerical skills, and attention to detail.

If you would like more information on how you could make a difference in your community, contact me at 541-553-1171. Or send an email to crystal.greene@wstribes.org. The jail facility is still closed due to necessary equipment that is in the process, with the BIA of being repaired. Meanwhile, we are able to provide transport and court security services as necessary.

There is not yet a re-open date, unfortunately. In the near future we will also be looking to fill a 911 dispatch position in our office.

Crystal Greene, Warm Springs Corrections Lieutenant

court ruling mostly in favor of ICWA

The United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals this month ruled that Congress has the authority to enact the Indian Child Welfare Act. The court did, however, strike down a portion of the law that in some instances gives preference to Indigenous families in the adoption of Native American children.

The lawsuit—Brackeen v. Haaland—was brought by Texas, Indiana, Louisiana and individual plaintiffs. They allege that the Indian Child Welfare Act—ICWA—is unconstitutional for discriminating against non-Native families in the placement of Native children.

Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 in response to Native children being removed from their homes and placed with non-Native families. Research by the Native Indian Child Welfare Association found that between 25 percent and 35 percent of all Native children were forcibly removed from their home by state child welfare and private adoption agencies. Of them, 85 percent were placed with non-Native families, even when fit and willing relatives were available. ICWA is a safeguard aimed at preventing such a crisis from occurring by enabling tribes and families to be involved in child welfare cases.

Over the 325-page opinion document penned by Judge James Dennis and Judge Stuart Duncan included a summary of majority agreements among the 16 judges, and several instances of a lack of consensus, which prevented a unified decision.

“The main takeaways are basically the court did decide that at least one plaintiff has standing to bring this claim,” said Mary Kathryn Nagle, a Cherokee Nation citizen and partner with the law firm PipESCO and Nagle, which specializes in federal Indian law.

“On the court basically denied, or didn’t reach full agreements, on most of the constitutional challenges. So, as a result of this ongoing opinion, the majority of ICWA remains constitutional.”

When it goes more, Nagle said, that is the majority of judges ruled that certain provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act violate the anti-commandeering doctrine, which says that the federal government cannot require states or state officials to adopt or enforce federal law.

In one example, a majority of judges found that ICWA’s “active efforts” clause—which requires prospective foster parents of a Native child prove that active efforts have been made to reunite or rehabilitate the biological parent and prevent the breakup of the Native American family—unconstitutionally commandeers state action, given its need for expert witnesses and reenacting the decision. The Protect ICWA Campaign, a coalition comprised of the Native Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), issued a statement expressing both pleasure and concern with the case’s decision.

While the Protect ICWA Campaign is pleased to see that the court recognized that ICWA generally is within Congress’s authority, we are deeply concerned that aspects of this opinion misunderstand the unique relationship between the United States and tribal nations,” the group wrote in a statement.

In 2018, a federal district court in Texas ruled that ICWA violates the U.S. Constitution. Last year, in response to appeals brought by the federal government and tribal nations, a three-judge panel from the 5th Circuit reversed that decision, reaffirming the constitutionality of ICWA. Last week, the case was heard on hane review, or by an en banc court.

Moving forward, Nagle said she anticipates plaintiffs will appeal last week’s decision, sending the case to the U.S. Supreme Court to make a judgment on ICWA’s constitutionality. The “real battlefront”—in Nagle’s opinion—will be on whether or not it’s constitutional for ICWA to give preference in placement of Native American children with Native American families or communities, as is currently allowed by law.

“Obviously, ICWA was not about keeping children in homes that aren’t safe or when they’re abused, that’s not at all what this is about here,” Nagle said.

“But I think it’s true for all children, if you can stay with a loving family member, that’s way better than going to a stranger. But the problem is here, we have strangers who want Indian children and they’re making an argument that they’re entitled to have Indian children, and that it violates their constitutional rights if they can’t be a preferred placement for an Indian child. And that’s pretty ludicrous.”

Oregon schools are ready for in-person learning. Using steps like physical distancing, cohorts, face coverings and airflow, our teachers and staff are working hard to keep your children and family safe. Learn more about these steps at Oregon.gov/readyschools.
It’s unclear exactly how abundant wild salmon were before non-Native development of western Oregon in the mid-19th century. An estimated 17 million salmon Oncorhyncus tshawytscha that entered the Columbia River Basin, said Jeremy Firecewicz, public affairs specialist for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. According to recent year counts, under 2 million remain.

Salmon runs are seen as a renewal of life each year, and allow the transfer of nutritional values from the ocean to terrestrial species. ‘It’s a whole culture’s that’s based on salmon and those sacred foods that are all of a sudden going away, defining or moving into other ranges,’ Mr. Firecewicz says.

‘That is a huge problem for a culture that’s based on those foods.’

Gabri Shoshone, a Cushe Up-Walla Walla tribal citizen, works as a fisheries biologist and Indigenous educator at Portland State University and as the executive director of Friends of Tyron Creek, a non-profit organization focusing on education about the natural resources. He teaches about first foods, the foods Indigenous people traditionally hunted and harvested in the region: berries, roots, deer, elk, and salmon.

‘Salmon is essential to both subsistence and lifestyle, fishing, harvesting, gathering, and also to survival,’ Mr. Shoshone says. ‘Salmon were and are an important piece of culture in the Pacific Northwest.’

Many tribal citizens live year-round on the Columbia River in fishing camps. They depend on salmon and seal meat for their diets, trade and local economies.

According to Jeffrey Zeller, a fisheries biologist for the South Willamette Watershed District, the construction of dams was the most significant factor in declining salmon populations. ‘Every assessment that has been done since I’ve been around has fingered the dams as the major limiting factor to salmon in the Willamette system,’ Mr. Zeller says. ‘There’s obviously good reasons for that. Until we can fix the downstream passage issues at those dams, we will be extremely difficult to recover spring Chinook salmon in the Willamette Basin.’

In the 1970s, there was a real possibility that whole segments of the salmon population would go extinct. ‘So the tribes said, “If there’s no fish, it’s the same as not having a strong tribe.”’ Jeremy Firecewicz says.

Through a recreation hatchery plan, Spirit of the Salmon, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission contributed to the hub in salmon decline and matched run from near-extinction levels. At the same time, fish hatcheries became the easier way to return fish to the river.

Today, some fisheries in the Columbia Basin are completely reliant on hatcheries. Following the completion of the dams, an agreement was made between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate the harm to fish populations caused by the dams. Hatcheries were seen as a viable solution.

Water conflict along the Ore.-Calif. border

One of the worst droughts in memory in a massive agri-cultural region straddling the Oregon-California border could mean snap cuts to irrigated farmland this summer to sustain endangered fish species critical to the river.

The U.S. Bureau of Rec-reation, which oversees wa-ter allocations in the feder-ally owned Klamath Project, is expected to announce this week how the scarce water will be divvied up after declaring a decision a month. For the first time in 20 years, it’s possible that the 1,400 irrigators who farm for generations on 225,000 acres of reclaimed farmland will get no water at all—or so little that farming wouldn’t be worth it. Several tribes in Oregon and California are equally desperate for water to sustain threatened and endangered species of fish central to their heritages.

A network of six wildlife refuges that make up the largest wetland complex west of the Mississippi River de-pend on the project’s wa-ter, but will likely go dry this year.

The competing demands for a vanishing natural re-source foresee a shadowy and tense summer in the re-gion.

The hatchery system is very much in the U.S. agri-cultural model, which is, ‘We’ll grow the biggest and best fish and set it loose and hopefully it comes back,’ Mr. Shoshone says.

The justification for recre-naitional hatchery programs parallels the motive for the dam project: the economy. Currently, wild salmon numbers are too low in the Willamette Basin, for in-stance, to sustain any kind of consistent angling or har-vesting, ensuring the need for hatcheries.

The future of salmon conservation in the Colum-bia Basin is uncertain. As the planet warms, salmon face yet another existential crisis.

One-third of freshwater fish are facing extinction. Today, one-third of freshwater fish are facing extinction. Today, one-third of freshwater fish are facing extinction.

by Clayton Frauke
The Daily Emerald
University of Oregon

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