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December - Nch'i-An - Winter - Yiyam

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# Community update

The tribal community saw 13 new Covid-19 cases on Monday of this week, December 27, from 99 tests administered, according to the update from the Response Team, IHS and Community Health. Two of the positive tests came from outside facilities, the update says.

As of this past Monday, there were 20 active cases on the reservation, according to the update. In addition, 13 individuals were closecontacts receiving daily monitoring.

• As of Monday of this week, the Health and Wellness center had conducted a total of 17,193 tests since the pandemic began, the recent update says.

• This testing brought results of 1,143 total positive cases since the outbreak, among the tribal community. An additional 167 positive tests have come from outside facilities, for a total of 1,310 total cases among the tribal community since testing began in 2020. The latest update reminds the membership:

 Vaccines are saving lives and keeping people out of the hospital.
 Vaccinations are the primary means of addressing the pandemic.

As of earlier this week, the Health and Wellness Center had given 3,063 primary doses of the covid vaccine among the tribal community.

Health and Wellness has provided another 2,580 second doses; and 764 booster shots.

Regarding New Years and any other planned gatherings: Please consider keeping family and friends safe by continuing to take covid precautions. This includes wearing a face mask and maintaining distance from others. Limit gatherings to your immediate household.

If you have not been vaccinated, the advice is to do so, for your safety and for that of others around you. Make sure to schedule your booster, and if you have a child 5 or older, he or she too can now be vaccinated. Call 541-553-2131 for information.

# Appeals court back in session

The Tribal Council and management have re-established the Tribal Appeals Court. The panel of judges hears appeals from decisions of the Tribal Court. The Appeals Court has been out of session since 2019. Council appointed the appeals judges from among legal professionals from a variety of legal backgrounds.

They sit as a panel of three judges to hear the appeals. For the time being, the panel may conduct the appeals hearings and arguments virtually, because of the covid situation, said Councilman Glendon Smith, Secretary-Treasurer.

With the new Appeals Court again in session, there are pending appeals that can now be heard, Councilman Smith said.

# Spring will see Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council

The tribal membership will elect a new Tribal Council during the first half of 2022. This will be the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes. The current Council as soon as January will discuss the 2022 election process, said Councilman and Secretary-Treasurer Glendon Smith.

The tribes have been conducting Council elections once every three years since 1938, under the terms of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution defines the powers of the Tribal Council, the length of terms, qualifications, etc.

Regarding the process the tribes use to conduct an election, the Constitution refers to the 'prevailing customs' of the

tribes.

While the membership during the past 84 years has chosen twenty-eight Tribal Councils, the tribes have never had to conduct a Council election during a pandemic: The Great Influenza pandemic, or Spanish flu, happened in 1918-19, twenty years before the first Council election, held under the 1938 Constituion.

Looking forward, the 2022 Tribal Council election itself could seemingly happen in a relatively safe manner, as individuals can follow the tribes' covid safety protocol—masking, distancing, etc.—while submitting a ballot.

A more immediate and potentially more complicated process would be the district nominations: The 'prevailing custom' to this point has been district nominating meetings at the Agency and

Simnasho longhouses, and the Seekseequa Fire Hall.

The virus makes the prevailing customary use of the longhouses and fire hall potentially dangerous, as people of all ages—from young people to the most vulnerable elders—gather together indoors for the nominations.

The current Tribal Council with input from the membership and Covid Response Team will determine the process for the nominations. And all of this will happen around the two-year anniversary of the pandemic outbreak: The virus arrived on the reservation in the spring of 2020.

Since that time many people of the tribal community have received their covid vaccines, and a good number have now received the booster. Still, these precautions only go so far, as break-through cases happen on occasion.

The 2022 nomination and election process will be another important decision for the current Tribal Council, which has seen the tribes through some of the more trying times in recent memory. As examples:

Shortly after the Twenty-Eighth Council took office in early May of 2019, the Agency water system failed, making running domestic potable water unavailable to many residents for several months. Then less than a year into the term, the virus arrived, followed in the summer of 2020 by another extended water crisis.

While these events would not compare with the Celilo inundation disaster of the 1950s, for instance, the present-day and ongoing challenges have been and are very large.

 $- \, \mathit{Dave} \, \mathit{McMechan}$ 

Ther Museum at Warm Springs Tribal Member Art Show will be on display for a little more than a week longer, through January 8, 2022. The Member Show will then be followed by the Youth Art Show. Stop by the museum 9 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, masks and distancing required.





Member Art Show works on display until January 8: beaded vest with elk (left); beaded vest with salmon and teepees; both by Angela Sampson, Xwt-Xwt.

## Coming up in January 2022 at Tribal Council

The following are some of the items coming up on the Tribal Council agenda for January 2022 (subject to change at Council discretion):

#### Monday, January 3

9 a.m.: Bureau of Indian Affairs update with Brenda Bremner, superintendent.

9:30: Bureau of Trust Funds Administration update with Kevin Moore.

10: Realty items with James Halliday.

10:30: Indian Health Service update with Hyllis Dauphinais, clinic chief executive officer.

11: Covid update with the Response Team.

1:30 p.m.: Legislative update calls, state and federal.

2:30: Tribal attorneys updates.

#### Tuesday, January 4

9 a.m.: Appeals Court Judges meet and greet.

10: Q-Life Network discussion with Matthew Klebes.

11: Bluestone discussion with John Mooers.

1:30 p.m.: Water treatment plant discussion with Chico Holliday, Barry Buchanan and tribal attorney.

2:30: Chief Judge discussion.

#### Wednesday, January 5

9 a.m.: Akana update with Said Amali.

10: Willamette Falls Trust update with Gerard Rodrguez.

11: Heating, Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) update with Chico.

#### Monday, January 10 – Enterprise updates

9 a.m.: Indian Head Casino and Plateau Travel Plaza discussion with Jeffrey Carstensen.

10: Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprise update with Jim Manion

10:30: Composite Products up-

date with Jake Coochise. 11: Covid update with the Re-

sponse Team.
11:30: Telecom discussion with

Tim York.

1:30 p.m.: Credit update with

Lori Fuentes.
2: Ventures discussion with Jim

3: Warm Springs Housing Authority update with Danielle Wood. 3:30: Timber LLC discussion.

## Tuesday, January 11 – Enterprise and Committee reports

9 a.m.: Museum at Warm Springs update with Elizabeth

10: High Lookee Lodge discussion.

11: Fish and Wildlife Committee Off-Reservation update.

1:30 p.m.: Fish and Wildlife Committee On-Reservation update.

2:30: Culture and Heritage Committee update.

3:30: Education Committee update.

## Wednesday, January 12 – Committee reports

9 a.m.: Timber Committee. 10: Health and Welfare Commit-

10: Health and Welfare Committee.11: Land Use Planning Commit-

tee.
1:30 p.m.: Range and Agriculture

2:30: Water Board update.

#### Monday, January 17

9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer update with Glendon Smith, Secretary-Treasurer—Chief Executive Officer.

9:30: February agenda and review minutes with the S-T.

10: Draft resolutions with the S-T.

11: Covid update with the Response Team.

1:30: Legislative updates, federal and state.

2:30: Enrollments with Lucille Suppach-Samson, Vital Stats.

3: Human Resources update with acting director Carol Funk.

3:30: Administrative Services update with the S-T.

4: Health and Human Services update with Caroline Cruz.

### Tuesday, January 18

9 a.m.: Governmental Affairs update with Louie Pitt.

9:30: Managed Care update with Mike Collins.

10: Administrative Services update with the S-T.

10:30: Procurement update with Libby Chase.

11: Tribal Court update with Lisa Lomas.

1:30 p.m.: Public Safety update with acting general manager Nancy Seyler.

2:30: Natural Resources update with Robert Brunoe.

3:30: Finance update with Isaac George.

#### Wednesday, January 19

9 a.m.: Education discussion with Valerie Switzler.

10: Public Utilities update with Chico Holliday.

#### Tuesday, January 25

9 a.m.: Akana update with Said Amali.

Monday—Thursday, January 24-27: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians convention, virtual.

Items for further consideration: November-December financials. Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission January meeting.



#### Summaries of Tribal Council

#### November 29, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Glendon Smith, Anita Jackson, Wilson Wewa Jr., Chief Joseph Moses. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

• Forest management deduction resolution discussion with Vernon Wolf, Forestry:

Motion by Brigette adopting Resolution No. 12,885, that the amount of \$350,000 is approved for the funding of the Warm Springs Intensive Forest Management Program, as shown on attached Exhibit A. That such funds shall be reimbursed from timber sales no later than quarterly to the Confederated Tribes from Forest Management Deduction account.

That expenditures for intensive forest management activities pursuant to Exhibit A shall:

Be consistent with the Tribe's Intensive Forest Management Fund Policy; Be in compliance with Public Law 1C1-630, the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act; Not exceed 7 percent of gross timber sale income or revenue. Second by Captain. Discussion; Glendon/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Brigette/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/yes, 7/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

• Finalize the 2022 Budget discussion with Glendon Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, and Isaac George, Finance:

Motion by Brigette adopting Resolution No. 12,886, that an amount not to exceed \$2,144,100 is hereby authorized for expenditure from the Senior Distribution Fund for calendar year 2022. Sec-

ond by Wilson. Question, Glendon/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, jay/yes, Brigette/yes, Wilson/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/no, 7/1/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried

Motion by Brigette adopting Resolution No. 12,887, pursuant to Article V, Section 1(t), as amended, of the Tribal Constitution and By-Laws and Ordinance 67, that the foregoing budget is approved with an effective date of January 1, 2022. That the sum of \$16,627,983 is hereby appropriated for expenditure pursuant to the foregoing annual budget for the twelve-month period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 and the Secretary of Interior of his/her authorized representative is hereby requested to approve such budget. That the Tribal Council will pay close attention to the areas of Forest Management Deduction, Public Safety, Public Utilities, Health and Human Services, Housing and Infrastructure, and Salary Administration, enterprise dividend amounts, safe drinking water, revenue, economic development, wastewater treatment and sanitation facilities, ARPA spending; that total Tribal Budget expenditures for 2022 shall not exceed the amount authorized by this Resolution:

Provided further that the Secretary-Treasurer/CEO shall promptly secure concurrence of the Tribal Council prior to such withdrawal; Provided further that the Secretary-Treasurer/CEO shall, upon making a determination that adequate funds are available to meet all other Tribal obligations, notify the Tribal Council and take steps to reimburse into the "Revenue Reserve Fund"

funds in the same amount as were withdrawn pursuant to this authority. That the Secretary-Treasurer/ CEO of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon is hereby authorized to proceed with the expenditure of funds for the purposes and amounts indicated in the Budget. Provided that all constitutional provisions are met; Provided further that the Secretary-Treasurer/CEO is authorized, upon making a determination that sufficient revenues will not be available to fund all expenditures authorized in this Budget Resolution, to take all necessary action to ensure that actual expenditures do not exceed the amount of available funds. Second by Joe; Discussion; Glendon/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Brigette/yes, Wilson/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/no, 7/1/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Motion by Wilson to adjourn at 11:55 a.m.

#### December 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Vice Chair Brigette McConville. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Anita Jackson, Glendon Smith, Wilson Wewa Jr., Chief Joseph Moses. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

#### **Resolutions:**

• Health Services Fund Collections discussion with Caroline Cruz and Michael Collins:

Motion by Anita adopting Reso-

lution No. 12,888, that the Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as are necessary to provide for the allocation of Health Services Fund Collections ('Third Party Billings') for the Calendar Year 2022, as indicated in Exhibit A; and to program such savings as are expected at the end of Calendar Year 2021 for the one-year budget plan for the year 2022. Second by Joe. Discussion. Anita/ yes, Glendon/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Wilson/yes, Joe/yes, 6/ 0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

• 2022 Scholarship Fund Budget discussion with Isaac George, Finance:

SUMMARIES continue on page 5

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#### PARENT SESSION

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Gardner at 541.383.7237. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact Disability Services at 541.383.7583.





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## Water system upgrades slated for tribes

The massive infrastructure bill signed in late November promises to bring change to Native American tribes that lack clean water or indoor plumbing, through the largest single infusion of money into Indian Country.

The law includes \$3.5 billion for the federal Indian Health Service, which provides health care to more than 2 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The legislation also delivers money for water projects through other federal agencies.

Tribal leaders say the funding is welcome yet won't make up for decades of neglect from the U.S. government.

A list of sanitation deficiencies includes more than 1,500 tribal projects, from septic systems to



Inside the Warm Springs water treatment plant, slated for upgrades and eventual replacement.

pipelines.

A number of these—from the water treatment plant to the deliv-

ery pipes, and the wastewater system as well—are on the Warm Springs Reservation.

## Great option for tribal community pets

Thank you is only a sliver of our gratitude for the families of Warm Springs for the trust placed in Fences For Fido to serve as a resource for their pets.

Today we celebrate our Warm Springs Fences For Fido partners, Street Dog Hero and Humane Society of Central Oregon for their free veterinary services at the December spay-neuter event.

We provided vaccines to nearly 20 Fences For Fido Warm Springs dogs and cats from the reservation.

It was such an impactful day for families and their pets! This helped make healthier and safer dogs and cats, while helping to reduce the free roaming dog and cat populations.

All dogs and cats were transported by volunteers to Bend for their surgeries and veterinary exams, then returned home later that night.

We continue to provide a free Warm Springs Pet Food Bank every second Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Register at: fencesforfido.org

Gratefully, we have permission from the Tribal Council to continue to hold spay and neuter and vaccine clinics on the reservation. We are continuing to search for a building for the clinics on the reservation so stay tuned for updates!

**Kelly Peterson**, chair and cofounder, outreach coordinator, Fences for Fido.



Fences for Fido reservation dog transport; and the spay-neuter operation.

## KWSO now features phone app

The KWSO app is now available for phone and mobile devices. The app makes it easy for you to listen to KWSO on your

phone, and features the daily community calendar and local news plus more connections to news, events and lan-



guage lessons.

Find links to download the app to your device at the top of our website, kwso.org

## Jobs recovery for region

Unemployment continued to fall across Central Oregon in late fall and early winter.

Rates on average were only 1.5 points or less off their historic low levels before the pandemic.

The improvement to the unemployment rate is due to rapid hiring across the non-farm sectors.

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.6 percent in November, down from 5.8 percent in October.

The unemployment rate for the county—including Warm Springs and most of the reservation—is fast approaching levels of February 2020, when it was 4.1 percent.

Jefferson County is nearing an employment recovery from the pandemic shock with employment in late Novemberearly December only down by 0.6 percent, or 40 jobs, from levels in November 2019.

Job gains in the county over the past year were concentrated in local government (plus 120 jobs); manufacturing (plus 60 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (plus 30 jobs).

There were notable job losses in private education and

health services, shedding 50 jobs from November 2020, and professional and businesses services, down 40 jobs from the same time last year.

**Deschutes County:** The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped significantly in November to 4.6 from 4.9 in October.

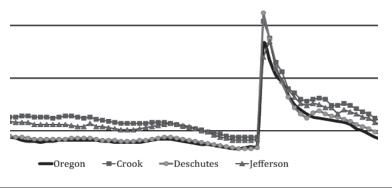
The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from Covid-19 in February 2020, when it was at a record low of 3.3 percent; however, levels of unemployment are well below the 10-year average of 6.9 percent.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that Deschutes County posted very strong hiring in November:

The county added 160 jobs in November at a time when a loss of 300 would be more typical based on normal seasonal patterns.

Employment levels in November 2021 exceeded November 2019 levels.

Crook County: The unemployment rate dropped significantly to 5.9 percent in November, down from 6.2 percent in October.





# Plaza space available

The Plaza at Warm Springs has a suite available on January 1, 2022.

The location is on Highway 26 next to Indian Head Casino. The suite is approximately 525

Casino.
The suite is approximately 525 squar feet.
If you're interested, please email your business plan to: Sandra.Danzuka@ wstribes.org
Or call 541-553-3565 if you have

any questions.





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### Letters to the editor

#### From Confluence

Dear Warm Springs,

We have two exciting new resources to share with you that elevate Indigenous voices in our understanding of the Columbia River sys-

Scholar Emily Washines (Yakama) has written a new article for the Confluence Library about why it is so important for students to learn about salmon, not just for environmental science but also to connect with the Native cultures of our re-

Grand Ronde cultural educator Greg Archuleta has delivered a new inventory of native plant species at the Sandy River Delta, in collaboration with the Sandy River Watershed Council. This will guide land use managers in the restoration of this storied landscape that includes the Confluence Bird Blind.

Meanwhile, our Indigenous artists and educators continue to Zoom into classrooms to connect students with traditional lessons and stories. All of this is made possible by the Friends of Confluence. Thanks to everyone who has supported our Annual Appeal. If you haven't yet, make your taxdeductible donation now or support this important work monthly. Thanks!

Stay safe, Colin Fogarty, executive director, Confluence.



**Emily Washines** 

Emily Washines, MPA, is a scholar and enrolled Yakama Nation tribal member with Cree and Skokomish lineage. Her blog, Native Friends, focuses on history and culture. Building understanding and support for Native Americans is evident in her films, writing, speaking, and exhibits.

Her research topics include the Yakama War, Native women, traditional knowledge, resource management, fishing rights, and food sovereignty. Emily speaks Ichiskiin (Yakama language) and other Native languages.

Yakima Herald-Republic lists her as Top 39 under 39. She received a Single Impact Event Award for her 2018 presentation from the Association of King County Historical Organizations. She is a board member of the Museum of Culture and Environment, Artist Trust, and Columbia Riverkeeper.

She is adjunct faculty at Yakima Valley College. You can read her salmon story on the website:

confluenceproject.org

#### Matter of tribal health

Dear friends,

As we begin 2022, we are filled with gratitude for your support of the urban American Indian community, especially during a year filled with unprecedented challenges. Our community continues to face an unparalleled health crisis, as we prepare to solve new challenges due to the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We understand there are many issues demanding your attention this year please accept my sincere gratitude on behalf of the National Council of Urban Indian Health for your continued support of our work and mission.

Did you know that American Indians face some of the starkest disparities in health outcomes of any racial population in the U.S.?

Much of these health disparities are the ongoing outcomes of hundreds of years of historical trauma and genocide against our communities.

Unfortunately, the Indian Health Service is underfunded, and currently only funded at 12 percent of the actual need; therefore, American Indians are more vulnerable to infectious disease outbreaks due to a lack of access to critical public health infrastructure and other resources.

As you know, NCUIH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally-competent healthcare services for American Indian and Alaska Natives living in urban settings.

What we do matters. Responding to the pandemic has exposed how fragile the healthcare system is and has intensified existing healthcare inequities. We are inspired by the strength and resiliency of the urban Ameircan Indian population

for which we advocate, and our work toward health equity is made possible by your generosity.

This year, please consider making a donation to NCUIH's fundraiser.

Fundraisers are important to nonprofits, like NCUIH, because they bring people together to raise more money than we ever could alone.

Our work is made possible by your generosity and every dollar raised will get us closer to our goal working for health equity for urban American Indian people.

Francys Crevier, CEO, NCUIH.

### Water system

The Department of the Interior is beginning nationto-nation consultations with tribes as it implements the Infrastructure Law.

The law invests more than \$13 billion directly in tribal communities across the country-including potentially millions of dollars to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs—to improve drinking water systems, bolster community resilience, replace other aging infrastructure, and help ensure that everyone has access to high-speed internet. The consultations will take place January 26-28.

### Museum winter drive brings 200 new members



The Museum at Warm Springs winter membership drive is in honor of Ancestor Ken Smith. The drive so far has resulted in more than 200 new members, and the number goes up every day.

We have expanded our board of directors to include representation of more tribal members, Central Oregon, and the Portland Metropolitan region.

The Potlatch Fund just committed \$10,000 support toward museum operations. We are grateful to The Potlatch Fund!

Visit Central Oregon is providing the Museum at Warm Springs with \$25,000 for the design and installation of two new signs on Highway 26.

These signs will greatly improve visibility to the hundreds of people that travel by every day. Thank you, Visit Central Oregon! .

Thanks to Sue Matters, station manager at KWSO 91.9 FM for the wonderful short video that she produced to highlight the museum's Gift Shop. It's posted on our FaceBook page. If you are not a follower, please consider following us.

We are looking forward to 2022 with an expanded program of outreach and partnerships, and our operations continue despite continuing pandemic concerns.

The Tribal Youth Art Exhibit opens in January 2022. Please visit!

Thank you for considering your New Year gift. And please don't forget about our faithful supporter, the Oregon Cultural Trust.

You can double the impact of your gift to the museum by making a matching donation to the trust: Your donation to the Trust serves as a tax credit and will be deducted from any Oregon taxes that you owe.

Most importantly, stay safe and support one another. We appreciate you! See the website: museumatwarmsprings.org

Elizabth Woody and staff at the Mu-Warm seum at Springs.

### Veterans home loan increases in 2022

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce an increase to the maximum loan amount available through the Oregon Veteran Home Loan Program, to \$647,200 effective January 1.

The Oregon Veteran Home Loan Program is one of Veterans Affairs core veteran benefits since the agency's inception in 1945.

The program offers eligible veterans fixed-rate financing for owner-occupied, single-family residences up to the Federal Housing Finance Agency Limit.

The maximum will increase on January 1 to \$647,200 from the previous \$548,250.

The Veteran Home Loan



Frankie Williams, W.S. Veterans Representative

benefit is a non-expiring, lifetime benefit for any eligible Oregon veteran and may be used up to four times. The program finances purchases only, not refinancing.

This Oregon benefit is separate and distinct from the federal VA Home Loan Guarantee, and has lent approximately \$8.2 billion in low-interest home loans to more than 336,000 veterans since 1945.

To be eligible, a veteran must have served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, as documented on his or her DD-214, and must meet one of the service criteria outlined on ODVA's website at:

www.oregon.gov/odva/ Home-Loans/Pages/ Eligibility.aspx

For more information regarding both the VA and ODVA home loan program, contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office at 541-460-0605. Frankie Williams, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Veterans Affairs Officer.

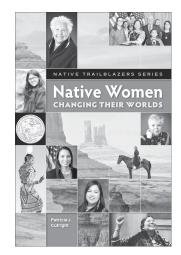
#### To student vets

Congress last week extended pandemic protections for GI Bill users to ensure student veterans will receive full benefits in the spring. This includes students studying online due to the pandemic.

The move is expected to affect about 57,000 students currently enrolled in degree programs. At issue is how post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are paid out to students who attend college classes remotely, rather than in-person. Students using the veterans education benefit receive money for tuition plus a monthly housing stipend.

Individuals enrolled in traditional in-person classes receive the full financial benefit, while students in onlineonly classes get half of that housing stipend, leaving some worried they may not have their rent payments covered.

#### Among the Best of 2021



Voted one of the Best Books of 2021 is Native Women Changing Their Worlds by Patricia Cutright, (Lakota, Cheyenne River Sioux).

The 12 Indigenous women featured in this book overcame unimaginable hardships—racial and gender discrimination, abuse, and extreme poverty—only to rise to great heights in the fields of politics, science, education, and

community activism.



A Happy New Year wish from Travis Bobb.

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Phone: 541-553-2210 or 541-771-7521

E-Mail: david.mcmechan@wstribes.org. Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00

## New highway signs on the way for museum

A generous \$25,000 gift from Visit Central Oregon will provide the Museum at Warm Springs with new signs on Highway 26.

The signs will feature the museum's new logo, and will help draw attention to east and west bound travelers, encouraging them to visit the museum.

"We are thrilled about this gift from Visit Central Oregon," said



Parking entrance signage at the museum.

Elizabeth Woody, museum executive director. "This will enable us to step up our marketing efforts and bring more visitors to the museum. Look for the new signs soon!"

Julia Theisen of Visit Central Oregon says: "Central Oregon is fortunate to be the home of such rich cultural heritage, including the Museum at Warm Springs. We ap-

preciate this opportunity to support the museum's new signage, designed to enhance their visibility to the countless vehicles that pass by their location on a daily basis.

"The signage will create an opportunity for more visitors to experience the museum as they travel to and from Central Or-

## December Gift Giveaway



Outside the Family Resource Center, Warm Springs Police officers help with the Health and Human Services December gift giveaway, held again this year as a drive-by event for covid safety. The team also delivered Christmas bags to elders, and Emergency Preparedness helped distribute the holiday food boxes.



## Community notes...

The Oregon Ducks football team is in San Antonio for the Alamo Bowl this Wednesay evening, December 20. The Ducks play the Oklahoma Sooners. Game time is 6:15 Pacific Time, and will be on ESPN.

For anyone who was out of town for the holiday, or who attended a large gathering where you may have been exposed to active covid; or if you have covid symptoms: You should get tested today at the Orange Tent at the Health and Wellness Center. And for information on vaccines, call 541-553-2131.

Most Oregonians who receive **SNAP**—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—benefits

will continue to receive increased emergency food benefits in January. Approximately 382,000 SNAP households will receive approximately \$61 million in extra food benefits in addition to their regular SNAP benefits. Find resources to meet your basic needs: Dial 2-1-1, or text your zip code to 898-211, or see www.211info.org

The Branch of Natural Resources reminds tribal members about recently installed multiple seasonal gates on main roads in the Lionshead fire area. The seasonal gates will be closed December through March each year. This seasonal closure helps reduce the impacts to road systems in the winter months and secure wintering big game within the closure area.

## Shuttle transport service for veterans

Veterans Services offers a weekly free transport, available on Wednesdays. The transport is from Warm Springs to Madras, and from Madras to Redmond and Bend.

The service is intended to help veterans travel across Central Oregon for shopping and special events. The program offers four to sixhour trips. Veterans Services transport will stop at Wal-Mart, Costco, and allow additions with prior approval. They are using community centers for pick-up and return sites. Operation will be Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The shuttle follows strict Covid-19 and masking guidelines, as well as requiring Veterans ID. You can contact 541-408-4147 for more information or comments. Donations are accepted for fuel and maintenance.

## Region seeing an influx of winter robins

Central Oregon is seeing an increase in the number of robins, as thousands of the birds are flocking to the

region. Robins are migratory, and the number in the region usually in-



creases during the winter months. This winter, though, Central Oregon is seeing a 'bird Irruption,' the term for a sudden and significant increase in a particular bird population. Bird experts are not sure why this is happening, though it could be related to the wildfires that have burned in the West during recent summers.

## IHS Portland area posts low covid rate for Indian Country

The Indian Health Service Portland Area saw one of the lowest Covid-19 rates among the 12 IHS areas across Indian Country. The Tucson Area and Alaska Area were lower than the Portland Area, though Portland was quite a bit lower than most other areas, and lower than the overall average.

The national headquarters recently released its latest Covid-19 numbers for Indian Country, reflecting cases, vaccine and testing as of mid-late December.

According to the latest data: 300,328 IHS covid tests across Indian Country have returned positive for the virus, since the pandemic began in March of 2020.

The number was an increase of 0.6 percent from the previous update just two days before.

The release of the data on December 21 marked the first time cases within the IHS surpassed the 300,000 mark.

Altogether, IHS has administered 3,536,808 coronavirus tests across Indian Country for its client base.

Since mid-October of 2020, the IHS has been providing additional cumulative information about the spread of the coronavirus within the system.

Based on the cumulative percent positive, the highest rates have been seen in five areas. Two of them include the state of Arizona, indicating a disproportionate toll of Covid-19 in the state: The positivity numbers are as follows:

Navajo Area, 13.9 percent. Phoenix Area, 12.9 percent. Oklahoma City Area, 12. California Area, 10.1 percent. Albuquerque Area, 9.7.

In addition: The seven-day rolling average positivity column offers a more contemporary look at the impact of the coronavirus. The data shows where covid cases in Indian Country have been increasing re-

Based on the seven-day rolling average positivity, six out of 12 IHS areas are seeing high covid rates, marking yet another instance of surges across every region of Indian Country. The high

The IHS Phoenix Area, 12.8 percent. Nashville Area, 12.3 percent. Navajo Area, 11.7. Albuquerque Area, 10. The Oklahoma City Area, 9.5 percent. Bemidji Area, 9.5 percent.

Among the lower areas was Portland at 6.9 percent.

Notably, with the release of data from mid-late December, the Alaska Area finally fell below 5 percent positivity for the first time in several months.

The region had earlier seen a notable increase in cases, with the highest seven-day positivity of 11.3 percent reported.

Throughout most of the pandemic, the Alaska Area had seen the lowest rate of covid cases within

Overall, 9 percent of IHS tests have been positive since the onset of the pandemic, the data shows.

Meanwhile, the seven-day average has fallen to 8.0 percent following a long period of high rates since the summer of 2021.

## Summaries of Tribal Council

(from page 2) December 6, 2021

Motion by Anita adopting Resolution No. 12,889, that an amount not to exceed \$650,000 is hereby authorized for expenditure from the Scholarship Fund for the calendar year 2022. Second by Joe. Discussion. Anita/yes, Glendon/ yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Wilson/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

· Indian Health Services update with Hyllis Dauphinais, Warm Springs Health and Wellness Cen-

- · Covid update Hyllis.
- · Federal and state legislative update calls.
- · Tribal attorneys update.

Due to loss of internet connectivity the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

#### December 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr. Roll call: Glendon Smith, Lincoln Jay Suppah, Anita Jackson, Vice Chair Brigette McConville, Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Chief Delvis Heath. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

· Columbia River Housing Workshop with tribal attorrey John

· Attorney contract review with

Josh Newton and Howie Arnett:

Motion by Captain adopting Resolution No. 12,891, that Tribal Council hereby consents to the assignment of the currently effective Attorneys' Contract between the Confederated Tribes and the law firm of Karnopp Petersen LLP approved by Tribal Council Resolution 12,7903 to the law firm Best Best and Krieger LLP, and authorizes the Chairman, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer (each an "Authorized Representative") to execute any documents or take any further actions to effectuate the same, as amended. Second by Anita. Discussion. Glendon/yes, Jay/yes, Brigette/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/yes, Captain/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion car-

· Blue Stone discussion.

Motion by Brigette to reinstate Blue Stone. Blue Stone will make adjustments to their budget, then come back: Motion rescinded.

· January agenda discussion. Motion by Brigette approving the January 2022 meeting agenda. Second by Jay. Discussion. Glendon/yes, Jay/yes, Brigette/ yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/yes, Captain/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Motion by Brigette to adjourn at 12:20 p.m.

## Secretary Haaland highlights infrastructure investments across Indian Country

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland visited South Dakota in December, where she highlighted federal government commitments to strengthening tribal communities, protecting public lands, and investing in infrastructure.

In Rapid City, Secretary Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland met with tribal leaders of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

During the meeting, Haaland, a member of the Pueblo Laguna Tribe, discussed Interior's progress for Indian Country, and commitment to honoring the agency's trust and treaty obligations.

She also highlighted how the Infrastructure Law makes historic investments in tribal communities, including a \$466 million investment in tribal infrastructure projects and climate resiliency initiatives.

Some of this funding is planned for investment in the domestic water system on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The Interior Department leaders also met with local Indigenous youth participating in the 2021 Lakota National Invitational.

"As the effects of climate change continue to intensify, indigenous communities are facing unique challenges that pose existential



Secretary Deb Haaland

threats to tribal economies, infrastructure, livelihoods and health," Haaland said.

"With new resources to invest in tribal communities, we are committed to ensuring that tribal leaders have a seat at the table and can work directly with federal officials to safeguard their communities."

Haaland also visited Wind Cave National Park, where she heard about investments the park is making to improve its infrastructure and enhance visitors' experience. The infrastructure law provides for a five-year reauthorization of the Federal Lands Transportation Program, which will help invest in repairing and upgrading National Park Service roads, bridges, trails and transit systems.

The law also invests in projects that will help fund bridge replacements and resiliency, repair ferry boats and terminal facilities, and maintain wildlife crossings that keep people and surrounding wildlife

"The infrastructure law makes historic investments in bolstering community resilience, protecting natural areas, and strengthening our response to the effects of climate change," said Secretary Haaland.

"This is the largest investment in physical and natural systems in American history, and a muchneeded down payment to ensure our grandchildren and greatgrandchildren get to enjoy the same outdoor experiences we all have today."

Secretary Haaland also toured the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and met with local landowners who are participants in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program offers financial and technical assistance to interested landowners, helping to keep working lands in working

## In the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

All proceedings are held at the CTWS Tribal Court.

CIGANY SCOTT, Petitioner, vs ANTOINETTE TALLBULL, RESPONDENT; Case No. DO101-20, DO102-20. TO: SCOTT, ANTOINETTE TALL BULL:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a CONSERVATOR GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 7<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 4:00

 $CTWS, Petitioner, vs \ SYLVIA$ SPINO, Respondent; Case No. DO18-19. TO: SYLVÍA SPINO, JASPER SMITH SR., LOIS **SQUIEMPHEN:** 

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a MODIFICATION has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 25<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

RADINE JOHNSON, Petitioner, vs ALLEN GILBERT III, Respondent; Case No. RO44-21. TO: RADINE JOHNSON, ALLENGILBERTIII:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a RESTRAINING OR-DER has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 25<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2022 @ 3:00 PM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs OLEA YAHTIN, Respondent; Case No. JV56-18. TO: OLEA YAHTIN, THERMAN SUPPAH SR:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that an CUSTODY REVIEW has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 1<sup>ST</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2021 @ 2:00 PM

RADINE JOHNSON, Petitioner, vs JUSTIN GILBERT, Respondent; No. RO45-21. TO: RADINE JOHNSON, JUSTIN GILBERT:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a RESTRAINING OR-DER has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 25<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2022 @ 3:00 PM

CTWS. Petitioner, LENORA WILLIAMS, Respondent; Case No. JV10-20. TO: LENORA WILLIAMS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a PERMANENCY has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 9<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 9:00 AM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs ALICIA YAZZIE, Respondent; Case No. JV5-21. TO: ALICIA YAZZIE, **STEPHAN CENTRE:** 

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that an PERMANENCY has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 3RD day of FEBRUARY 2022 @ 2:00 PM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs ALICIA YAZZIE, Respondent; Case No. JV3-21. TO: ALICIA YAZZIE:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that an PERMANENCY has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 3RD day of FEBRUARY 2022 @ 3:00 PM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs JESSICA JIM, Respondent; Case No. JV1-21. TO: JESSICA JIM:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that an ASSISTED GUARD-IANSHIP has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 3<sup>RD</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2022 @ 9:00 AM

GERALD HOPTOWIT, Petitioner, vs CTWS, Respondent; Case No. DO153-21. TO: GERALD HOPTOWIT, **BRANDI** STWYER:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a CONSERVATOR GUARDIANSHIP has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 3<sup>RD</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 9:00 AM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs DELSIE LOGAN, Respondent; Case No. JV34-21. TO: DELSIE LOGAN:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that an CUSTODY REVIEW has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 9<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Petitioner, LYNITTA MILLER, Respondent; Case No. JV63-19. TO: LYNITTA MILLER, BRADLEY BRONCHEAU, FANCUDNO **BALDERAMA:** 

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a ASSISTANT GUARD-IANSHIP has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 17<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRU-ARY, 2021 @ 3:00 PM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs AMBRO-SIA SUPPAH, Respondent; Case No. JV46,47-20. TO: AMBROSIA SUPPAH, **JEREMY** KILLSFIRST:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that an PERMANENCY has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the  $17^{Th}$  day of FEBRUARY 2022 @ 9:00 AM

Petitioner, CTWS. LYNITTA MILLER, Respondent; Case No. JV63-19. TO: LYNITTA MILLER. **BRADLEY** BRONCHEAU, FANCUDNO

#### **BALDERAMA:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a TERMINATION HEARING has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **26**<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

CPS, Petitioner, vs FRANCES SPINO JR., RESPONDENT; Case No. DO152-21. TO: CPS, FRANCES SPINO JR., BRIT-TANY KALAMA:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a FILIATION has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 31<sup>ST</sup> day of JANUARY, 2022 @ 10:30 AM

EDNA CAMPUZANO, Petitioner, vs IDA FRANK, RESPON-DENT; Case No. DO120-21. TO: EDNA CAMPUZANO, IDA FRANK, CELESTE WIHTE:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a MODIFICATION has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 2<sup>ND</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 3:00 PM

ARLENE DAVID, Petitioner, vs STARLA GREENE, RESPON-DENT; Case No. DO130-12. TO: ARLENE DAVID, STARLA GREENE, JAKE SCOTT, ROMA **CARTNEY:** 

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that a MODIFICATION has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 24<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2022 @ 9:00 AM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs FELENA KENTURA, RESPONDENT; Case No. JV7-21. TO: FELENA KENTURA, AARON STRONG, CPS, JV PROSECUTION:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a CUSTODY REVIEW has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 31<sup>ST</sup> day of JANUARY, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

CTWS, Petitioner, ROSELYNN KALAMA, RE-SPONDENT; Case No. JV44-13. TO: NELLIE TANEWASHA, ROSELYNN KALAMA, LESLIE **ROBINSON:** 

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a ASSISTED GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the  $2^{nd}$ day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 2:00

CTWS, Petitioner, vs JAMEY WESLEY, KYLE FRANK SR, RE-SPONDENT; Case No. JV53-07. TO: JAMEY WESLEY; KYLE FRANK SR:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that ASSISTED GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the  $17^{\text{TH}}$  day of JANUARY 2022 @ 2:00 PM

CTWS, Petitioner, vs MAUREEN WINISHUT, RE-SPONDENT; Case No. JV54-09. TO: MAUREEN WINISHUT, WENDI HILLER:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an ASSISTED GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 7<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 3:00

Petitioner, JACQUELYN SMITH, RESPON-DENT; Case No. JV77-08. TO:

#### JACQUELYN SMITH, STANLEY SMITH III, WENDI HILLER:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an ASSISTED GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the  $7^{\text{TH}}$ day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 4:00

Petitioner, CTWS, MAUREÉN WINISHUT, RE-SPONDENT; Case No. JV64-06. TO: MAUREEN WINISHUT, WENDI HILLER:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an ASSISTED GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 7<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2022 @ 2:00

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Plaintiff, vs Caleb Jim, Defendant; Case No. CR238-21. TO: Caleb Jim:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a PROBATION REVIEW has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for JANUARY 17, 2021 @ 8:30am

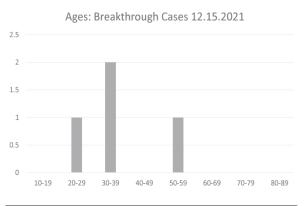
### **Apologies**

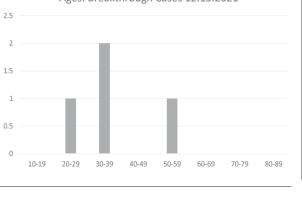
I am sorry for any inconvience I caused across from Sahalee Park, and the two elder ladies I helped cross the busy street. If the Madras Christian Christian Church can please forgive me, it will never happen again this lifetime. Thank you for your time. Also:

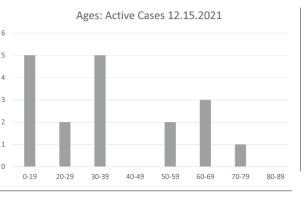
I am sorry to the three persons I broke the law on a the Casino and also GA... And Tribal Council for showing up intoxicated, Please forgive me. Hul-Ish-Qwat-Knot. 7/8 Warm Springs, 1/8 Umatille. Wendell E

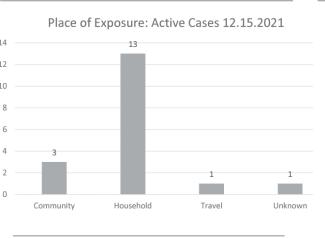
#### Covid-19 case demographics among the tribal community: 12-15-21

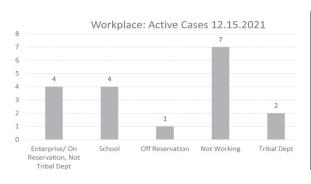
The Indian Health Service, Community Health and the Response Team updated the Covid-19 case demographics for the tribal community, as of December 15. On that date there were 18 active cases on the reservation, bringing the total since the pandemic began to 1,277 among the community. The unvaccinated are significantly more likely to be infected, in comparison with those who are vaccinated. As of the December 15 demographic date, there were two community members who were hospitalized with covid. Total deaths from the virus was at 28.



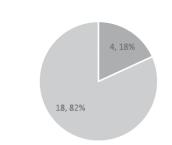




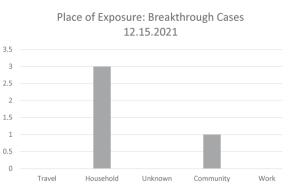


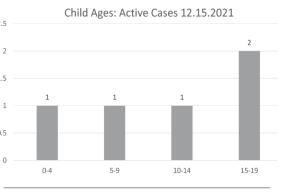


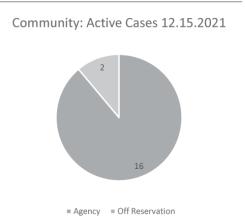
Vaccinated vs Unvaccinated: Breakthrough Cases 12.15.2021

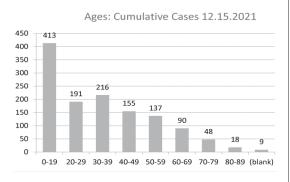


■ Vaccinated ■ Unvaccinated









## New Indian probate rule

The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced it has published a rule that finalizes revisions to the probate process for American Indian individuals with property held in federal Indian trust status. The final rule eliminates ambiguities and procedural delays in the federal process for probating Indian trust estates so that such property may be distributed more quickly to a decedent's heirs and devisees.

"With this final rule, the BIA's process for probating Indian trust estates can now work more efficiently," said Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.

"Thanks to comments we received from tribal leaders, Tribal members and the public, those who must use the process can be assured their trust estates will be probated in a more timely manner than in the past."

The final rule, which amends regulations promulgated in 2008 shortly after enactment of the American Indian Probate Reform Act, is the result of several years of input from federally recognized tribes, as well as tribal members. In 2016 and 2017, the BIA reached out to Tribes for input on how the probate process was work-

Based on that input, the Bureau in 2019 identified issues in its existing regulations governing the Indian probate process and requested comments from tribes and the public on where improvements could be made through regulatory

On January 7, 2021, the department published a proposed rule and hosted additional tribal consultation and public sessions in February. The final rule makes several changes to the proposed rule directly in response to input received from those sessions including, for example, deleting a proposed provision requiring potential heirs who may inherit solely as co-owners to request for notice and maintaining a broad approach to notification of probate estates.

#### Employment with the tribes

The following are employment positions recently advertised with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. YOu can reach Human Resources for information at 541-553-3262. All positions are full-time, permanent unless otherwise

Property management specialist.

Registered Nurse. Medical aid.

Security officer.

Protective care provider.

Payroll specialist. Water/Wastewater distribu-

tion system operator. Maintenance worker.

Public Safety general manager.

Fire/Medic.

Administrative assistant/ secretary.

General staff technician (limited duration). Assorted work experience

jobs for youth.

Part-time surveillance ob-

Soil scientist/watershed

planner.

### **Employment at Casino/Travel Plaza**

The following are employment positions recently advertised with Indian Head Casino and the Plateau Travel Plaza. For more information see the website:

indianheadcasino.com

Cage Cashier Coffee Stations Attendant Cook

Count Team Member Custodian Director of Finance

Lounge Bartender Players Club Host

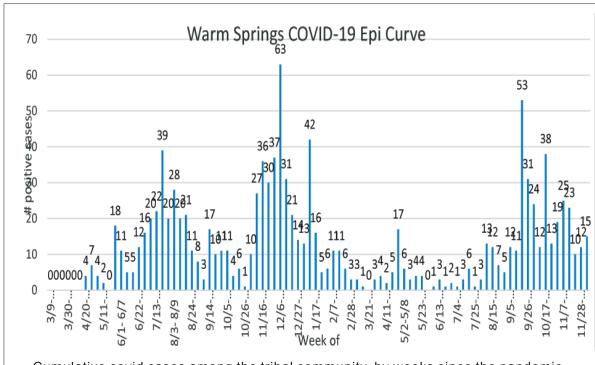
Revenue Auditor Security Officer Server Slot Keyperson

**Guest Services Operator** Players Club Host Lead

Tule Grill Attendant Tule Grill Cook At the Plateau Travel Plaza:Store cashier Host cashier/server

Line cook Receiving coordinator Security officer

Happy New Year, Family and Friends — And Stay Safe! From Donna and Bubba.



Cumulative covid cases among the tribal community, by weeks since the pandemic began in spring of 2020, as tallied by IHS, Community Health and the Response Team.



# Your health insurance could be free.



Health insurance can expand your options and help pay for additional services so you can get the care you need. It covers a wide variety of providers and services including Tribal/IHS clinics and non-tribal providers, hospitals, pharmacies and more. If you're a member of a federally recognized tribe, you can sign up anytime, year-round. If you qualify, your insurance may even be free.

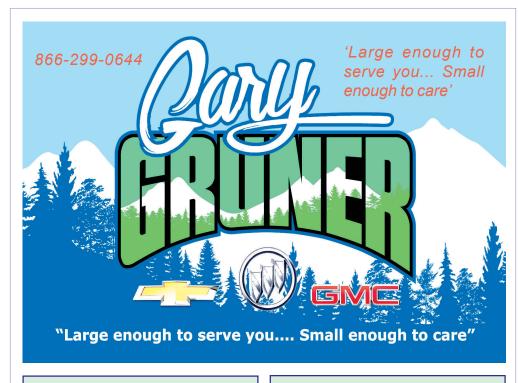
#### Do you qualify?

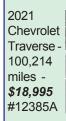
Tribal members are eligible for additional savings through the Marketplace. Find out if you're eligible for free insurance and payment assistance to eliminate your out-of-pocket costs:

- Preview savings at OregonHealthCare.Gov.
- Get free help at your tribal headquarters.
- Or call the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace at 855-268-3767 (toll-free) and ask for free, local help.

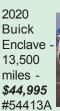




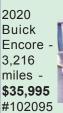




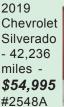




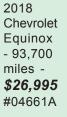




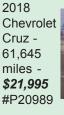
















Journey

104,740

\$15,995

#07407A

miles













## New Parks director faces a 'huge task'

Record annual attendance numbers. Low morale among employees. Billions of dollars in maintenance

Those are just some of the challenges Charles 'Chuck' Sams III will have to tackle as director of the National Park Service after officially taking leadership in a swearing-in ceremony in December. Sams becomes the first Native American to hold the position.

His boss is Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, the Interior secretary and first Indigenous person to hold a cabi-



**Charles Sams** 

net-level position.

Sams' background and citizenship with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation also means some are optimistic he'll work to improve how the agency and its hundreds

of national parks, historic sites, monuments and recreation areas work with tribal nations and incorporate their history and culture.

"Everyone should have access to the outdoors no matter where they live, how much money they have, or what their background is," Secretary Haaland said.

"Chuck Sams understands the importance of connecting people to nature, and I am thrilled to work with him as the Interior Department works to make our national park system accessible to all Americans."

### **CRITFC** welcomes new director

Aja DeCoteau grew up on the Yakama Indian Reservation in Washington, and she fondly remembers fishing in the Columbia River Basin and hunting with her family as she learned about the importance of Indigenous First Foods.

Still, she thought she'd end up working as a medical doctor someday. But after high school she got a job with her tribe's forestry department, and then during breaks and summers in college, she kept finding herself working in natural resources.

"I have great memories of going hunting with my brother and sister and trout fishing with my dad. I feel like I've always had an interest in my environment," Ms. DeCoteau said.

"And, of course, knowing the importance of what we call First Foods to our culture and our religion is something that has always been a part of who I am."

Those summers working in forestry for her tribe led her to a career in natural resources instead of medicine. Eventually, that led her to the Portland-headquartered Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, CRITFC, which represents the interests of the four Columbia River treaty tribes in policy, advocacy and management of the basin. The Confederated Tribes are among the charter members of the organization.

Now, 12 years after joining CRITFC, Aja was named its executive director, marking the first time a woman has

See Players' Club for details. Management reserves all rights.



Aja DeCoteau

ever held the position.

The organization announced DeCoteau as the new executive director in November, after she had served in the role on an interim basis since April, after the previous executive director, Jaime Pinkham, was appointed to a high-ranking job with the federal government.

It's a position that DeCoteau—who is a citizen of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and descendent of

the Cayuse, Nez Perce and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians—has always wanted to hold since coming to CRITFC.

"I am honored and excited to lead CRITFC and work together with our member tribes to bridge traditional knowledge, scientific expertise and cultural connection to ensure that we have salmon and other natural resources for generations to come," DeCoteau said.

While she's excited for the opportunity-and honored to be the first woman leader of CRITFC in its nearly 50year history—she takes over at a pivotal time for the organization amid a series of challenges, including climate change, dwindling salmon populations and questions over the future of dams and hydropower.



