

New staff at Vital Stats

The tribal Vital Statistics Department has two new employees, director Olivia Wallulatum and secretary Lucille Suppach-Samson.

Olivia began work as the new Vital Stats director earlier this month. Lucille started about the same time.

The department is part of the Government Affairs Branch. Carla Conner-Greene is the Vital Stats enrollment officer.

Two other employees, Antoinette Pamperien and Melva Charley, are working limited duration at the department.

Vital Statistics is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Staff at the Vital Statistics are Antoinette Pamperien (seated), Carla Conner-Greene, Melva Charley, Lucille Suppach-Samson and Olivia Wallulatum (from left).

Monday through Thursday. The department is closed to the public on Fridays.

The department is located on the upper level of the adminis-

tration building, to the right of the ramp leading to the lower level.

Vital Stats can be reached at 553-3252.

Many more flu cases likely

There are still doses of both flu vaccines available to tribal residents most vulnerable to this year's viruses.

On the reservation, this season's outbreak had hit a temporary lull in early November. December is expected to be the start of a wave of flu illnesses that will persist until February, according to Nancy Collins, Warm Springs' sanitarian.

Pregnant women and primary caregivers of infants up to six months old, children at least six months old up to age 11, healthcare workers and first responders, all should obtain the H1N1 vaccine, popularly known as the Swine Flu vaccine, as soon as possible.

Near the beginning of November, the tribe had about 170 doses left of the H1N1 vaccine.

Most were injections but a few were nose sprays. Another 100 injectable doses were expected to arrive soon.

Manufacturers are far behind in production of the H1N1 vaccine but expect to make it and ship it as fast as possible. Those up to age 24, and people up to age 64 with chronic health problems and compromised immune systems should get the vaccine next — once more doses become available, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Older people are believed to have some immunity to H1N1 because it is closely related to a virus that made its way through the population during the 1950s. The seasonal flu vaccine provides some protection against serious complications related to

H1N1 because it is believed to somewhat lessen its severity in some sufferers, Collins said.

It is not the same as getting the H1N1 vaccine, however, and those most vulnerable to H1N1 need to get immunized, she emphasized. Those age 65 and older should have the seasonal flu shot as soon as possible. There were about 400 doses left at the beginning of the month at the clinic.

Tribal officials also hope to obtain more seasonal vaccine soon. Vaccine clinics continue on Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Residents can get H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations at these times.

— by Terri Harber

General council: water quality, settlement discussed

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Smith suggested that more consideration be given to economic expansion on highway 26, going to Portland.

"Baby-boomers are concerned about their health," Smith said. "A lot of people in that age category travel the highway on the reservation. We could be targeting that group."

Other issues that were raised by tribal members during the general council meetings included: the December dividend, tribal veterans, the cost of maintaining operations at High Lookee Lodge, issues at Early Childhood Education, and settlement moneys.

Regarding the settlement, tribal secretary-treasurer Jody Calica said, "We're going through 1401 process. The package has already gone back, and it will sit there for 60 Congressional days... The money won't be available to us until late January or early February."

Evalnie Patt asked whether or not that would affect the budget.

"It will," Calica said. Council has to make some decisions

based on the fact that projected revenue has increased, he said.

Water quality

Keith Moody raised the question about water quality on the reservation.

Don Courtney, Public Utilities general manager, said, "My philosophy is that we know what the problem is, and we need to fix it. We could put in a new treatment facility here. That's the expensive fix. Option two is to look for another water source."

Public Utilities is looking for funding sources to help solve the problem, he said. Examples of such sources, Courtney said, are the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Rural Development, and IHS.

Courtney said he will bring ideas to the community to help decide which option to go with.

At the Simnasho gathering, Councilwoman Stwyer-Pinkham, district representative, distributed a 36-page travel report for January through June, 2009. This report gave dates of travel, the purpose, and a summary of what took place at each meeting.

Dog bites: no budget for dog catcher

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That means keeping an eye on it, making sure it has been vaccinated and all the other responsibilities that come with owning a pet.

"This is the tip of the iceberg," Collins said.

Tribal code

Some of the dogs running around the area are further away from their domestic roots than others, and have become wild and predatory. Chief Prosecutor Walter Langnese made note of a pack of dogs attacking a cow this year, and a dog fight.

Authorities used to shoot aggressive dogs on the reservation, he remembered.

"We can't prosecute the dog," he said. "But if we have a police report, and we're able to ID them and their owner, then we can prosecute the owner."

Identifying a dog and its

owner isn't easy, especially when dogs don't have tags, he said.

A kennel would help because it would allow the tribe to hold the dogs and help authorities better enforce the current code, Langnese said.

The tribal codes are currently under review regarding dogs.

"A kennel would be great," he said. "And we really need a dog catcher."

Budget constraints, however, make a dog catcher impossible at this time, he said.

Langnese suggested a lower-cost alternative in the meantime: providing training in dog ownership, especially to children, so they don't let dogs run loose or tie it up. Neither is an appropriate way to treat dogs, he said.

Langnese and his wife used to breed dogs.

"Working with dogs really only takes a few minutes a day," he said.

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