

Census: 2020 count under way on reservation

(Continued from page 2)

The official start date of the 2020 census is Wednesday, April 1. Warm Springs began early, with the first submission—the first submission for the tribes and for the state of Oregon—happening in mid March. The tribes, the Census Bureau and others marked the occasion with a gathering at the Agency Longhouse. George Aguilar Sr., Korean War veteran and life-long Warm Springs resident, was the first person counted in the Oregon for the census. He recounted:

The allotment numbers of 1887 marked a first census enumeration of the tribes; members were then counted again in 1930, with the start of the enrollment process. Mr. Aguilar just turned 90: Joking he said, “It’s an honor to be chosen number one, before I die.”

At the Longhouse kick-off, Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti addressed the gathering. “The Census happens once every 10 years,” Chairman Tsumpti said. “In the past our reservation has been undercounted. We don’t want that to be the case in 2020. I encourage all our tribal members and Warm Springs residents to participate in the census, to help provide a better future for our community and future generations.”

The once-a-decade census dictates how much money the federal government will allocate to tribal services on the reservation. Funding can be for housing, transportation and other infrastructure, health care and other services.

“And it’s not just the money,” said Caroline Cruz, Health and Human Services general manager and Warm Springs Complete Count Committee chair. “It’s the fact that we’re important enough that the federal census wants us to be counted.”

Jeffrey Enos, deputy regional director for the Census Bureau Los Angeles region, including the reservation, then addressed the gathering:

“For every man, woman or child missed in the census, thousands of dollars are lost in those communities every year,” Mr. Enos said. “So if you multiply that over 10 years—the time between each census—that’s tens of thousands of dollars for every person missed. It’s so important that every man, woman and child—everyone—is counted.”

The census information is sub-



KWSO photos/Jayson Smith

Youth mini-powwow at the Census kick-off; and (below) at the Complete Count Committee census computers, Dan Martinez, Emergency Response manager, completes a census form, with Scott Kalama, Prevention specialist, and Minnie Yahtin, Tribal Council Recorder, next in line.



mitted in strict anonymity. These are some examples of the questions of the 2020 census:

How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?

Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020, that you did not include in question 1?

Is this house, apartment or mobile home owned by you or some-

one in this household with a mortgage or a loan? Is it owned free and clear? Rented? Occupied without payment of rent?

What is person 1’s name? What is person 1’s sex? Age and date of birth?

Is person 1 of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?

What is person 1’s race?

— Dave McMechan



Delayed W.S. Work Readiness classes

The Work Readiness classes and workshops scheduled for students who are first-time workers have been cancelled until further notice.

The After-School Work Readiness trainings are on hold also, until further notice that is safe to gather together.

An online application process is being worked on at this time and the public will be informed when it available and where to access it once it has been completed.

Also, look forward to some online Work Readiness training. Please be patient as we work through the COVID-19 pandemic.

WEDD/WIOA Programs

COCC business resources

As Central Oregon continues to deal with the arrival of COVID-19 in our community, the impact on local companies is growing. We wanted to let you know that Central Oregon Community College business advising is still available through our Small Business Development Center.

Phone or video conference appointments can be scheduled by calling 541-383-7290 or emailing sbdc@cocc.edu.

Our long-time advising staff live in the area and have experience with both urban and rural industries. They have worked through tough times in the past and coached businesses in challenging situations.

We hope to continue to support our fellow business owners during the current uncertainty as we all move through uncharted territory together.

Here are some state and federal links that might be helpful as you gather information and weigh your options. Use these search phrases:

Oregon SBDC Network COVID-19 resource list

America’s SBDC COVID-19 Small Business Resources

From the Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration wants you directly from people how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting its services. The first thing you should know is that Social Security continues to pay benefits.

Be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping your Social Security payments, but that is not true. Please do not be fooled.

To protect yourself and help stop the spread of this coronavirus, Social Security cannot accept visitors in its offices at this time. There are several other ways you can get help. Many services are available online at socialsecurity.gov

If you have a critical need that you cannot address online, help is available over the phone.

To find out what services Social Security is continuing and which ones we are suspended, how to contact the administration, and important information about deadlines that are being extended to ease the burden on you and medical providers during this pandemic, please visit socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/

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