

A message from Warm Springs Prevention

by Scott Kalama
W.S. Prevention Specialist

As the pandemic and stay-at-home orders spread, so does alcohol consumption. Staying at home and the school closures cause stress on parents during this time of 'home schooling'

The lack of social interaction is another one of the many rea-

sons why alcohol consumption is on the rise during this pandemic.

The extreme worry and isolation sparked by the coronavirus is likely leading many people to increase their consumption of beer, wine and hard alcohol, experts say.

Here are some healthy activities to deal with stress.

Take care of yourself:

Eat healthy, well-balanced meals.

Talk to others: Share your problems and how you are feeling and coping with a parent, a friend or other relative.

Remember, You are not alone: Reach out online digitally to friends and family.

And practice healthy habits: Exercise, go for a walk, or hiking, always keeping the social distance.



County position on the May ballot

The Jefferson County Clerk's Office is mailing out the Voters Pamphlet this week for the May 19 Oregon Primary. Locally on the ballot are a position on the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners; a question about a city of Madras tax on prepared food to fund road repairs and reconstruction; and a county transient room tax increase.

The candidates for county commission position no. 3 are Kenneth Bicart, Wayne Fording and Kim Schmith.

Mr. Bicart lists his occupation as 'not employed,' previous employment being farm owner, and Kah-Nee-Ta equipment operator, among other positions.

Mr. Fording is the owner of Madras Paint & Glass, and is a

former county commissioner.

Ms. Schmith is the business owner and Oregon Medical Board licensed operator of Madras Acupuncture.

The deadline to register in the Oregon Primary is Tuesday, April 28. The ballots will go out on April 29, and election day is May 19.

Big jump in county unemployment claims

As is true with most other parts of the country, the Jefferson County jobless rate has seen an unprecedented increase.

During a three-week period in late March and early

April, the Oregon Department of Employment processed close to 500 unemployment claims. The previous three weeks had seen only 53.

The more recent three weeks, the time for which data is avail-

able, the state had processed close to 56,000 claims.

The employment sectors of food service and accommodation saw the single-biggest increase in loss of jobs.

KNT hamlets water outage

The Kah-Nee-Ta hamlets were without water for a time last week. This was due to a broken water main.

To conduct repairs safely, an electric power pole had to be de-energized and removed. The pole was located immediately over the water main needing repaired. Wasco Electric late last week was on site taking care of the power pole.

Warm Springs Public Utilities water crew then made the water line repairs.

After the repairs were made



Hamlets at Kah-Nee-Ta

and water restored, a boil water notice was issued for the hamlets. Bac-T testing samples of the water was sent to the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA was then reviewing the samples for safety.

Tribes: Organization shutdown continues

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Another option was to extend the administrative leave for two weeks, while General Managers and department directors develop plans for a partial re-opening of the organization. This could involve a requirement to wear medical masks at work, have sufficient hand-sanitizer and disinfectants, and ensure social distancing.

This option could also involve developing lists of employees who

could be at added risk from the virus, such as those of a certain age, or with an underlying condition. At some point these employees could be required to take furlough until the pandemic is under control.

Council is planning to meet again as soon as next week to continue discussion of the immediate future of the organization and employees.

VOTE

KIM SCHMITH

for County Commissioner

FIGHTING FOR RURAL



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- AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- EDUCATION
- WELL MAINTAINED ROADS
- EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT
- HEALTH CARE ACCESS
- CONSERVING RURAL LIVABILITY

I bring a common-sense approach to problem solving. I believe government is strongest when inclusive of all its residents, and am not afraid of hard choices or hard work.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Kim Schmith
You can reach me at kimschmith26@gmail.com.

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