

Tribes continue cautious coronavirus policy

Areas of Jefferson County off the reservation began relaxing the Covid-19 distancing and stay-home measures; meanwhile a court has ruled all of the state restrictions are unenforceable, though the state provisions remain in effect pending further court review.

The developments are a concern, considering that many people from the reservation travel off the reservation to shop, for instance, said Hyllis Dauphinais, director of the Warm Springs Clinic.

For the reservation and membership, Tribal Council is taking the more measured and safe approach to the very dangerous Covid-19 disease, Mr. Dauphinais said.

“It is important for the tribal community and members to continue covering your face with masks, to social distance, avoid crowds, wash you’re your hands often—These are actions that really do make a difference.”

The approach of the tribes for now continues to be that social distancing is a must, on the reservation and when community members visit or shop off-reservation—‘Don’t bring back the virus’ is the policy.

The tribes as of earlier this week had seen a total of 17 positive test results, out of more than 300 tested. All of the pending tests could be back by this weekend, Mr. Dauphinais said.

The level of infection on the reservation has remained relatively low, as community members are staying home, and following the other precautions as adopted by Council.

Emergency Management and the Response Team have been handing out groceries, sanitizers and protective equipment to individuals and families, as the organization shut-down continues through May.

— Dave McMechan

Notice regarding W.S. Agency Water System

This Tribal Utilities-Water Department notice applies to Kab-Nee-Tab, Wolfe point, Sunnyside, Dry Creek subdivision, the industrial park, Miller Heights, the Campus, West Hills, Tenino Valley, Tenino Apartments, the Trailer Courts, Greeley Heights subdivision and also the Highway 26 industrial corridor from Brunoe Logging to Eagle Crossing Restaurant:

As we approach the summer months, we tend to use more water for other purposes than washing, cleaning and toilets. I would like to take this time to advise residents that we are still operating on the emergency repair of the Shitike Creek crossing, which limits our ability to maintain high flow situations.

Currently, we are able to maintain flow rates to

the reservoirs to keep them full enough to provide normal daily use of housing and commercial buildings.

We will all need to do our part in conserving water to maintain the reservoir levels for urgent and emergency use.

The primary concern is to maintain the reservoir levels to provide as much fire protection as is possible with the emergency repair line at the Shitike Creek crossing.

There is a possibility that water availability could be compromised for emergency use if the reservoirs are not maintained at their full capacity due to water waste (see *Schoolie Flats boil water notice on page 6*).

We do have plans to install a new water line to meet the needs of the community in a safe and consistent manner by installing a larger water line to cross Shitike Creek. Those plans are currently in the engineer-

ing development stage, which are slated to be completed this coming fall.

After the engineering plans have been developed and approved, we will then move into the procurement phase which will be done sometime in the Spring of 2021 with construction to start in the summer or early fall of 2021.

It is important to remind each other that we are not completely back to 100 percent on the capacity of our system until the new water line crossing is completed.

Let’s all do our part in conserving water as much as possible. Some of the things we can do to help the conservation efforts include:

Limiting the use of water for lawns by only watering in the early morning or late evening hours for a few minutes at a time. We can also limit the use by not allowing water to run down driveways.

Homeowners can do their part by making sure their water service lines are not leaking by getting them repaired as soon as possible.

Please call the Water-Wastewater Utilities Department at 541-777-1335 for potential water main leaks.

Our water crews will monitor water use and they may stop, and ask that residents turn off water that is not being used in a conservative effort. These folks are doing their job to help maintain our capacity.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding water conservation efforts you may contact me at 541-553-3246.

Chico Holliday, Warm Springs Water Department supervisor. chico.holliday@wstribes.org

Summary of Tribal Council

May 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Vice Chair Brigitte McConville. Roll call: Chief Joseph Moses, Chief Alfred Smith Jr., Lincoln Jay Suppah, Glendon Smith, and Chief Delvis Heath. By phone: Anita Jackson, Wilson Wewa Jr., and Raymond Captain Moody. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

• Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent discussion.

• Housing lease resolution with Danielle Wood, Housing Director:

• Motion by Wilson adopting Resolution No. 12,668. Second by Anita. Question: 8/0/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

• Tribal Attorney John Ogan contract discussion:

Motion by Wilson adopting Resolution No. 12,689. Second by Anita. Question: 8/0/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

• Kindred Spirits Project Grant Resolution with Valerie Switzler:

Motion by Anita adopting

Resolution No. 12,690. Second by Jay. Question: 7/0/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

Covid-19 Response Team update:

• Motion by Anita (amended) to cancel Pi-Ume-Sha and all associated activities due to Covid-19. Second by Glendon. Question: Glendon/yes, Joe/yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/no, Alfred/yes, Anita/yes, Wilson/yes, Captain/yes, 7/1/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

• Political endorsements for Representative Daniel Bonham and Cal Mukumoto with Louie Pitt, Governmental Affairs Director:

Does Tribal Council support Louie endorsing Representative Daniel Bonham and Cal Mukumoto on behalf of the tribes? Glendon/yes, Joe/Yes, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Alfred/yes, Anita/yes, Wilson/yes, Captain/yes.

Recommendation by the Covid-19 team to adopt the traditional event, funeral and burial guidance provided by Louie Pitt, in collaboration with spiritual leaders and the Culture and Heritage Committee:

• Motion by Anita to adopt the funeral guidelines as presented by Louie and Wilson, and make sure all Churches are aware. Second by Wilson. Question: Glendon/yes, Joe/no, Jay/yes, Delvis/yes, Alfred/yes, Anita/yes, Wilson/yes, Captain/no, 6/2/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

Proposed Covid-19 order with Glendon Smith.

Nena Springs fire update with Josh Newton and Howard Arnett, tribal attorneys:

• Executive Session, 1:37-2:25 p.m.

• Motion made by Anita based on the confidential and privileged briefing that Tribal Council received

from the tribal attorneys regarding the litigation arising out of the Nena Springs fire, I move to authorize:

a) stays of the civil actions—Wasco County Circuit Court and Warm Springs Tribal Court—and the BIA Trespass Action through August 30, 2020, to allow the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer to work with the tribal attorneys to develop and implement a reasonably scoped discovery process that allows the parties to engage in well-informed settlement negotiations, which includes mediation if needed, and allows all parties, including the tribe, a reasonable opportunity to be heard in BIA Trespass Action; and

b) immediate transmittal of insurance policy limits settlement demands to Mr. Lindell and the Wisenbakers for a combined total of approximately \$3 million. Second by Wilson. Question: 8/0/0, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

Kah-Nee-Ta letter of intent with Wakinyan:

Resume proposed Covid 19 order with Glendon:

• There was an email request to re-open fishing permit sales. This will be discussed after the Fish and

Wildlife On-Reservation Committee gives a recommendation.

• This discussion will continue on the next scheduled meeting.

Motion by Captain to adjourn at 3:33 p.m.


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