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'Only together we can stop the spread and save lives...'

As of this week since the outbreak, the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center has conducted more than 1,850 Covid-19 tests. Approximately 1,645 tested negative, with some tests still pending.

On the reservation so far there have been at least 165 positive test results. In Jefferson County overall, there have about 270 positive Covid-19 results.

On the reservation 16 tribal members have been hospitalized, and six discharged. Very sadly, there have been at least three deaths in the community directly attributed to the virus.

The number of positives on-reservation has been increasing this month, with more members requiring hospitalization.

"If we want to stop the spread of the virus in the community, we need to stay home, especially when instructed by medical staff," said Katie Russell, tribal Community Health Services manager.

"Wearing a facemask when around others is helpful, but staying away from people outside of the house is a better way to stop the spread of the virus," Ms. Russell said.

"It is up to all of us to keep

our community safe—Working together we can stop the spread of this virus and save lives."

The turn-around time for getting test results is one to two days. Health and Wellness continues to conduct broader surveillance of the tribal employees. Toward greater safety enforcement:

Tribal Council has passed resolution 12,710, adding more strength to enforce quarantine restrictions. Council also passed ordinance No. 101, Emergency Detention of Contagious or Infectious Persons, WSTC Chapter 332.

Please see **COVID** on 8

Howlak Tichum

Shirley Stayhi Heath, the wife of Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath Sr. passed away from Covid-19 on July 30, 2020.

Mrs. Heath, Yakama member and long-time resident of the Warm Springs Reservation, was a beloved mother, grandmother, and adviser to her husband. Her youth was spent in Celilo Village. She moved to the Warm Springs Reservation after marrying Chief Heath. The community has been blessed with her care and love for her tribal people.

The couple married 60 years ago. For many years the family ran the Chief Heath horse stables at Kah-Nee-Ta. They also raised and raced thoroughbreds and quarter horses, and ran several head of cattle on the reservation range. She is dearly missed.

Representing Team USA at 2021 tournament



Courtesy photos

ChaCha Ramirez (left) and Yvonne Greene play for Madras High School, and are planning to play for Team USA in 2021 in the Dominican Republic, Central America.

Yvonne Greene and ChaCha Ramirez of Warm Springs have been asked to represent the Pacific Northwest basketball team at an international basketball tournament planned for next summer in the Dominican Republic.

Yvonne and ChaCha are raising the funds to cover their travel expenses. They wish to

share the following:

My name is ChaCha Ramirez. I'm 16 years old, and I am fundraising to play for America's Pacific Northwest basketball team. The team is run by Jeremy Vandenboer, the head coach of Linfield Community College. And the team is planning for a 2021 competitive summer tournament in

the Dominican Republic.

All funds go towards flights, transportation, hotels, tournament fees and daily meals. All donations are greatly appreciated and extremely helpful. I have a GoFundMe account, and also can take donations, or FBpay donations to my mother Joy Ramirez.

Please follow me and help me reach my goal. I will have more

fundraisers throughout the rest of the year. Thank you so much, **ChaCha Ramirez.**

My name is Yvonne Greene, and I have been asked to represent the Pacific Northwest Team USA in a tournament scheduled for next summer in the Dominican Republic. This will be a great way to get my name out there for

colleges.

I'm hoping for community support for this big opportunity. I have a GoFundMe account to accept any generous donations to cover the travel expenses.

Thank you for your time. Any donation would be greatly appreciated! Thank you. **Yvonne Greene**

Near- and far-term water solutions

Oregon lawmakers this month approved more than \$3.5 million in emergency water system repair funding to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Much of the reservation has been on an unsafe drinking-boil water notice since June.

Some residents had no water pressure during the emergency, made especially hard because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The coronavirus rate on the reservation this summer has been several times higher than the overall state average, and four times the average of eight other recognized tribes of Oregon.

The current boil-water condition is similar to the one last year that lasted several months: The system

at Shitike Creek failed, caused by pressure relief valve problems. The Oregon Legislature Emergency Board unanimously approved \$3.58 million from state reserves to start addressing these issues.

The money passes through the Oregon Business Development Department to the tribal government. The funding must be used by the end of the year. The aid request originated with Rep. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, whose district encompasses the reservation.

"Today's action by the Legislature's Emergency Board doesn't magically fix the water crisis within the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs but that shouldn't diminish its importance," Rep. Bonham said.

Last year, Rep. Bonham—joined by state Senator Cliff Bentz, R-District 30—sponsored a \$7.8 million contribution to the tribes in state Lottery bonds, all of this funding also earmarked for specific reservation water projects.

The \$7.8 million was to go to the tribes in 2021; however, the Oregon Lottery has seen a major reduction in revenue due to the pandemic, meaning the \$7.8 million is no longer possible.

Facing these emergency conditions, tribal Utilities general manager Travis Wells sent Bonham a list of critical projects meant to bring the reservation into compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. "These are projects that need to be completed to en-

sure our communities receive a basic need for clean potable water," Mr. Wells wrote.

State Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, joined Bonham in requesting an emergency allocation to replace the lost lottery bonds. Findley told fellow lawmakers on the Emergency Board that the allocation they unanimously approved is just a start for meeting the reservation's overall water needs.

"They are in dire straits. This will bring them to the path of repair. There's a lot of work to do, but this will certainly bring them out of the boil order," Findley said.

Officials have known of the safe drinking water situation on the reservation for several years. The new allocation is start to a more

lasting solution.

Federal grant

Oregon's U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley this month also announced the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will receive a \$269,000 federal grant to repair the main water line.

The main line, over Shitike Creek, is where the break again happened that led to the boil-water order for the Agency area.

"Clean water is critical to preventing the spread of COVID-19, and these funds will be useful in repairing the water system on our reservation," said Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti.

Please see **WATER** on 3

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