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Community update

This week there were 34 people on the reservation with active Covid-19. They are being monitored by tribal health and IHS staff.

Additionally, through contact tracing, 51 other people are being monitored for possible exposure.

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center has now conducted close to 2,600 Covid-19 tests. Of the total, 2,308 were negative, with 43 pending. Two-hundred fifty-three tests have returned positive.

Thirty-two people of the reservation have been hospitalized with Covid-19. And there have been six fatalities.

Please remember, Tribal law requires individuals to follow the quarantine and isolation regulations.

Virtual classroom start to new school year

Families next week can pick up the student Chromebook computer devices for the start of the new 509-J school year. A parent or guardian must be present to pick up the Chromebook; the student need not be present for pick up.

Importantly, you must sign up for the Chromebook before arriving to pick it up. You can find and fill out the form online at jcsd.k12.or.us

On the website choose the 'Safely Returning to School' tab, and find the 'Device Request Form' tab.

The device pick-up times will be from 1 to 7 p.m. at the following sites on the following days:

School supplies fairs

Back to school supplies will be available soon through the Resources and Education program of the Warm Springs Branch of Health and Human Services.

A Resources Drive-Through Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2 at the Pi-Ume-Sha grounds loop.

On Thursday, September 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. the Resources Drive-Through will be at the Simnasho Longhouse parking area. Then on Friday, September 4 the Fair will be at the Seekseequa Fire Hall parking area, from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information call Jill Suppah at 541-553-2211; or email: jillisa.suppah@wstribes.org

Wednesday and Thursday, September 2 and 3 at the Warm Springs Academy.

Monday, Tuesday and Friday, August 31, September 1 and 4 at the Madras High School.

Picking up the Chromebook or Chromebooks—there should be

one per student—the parent, guardian and student can receive some initial training on how to log-in and set up for the Comprehensive Distance Learning program.

The district will use Comprehensive Distance Learning for at least the first six weeks of the new school year, which begins Tuesday, September 8.

The health metrics in the district would allow on-site teaching and learning only if the Covid-19 positivity test rate is lower than 5 percent. In the district the current positivity rate is in the mid-teens.

Teachers and staff are returning to work next week, and will engage in intensive training in Comprehensive Distance Learning.

Working toward containment

Fire crews were reporting good work this week on the reservation P-515 fire. A briefing on Tuesday from Northwest Incident Management Team 7 reported 35-percent containment at 4,462 acres.

Firefighters on the P-515 fire improved the fire line by extinguishing and removing burning material along the line, felling snags, and moving logs to reduce their potential of rolling downhill.

Crews continue to secure and strengthen fire lines on the north, south and west ends of the fire. On the east flank, firefighters secured the last mile of line overnight by eliminating unburnt fuels between the fire's edge and the containment line through burn operations. Mop up work will continue this week on the P-515 fire with focus on improving the fire line on the western flank.

Meanwhile, the Lionshead Fire on the reservation is about 10 percent contained.

Please see **FIRES** on 8



Photographer Edward Heath caught these photos of the P-515 fire.



Welcome return to water

Since June the Warm Springs Emergency Management Department has distributed close to 400,000 gallons of drinking water to residents of the reservation.

Since the start of the Agency boil water notice—lifted last week—Emergency Management was giving away an average of 5,000 gallons a day, with a peak day registering 6,000 gallons distributed.

Emergency Management is still providing drinking water to residents of the Kah-Nee-Ta hamlets, and some Dry Creek residents, where boil-water remains in effect.

The average distribution now is about 500 gallons a day, said Dan Martinez, department manager.

The boil water notice took effect June 25 for a large part of the reservation. Before that, some residents at Schoolie Flats were receiving drinking water because of water pipe matter.

Travis Wells, Warm Springs Utilities general manager, announced last week that the Agency notice was lifted, after the tribes and Environmental Protection Agency conducted thorough testing.

The boil water notice this summer was similar to the one last year in that the problem area was the large pipe at the Shitike Creek crossing.

Further repairs are forthcoming following a contribution of \$4.2 million from the state's legislative Emergency Board, with sponsorship of state lawmakers. The federal government is also planning to add to the longer-term solution.

This year the boil water notice was worse than last year in that the organization was at a stay-at-home status due to the coronavirus: Washing hands—a basic precaution against spreading and catching the disease—became a challenge.

Census response due in September

The tribal community has a little more than a month to respond to the 2020 U.S. Census.

So far, since the census began in March, the tribal community has responded at a better percentage rate compared to the 2016 response. This year's response, however, remains low.

At this point the 2020 response among the Warm Springs community is 39.5 percent. So the Warm Springs Complete Count Committee encourages everyone to take the time to submit the census information.

The questionnaire takes about

10 minutes to complete: It's safe, secure and confidential. Your information and privacy are protected.

You can begin by going to kwso.org

Or see the website:

my2020census.gov

If you don't have the ability to do the census online, you can do the questionnaire by phone. Call 844-330-2020.

Native community response

Here are the Oregon Native community response percentages, in order highest response to lower:



Celilo Indian Village: 65 percent.
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Suislaw Indians: 62.5 percent.

Coquille Indian Tribe: 60.4 percent.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde: 55.3 percent.

Confederated Tribes of Umatilla: 54.3 percent.

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians: 53.2 percent.

Burns Paiute Tribe: 42.9 percent.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs: 39.5 percent.

Klamath Tribes: 38.5 percent.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians: 33 percent.

— Dave McMechan

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