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September - Wanaq'i - Fall - Tiyam

Many decisions on 2020 fall ballot

There are 1,425 registered voters in the Warm Springs voting precinct of Jefferson County. For those 18 and over on Election Day who are not yet registered, there is still more than a month to register to vote in the November 3 General Election.

The last day to register is October 13. Ballots will then go out on October 14.

The November 3 election includes the federal, state and local candidates, and the statewide and local ballot measures.

U.S. Senate, Congress

Besides the U.S. Presidential candidates, the Oregon ballot will include one Oregon U.S. Senate seat. The Senate candidates are:

Sen. Jeff Merkley, Democrat, incumbent, first elected in 2008, re-elected in 2014. Jo Rae Perkins, Republican. Gary Dye, Libertarian. Ibrahim Taher, Progressive-

Election dates to keep in mind

Tuesday, October 13: Voter registration deadline.
You can register online at sos.oregon.gov.
Or see the site: jeffco.net/cc
And there is a link at kwso.org
October 14: First day ballots are mailed out.
October 28: Last day to mail return ballot.
November 3: Election Day.

Pacific Green.

The five Oregon Congressional Districts of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election. The Oregon Second Congressional District represents the reservation. The district also covers two-thirds of the state, and is the seventh largest in the nation.

Congressman Greg Walden was elected Second District Representative in 1998, and has won re-election each biennium since. Mr. Walden, Republican, is not seek-

ing re-election. The candidates on the November 3 ballot for this position are:

Cliff Bentz, Republican. Alex Spenser, Democratic. Robert Werch, Libertarian.

Oregon legislature

In the state legislature, the reservation is part of Oregon Senate District 30, also covering much of eastern Oregon.

The candidates on the November 3 ballot are Carina Miller

of Warm Springs, Democrat; and Lynn Findley, of Vale, Republican.

The reservation is part of District 59 in the Oregon House of Representatives. The candidates this year are incumbent Daniel Bonham, Republican; and Arlene Burns, Democrat.

Statewide measures

Four statewide ballot measures are certified to appear on the state ballot on November 3. Briefly:

Oregon voters will decide on an initiative related to drug decriminalization and treatment; and an initiative that would establish a psilocybin mushroom program. Also:

The state legislature referred to the ballot a constitutional amendment concerning campaign finance, and a state statute concerning a tobacco tax.

Local matters

There is one position open on the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. Candidates for this four-year term are:

Wayne Fording, Republican; and Kim Schmith, Democrat.

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.

There are two county-wide measures on the ballot. One of measures would require the County Commission to meet regarding a proposal to relocate the Oregon-Idaho border. Another county measure is a local option tax for general operations. Reservation and tribal trust land is not taxed by the county. (For more on the November 3 vote-by-mail election see page 4).

— Dave McMechan

Community update

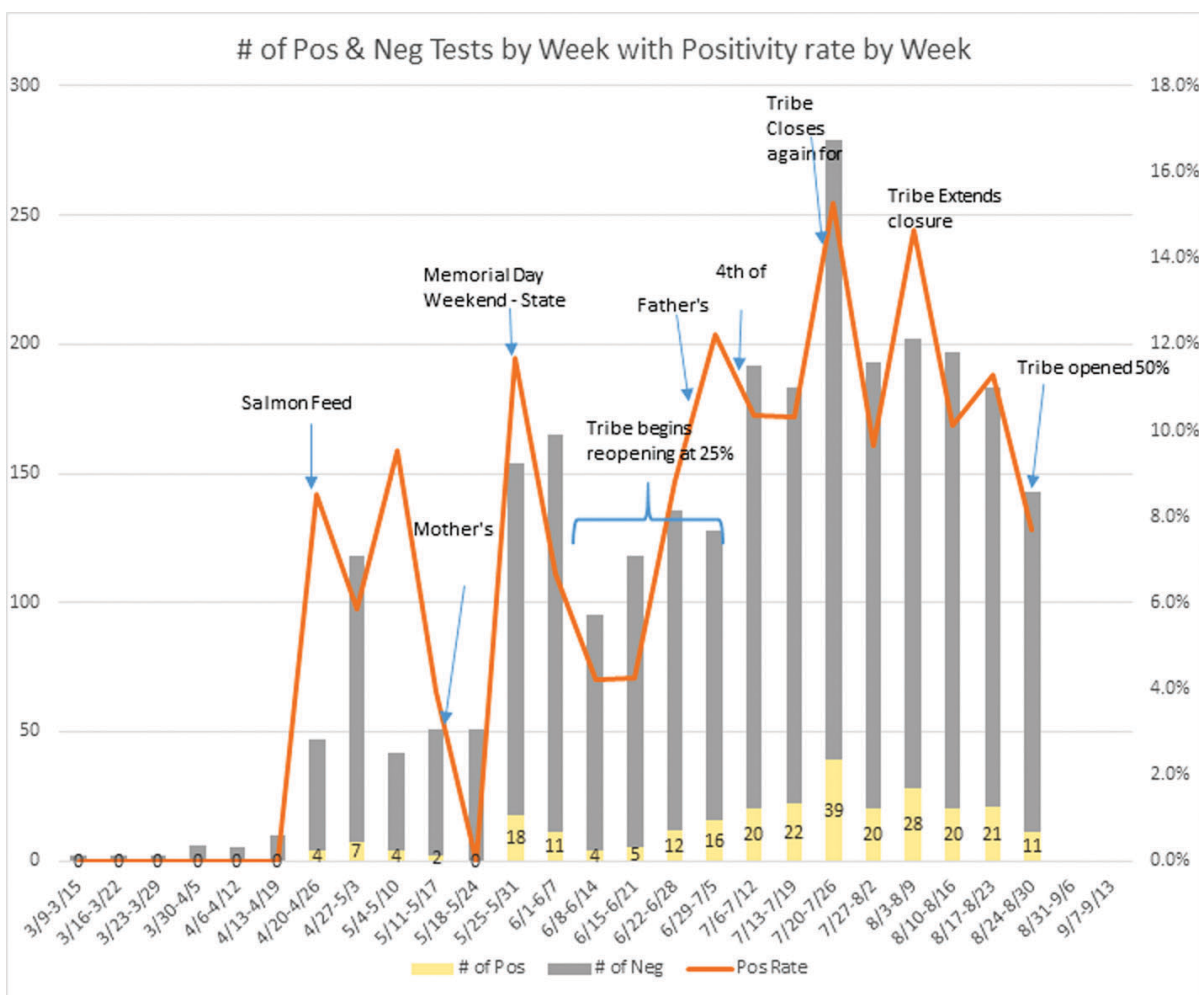
At right is a data chart of the latest available Covid-19 numbers—showing positive and negative testing—for the reservation, as compiled by IHS and Community Health. See more information on pages 5 and 7.

The hope is that the Labor Day weekend will not see the kind of spikes that happened after Memorial Day and July 4.

The situation will become clear in the coming weeks, as testing continues.

The chart at right, and those on 5 and 7, show the latest covid-19 testing data for the reservation.

The numbers detail active cases as of September 2; and



the cumulative cases on the reservation since the pandemic began in March. According to recent health reports:

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center conducted 2,867 Covid-19 tests. Of the total, 2,566 came back negative.

As of earlier this week, 13 tests were pending. Of the Health and Wellness Center tests, 268 returned positive.

Among the tribal community, 43 tests from other facilities also came back positive, for a total of 311 positives, as of earlier this week.

Since the pandemic began, 34 members of the Warm Springs community have been hospitalized.

Thirty-three of the patients have been discharged. There have been seven deaths in the community as a result of the virus.

Please see page 5

2020-21 school year opens

Students and faculty began the 2020-21 school year this week. Warm Springs K-8 students and families were invited to meet the faculty during a drive-by event on Tuesday at the Academy.

This week is an introductory start to the new school year, with more intensive learning beginning next week. Students should check their K-8 Academy email for information.

The Academy office is not open to the general public, as directed by the standards of the Oregon Department of Education.

Student breakfasts and lunches will be provided in much the same way as they were during the spring term, with one additional pick-up

stop for a total of 10. Any community youth 18 and under can receive the school breakfast and lunch. This will begin Monday, September 14.

The Comprehensive Distance Learning model—using Google Classroom—will continue for at least six weeks, as the Covid-19 positivity rate in the district remains above the statewide health safety standard.

An online resource for questions is jcsd.k12.org

Like Jefferson County 509-J, almost all school districts in the state are beginning the 2020-21 year with a distance learning program. Youth sports across the state for now are on hold.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Tribal Health and Human Services joined partners for a unique School Resource drive-through fair, held at the Warm Springs Pi-Ume-Sha grounds (above), and at Simnasho and Seekseequa.

Take-Out, Curb-Side & Dine-In

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Hours: 11AM - 7PM



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