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Community update

As of the start of this week, the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center had conducted or monitored 3,100 Covid-19 tests among the membership.

Total negative cases was 2,786, with zero tests pending as of Monday. Total positive cases was at 339, with 292 positive tests from IHS, and 47 positive from other facilities. Twenty-two tests were invalid.

There have been 38 hospitalizations with 37 discharged. There have now been nine Covid-19 deaths among the membership.

On the reservation as of Monday, there were 17 people with active Covid-19 receiving daily monitoring by tribal Community Health and IHS staff.

Please see **VIRUS** on 3

Time for the census is now

The following article is for tribal member households who have not yet completed the 2020 Census. To those who have already done so, you are to be commended. Otherwise, the following:

Like wearing a mask during the pandemic, completing the 2020 United States Census is for the common good.

The tribes do not want to be under counted in the census for the reason that the tribes do not want to lose:

The tribes do not want to lose representation; nor do the tribes wish to lose tax payer dollars that otherwise will go elsewhere and for other purposes.

The solution is simple: Every tribal household should

complete the 2020 Census, or the tribes will lose valuable resources. And now the day is nearly upon us—September 30—to answer the census questions that take no more than 10 minutes. And the census takers by phone are very pleasant and easy to work with.

Failure to participate is not acceptable, and the rewards are more than justified. Otherwise, Who in the future can complain? Who could say, This or that project should have been done? Who can question anything—If we all do not complete this very simple task?

And it takes ten minutes. We should do this for ourselves and for the tribes.

So far since the census began in March, the number of Warm Springs tribal households to complete the census is more—both



number and percentage-wise—than during the 2010 census.

However, there is still the need for more households to complete the survey before September 30. 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.

Full participation is important for a number of reasons. The federal government has a trust responsibility to the tribes, for infrastructure and other services. An accurate count of the reservation, and the overall membership, guides the allocation of the infrastructure resources per tribe. The numbers can also help guide internal tribal policies, among many other benefits.

Warm Springs Community Health this week began the seasonal flu shot clinics on the reservation. The clinics will be happening from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Locations to be announced. This will be the schedule at least through the end of October, weather and air quality permitting.

Some lessons of Lionshead

The massive Lionshead fire—at nearly 200,000 acres burned—is unlike anything seen for decades at least on the reservation.

For 40 years Robert Brunoe has worked in the fire suppression and resource protection fields for the tribes. "I've never seen anything like it," Mr. Brunoe was saying. He explains:

A perfect storm of weather events—prolonged drought, and a sudden highly unusual wind event—fueled the fire. Regarding the drought conditions:

At a recent meeting before Tribal Council, Mr. Brunoe, Natural Resources general manager, held up an ordinary piece of writing paper. "This paper," he said, "contains more moisture than the average fuel on the forest floor."

On the night of Sunday, August 16 a lightning storm passed over the region. That night—



Fire crew containing the Lionshead blaze on the reservation.

at approximately 10:45 p.m., according to Incident Command—a lightning strike happened in Lion's Head Canyon on the reservation.

Summer lightning fires are common on the reservation, and crews often contain them quickly through the high standard of wildland fire response. What happened next at Lion's Head, though, was very unusual.

The wind in Central Oregon in the summer should blow from west to east, and at a reasonable velocity. Yet on September 9—as

the crews were working to manage Lionshead and some smaller fires—the region experienced an east-west wind event.

"That is rare," Mr. Brunoe said. And the wind gusts were at 50 miles per hour—with some reports of gusting at 70 miles per hour. Spotting was happening two miles away—also rare for the region.

The wind quickly pushed the fire west off the reservation, beyond Mt. Jefferson, where Lionshead merged with the already massive Beachie Creek fire.

The same August 16 lightning storm ignited both Lionshead and Beachie Creek, with the Beachie Creek strike happening about an hour after Lionshead, according to Incident Command.

The reservation has been fortunate in that no homes have been lost; meanwhile in Marion County, Beachie Creek consumed close to 500 structures and killed at least eight people.

— Dave McMechan

Congress approves '1865 treaty' nullification

Congress has passed a bill to nullify the 'treaty of 1865' with the matter now going to President Trump for final signing into law.

Tribal Council and Governmental Affairs director Louie Pitt have advocated for years that the 1865 'supplemental treaty'—also called 'the Huntington document'—be formally repealed by the federal government. Gov. Kate Brown is in favor of the repeal. This year Rep. Greg Walden and Sen. Jeff Merkley sponsored legislation to repeal the Huntington document.

"The treaty of 1865"—a failed attempt to replace the Treaty of 1855—has never been enforced by a federal court or agency, and the tribes have never recognized it as binding.

The document, though, was ratified in 1867; so it has existed in a technical sense.

Please see **TREATY** on 7

With all safety measures, museum reopens to the public

In adherence to strict Covid-19 and fire, health and safety procedures, the Museum At Warm Springs this week reopened to the public.

During the current wildfire situation and until further notice, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council requires all museum visitors and staff to wear KN95 or N95 masks while in the museum or on the museum grounds.

The museum's new exhibition titled, *The Path of Resilience*, is currently on view through this Saturday, September 26. Featured are beautifully beaded objects, woven



Part of the permanent exhibit at the museum.

treasures, and various items selected from the museum's permanent collection and archives department.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the museum has been routinely and thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. The museum has been following the guidelines for public facilities, as regularly updated and closely monitored by the Warm Springs Covid-19 Response Team.

A number of other health procedures have already been established at the museum during the Covid-19 pandemic, all designed to keep the public and museum staff safe and healthy.

Admittance to the museum main exhibition area is limited to 10 people with no more than five in the gallery at one time. Visitation to the Museum Gift Shop will be limited to two people unless the visitors are in one car or unit.

"This has been an extremely challenging time for our museum's staff, and we are very much looking forward to once again opening our doors to the public," said Elizabeth A. Woody, museum executive director. "Our visitors can be assured that we are doing everything possible to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time while they are here."

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