



Spilyay Tymoo

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Community update

As of earlier this week, the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center had sent in or tested 3,809 total Covid-19 tests. Of the total, 3,459 have come back negative. Since the pandemic began there have been 328 total positives on the reservation.

Forty-one members were hospitalized for Covid-19 at some time since March; and there have been nine deaths. Good news this week was that no one was currently hospitalized for Covid, as of Tuesday.

And as of earlier this week, there were six people on the reservation with active Covid-19, receiving daily monitoring by tribal and IHS staff. Eighteen people were identified through contact tracing, and were being monitored daily (see page 3).

Flu vaccine

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center noted the following numbers regarding the seasonal flu vaccine on the reservation.

Receiving the vaccine through Community Health-IHS have been 86 federal employees, almost 90 percent of the total; and 606 community members, or roughly 11 percent of the user population.

In the state of Oregon overall there have been eight recent deaths due to Covid-19, bringing the state-wide covid death toll to 627. Oregon also reported 266 newly confirmed cases, bringing the state-wide total since March to 39,794.

The learning approach until schools reopen

In a way everyone is new at school this year. All of the teachers had to master a wholly new approach to teaching, while the students did the same with learning and studying.

The high school teachers and students are using an online approach they call 'the Big 3.'

The Big 3 platforms are Google Classroom, Google Meet and Google Sites. In this way the classroom experience, mentoring, tutoring, and study hall are held virtually. Teachers give the lessons from classrooms, or sometimes from home, while the students mostly stay home, or travel to a nearby hotspot to connect to the internet.

At Madras High School the school sports were rearranged: The current sports through this week are spring games like baseball and softball. At practice everyone adheres to Covid-19 safety guidelines, and there is no competition with other schools. Even the school food service is completely different: At the high school the buses that once carried students are used to deliver the school breakfasts and lunches.

"Everyone is new this year, and I think they've done a fantastic job," said Tammie Schongalla, instructional coach at the high school, where she worked for 20 years.

The classes continue as rou-

time as possible, under the circumstances, and other school programs continue as well. An example: The Oregon Health Sciences University On-Track program continues with the district, using the online format. On-Track has helped a number of students from Warm Springs enter medical and health care higher education programs.

And the Future Center program continues with new coordinator Samantha Loza. Ms. Loza is a Madras High School graduate. She also graduated from Oregon State University-Cascades, then spent a decade with Central Oregon Community College in the advising office. Her passion is helping students identify and navigate their career and educational goals.

Currently, Samantha is coordinating a virtual financial aid event for Madras High School seniors, set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday, October 28. Efforts are also in the works for Class of 2021 mentorships. Ms. Loza encourages students to check out the Class of 2021 Google Classroom, which features various resources and tools helpful for college and post-secondary training prep after high school.

Scholarship information is housed in a program called Naviance. If seniors haven't done so already, please see: naviance.com

And complete your Next Steps survey.

Students with specific questions regarding college, post-secondary training or financial aid, please call Samantha at 51-475-7265 ext. 2321. Or email: sloza@509j.net

Personnel changes

Ken Parshall, superintendent of the Jefferson County School District 509-J, announced he will be retiring at the end of this school year. Mr. Parshall, 57, has been superintendent since 2017. He began his career with the district two years earlier, when he joined the Warm Springs Academy as school principal.

Before coming to 509-J, Mr.

Parshall was assistant superintendent of the Salem-Keizer school district, and earlier served at the Crook County High School principal.

The 509-J board is now working on the request for proposal to advertise the superintendent position. The board formed a committee to navigate the superintendent hiring process, the goal being to find the best candidate for the job, said Laurie Danzuka, board chairwoman. Mr. Parshall began weighing his retirement option a year ago. Then in the spring of last school year the pandemic closed all of the schools in the district.

Please see **SCHOOLS** on 2



D.McMechan/Spilyay

At the high school with Samantha Loza, Future Center coordinator; Butch David, Liaison; and Tammie Schongalla, Instructional Coach.

A follow-up to the 2020 Warm Springs Census count

Caroline M. Cruz
Confederated Tribes
Health and Human Services

On behalf of the Warm Springs Census committee I would like to thank all those who submitted their 2020 Census.

Last February 2020 the Tribal Council passed a resolution, parts of the resolution state the following:

Whereas the undercount of the Native American population on or near the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation has directly resulted in the loss of federal funding for the operation of Tribal programs and services on behalf of the membership of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and

Whereas the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs supports the upcoming 2020 National Census to make sure all Native Americans are counted, more specifically the members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and

Whereas the Tribe is committed to a partnership with the Census Bureau, and has appointed the Human Resources Director and the Secretary/CEO as the Tribal Census Liaison's for the Confederated

Tribes of Warm Springs.

Health and Human Services General Manager, Caroline Cruz was named the Chair of the Warm Springs Census Committee, who appointed Jaylyn Suppah to take the lead with outreach with the community.

Staff assisting: Cheryl Tom, Michele Stacona, Andy Leonard, Jillessa Suppah, Jayceline Brisbois, Antonio Gentry, Joni Wallulatum, Scott Kalama, TJ Foltz, Rosanna Jackson, Charlene Dimmick, Ron Hager, Misty Kopplin, Sue Matters, Brutis, Mushy, Margie Kalama, Shana Radford, Dot Thurby, Johnson Bill, Geri Polk, Rick Walker, Britany Archer, Martha Winishut, Danny Martinez, Hazen Bruisedhead, Flint Scott, Wayman Harry, Lorien Stacona, Gordon Scott, Mike Collins, Cecelia Collins, Rachel Storkel, Buffy, Danielle Woods and her staff, Edmund Francis, Mike Holyan and many others.

Too many barriers prevented us from reaching community members to complete their census. One major barrier was the Census Bureau at the federal level prohibiting census forms to be mailed to P.O. boxes.

Census Enumerators could not

begin mapping homes and dropping off paper census forms until Memorial Day weekend due to our high numbers of Covid-19 cases, yet many households failed to turn the paper forms in.

Other barriers were the water crisis, the fires, unhealthy air quality and the need to social distance, preventing the committee to provide community activities.

Several drive-ins were held to promote the census such as distributing Easter Egg bags, handing out t-shirts once your census was completed, prizes and incentives, serving hot dogs and hamburgers, use of the media, flyers handed out, etc.

We were contacted on September 17 that our return rate was at 42 percent. Nationwide, rural areas and those with P.O. boxes were not submitting their census forms.

The deadline had been moved from October 30 back to September 30. Though the deadline was later moved to October 15, this left us with the dilemma of more than 50 percent of Warm Springs not being counted and insufficient time to reach community members, though there were multiple efforts

to encourage community members to file.

It was at this time the Census Bureau notified us of the following: Tribal proxy enumeration had been approved by their headquarters for tribes without NRFU—nonresponse follow up—and those in areas impacted by the wildfire. Basically, the tribe would determine the designated proxies, a census official would swear us in, and then we would coordinate with the Area Census Office (the ACO) to provide the required survey information on each of the households in the NRFU caseload.

The ACO had approximately 398 cases for Warm Springs, and had compiled the list to provide to the proxies.

A proxy is anyone—a tribe, housing authority, or enrollment staff, etc.—who knows or has information on what is asked on the census survey—regarding information such as a housing unit or population, racial demographic, etc. It was to be very similar to how the Census Bureau conducts their group quarters enumeration, where the tribe would utilize their own administrative records in order to

complete the remaining cases.

They wanted tribal nations to receive a complete and accurate count, and this was an option for us.

Keep in mind that the Census Bureau has very strict and the highest standards when it comes to confidentiality, and they will ensure personal information is protected.

In order for the committee to fulfill the Warm Springs Census resolution the decision was made for a small group from the committee to be sworn in as proxies.

We were sworn in on September 28, by Census Bureau representative Carla-Dean Calderas. The Proxy Team worked with five Census Bureau enumerators who inputted the data the team gathered on each uncounted household. There were several households who already submitted their census, but we provided the information a second time to make sure we were counted. We worked on this for two weeks and were able to provide information on the households provided by the census headquarters.

We completed the Warm Springs Census Count on October 9, 2020. If you have questions on the process you can call me, Caroline M. Cruz at 541-553-0497.



SPOOKTACULAR WEEKEND

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