

Letters to the editor

Tribal open enrollments

The Confederated Tribes 2021 Benefits Open Enrollment period runs through November 20.

All forms are available on the tribal portal under 'Comp and Benefits'.

If you have any questions please call Carol at 541-553-3327; or Janaiya at 553-3391. Please try to get your enrollments done as soon as possible.

Cheryl Tom, Director, Human Resources.

Enforcement

The Warm Springs Tribal Police Department reminds the public that new state of Oregon laws regarding the possession of controlled substances have no effect on the reservation.

The Confederated Tribes have jurisdiction on tribal lands; so current tribal and federal drug statutes remain in effect.

Even though the Warm Springs community and government embraces prevention, intervention and rehabilitation as the ultimate means of bringing about a drug safe environment, the tribes also strongly believe in the rule of law as part of its governmental doctrine.

Bill Elliot, Chief of Police.

Veterans transportation

Cascades East Transit has launched a new Veterans Healthcare Transportation Service throughout Central Oregon.

The program serves the Confederated Tribes reservation, Jefferson, Deschutes and Crook counties.

Veterans Healthcare Transportation helps veterans in Central Oregon reach healthcare-related destinations.

This service will fill an important gap in transportation services for veterans, especially those living in rural areas of the region, by providing access to doctor's appointments, VA clinics, pharmacies, and other important medical and healthcare services and facilities.

For this program Cascade East Transportation is working collaboratively with the Warm Springs American Legion, and Veteran Service Offices in Jefferson,

Deschutes and Crook counties. These groups are helping coordinate outreach efforts with veteran clients.

Veterans who are interested in utilizing this transportation service should contact Cascade East call center at 541-385-8680.

Call in advance of requested rides Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Step Challenge

Congratulations to the Warm Springs Community Wellness Step Challenge winners. Most individual steps were turned in by Saphronia Coochise. The team with the most steps was 'BIA Team 2.'

Winners for Creative Team Name were 'The Courthouse Witches' and 'The Boo Boo Crew'.

Most improved individuals were Pinky Beymer and Waymon Harry. The most improved teams were BIA Team 3, and 4 More Steps.

For information on the November Challenge—to get in 30 minutes of exercise each day and to pack a health lunch on weekdays—contact Jennifer Robbins at Warm Springs Community Wellness to learn more: jennifer.robbins@wstribes.org

Native perspectives

Inspired by the 2015 film *The Pilgrims*, American Experience presents a special discussion sharing Native American perspectives on the arrival of European settlers in New England, 400 years ago.

The conversation will examine the experiences of Native populations at the time of the settlers' arrival, what is actually known about the first Thanksgiving, and how Native tribes see themselves in today's construction of the United States. Featured guests include historians and knowledge keepers:

Linda Coombs, Aquinnah Wampanoag and Cassius Sparseeper.

The discussion will be moderated by Yvonne Russo, a filmmaker and member of the Sicangu Lakota Tribal Nation. Special remarks to be provided by writer and director of *The Pilgrims*, Ric Burns. The event takes place this Wednesday, November 18 from 1-2 p.m., will be live streamed for free through our YouTube and Facebook pages.

Casting call for photoshoot

Dear members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs,

We're casting rural Oregonians for a pro-mask photoshoot.

The images will be used by the State of Or-

egon in a public service announcement promoting Covid-19 safety.

We're especially interested in featuring Native and Indigenous individuals in this project, and thought you might be interested.

Pay is \$1,000 a day if hired. Must be pro-mask and live in Oregon to apply.

If interested, you can view the project details and apply at the following site:

weeblemountain.com/opencastingcalls/covid-psa

Thank you, **Eleanor**, Weeble Mountain.



Weeble Mountain Casting

Veterans list additions

Some names were missing in the recent Spilyay Veterans Roll call of tribal member and other community veterans. Missing were:

Raymond C. Tsumpti Sr., U.S. Navy. Years of service 1962-1966.

Norman A. Nathan., U.S. Navy. Years of service 1960-1962.

Tim Myers, U.S. Army. Years of service 1998-1992.

The Spilyay apologizes for the oversight.

From St. Charles

I know you are really tired of talking about Covid-19. Trust me, so am I.

But what's happening right now is highly concerning. Recently, we've had 15 patients hospitalized with Covid-19, and over a recent weekend at times the number matched our previous record.

We have officially hit a third wave. But unlike the last two, we never reset back to zero hospitalized patients. Our number of inpatients has held steady in recent weeks until a week ago last Friday, when it essentially doubled overnight.

We need to act now. With the upcoming holi-

days, we are concerned that if people don't act now to change their behavior our hospital system could become overwhelmed.

As of today, we have the beds and the staff to take care of you, but your actions make a difference in helping to keep it that way.

The virus is clearly still here and our choices are making a difference in how the disease finds places to thrive. We are seeing a fear-fatigue cycle of behavior.

When we feel more afraid that the virus is circulating broadly in our communities, we pull back, isolate more and are better about wearing our masks.

Sooner or later, fatigue sets in and we relax our standards, spend time with more people outside our normal bubbles and maybe don't remember to wash our hands as frequently.

It is becoming predictable. And while we are all exhausted by this pandemic, we know these next few months will be a crucial time to stay strong.

And if you'd like to know more about St. Charles' ongoing response to Covid-19 along with other health system updates, we invite you to participate in our Town Hall event coming up on November 19. See our website to register: stcharleshealthcare.org

Sincerely,
Joe Sluka, chief executive officer and president, St. Charles Health System.

Board vacancies

The Warm Springs Tribal Council is advertising for board and commission positions.

There are two positions for the Credit Board of Directors; and three members are sought for the Cannabis Regulatory Commission.

There is one position open on the Tribal Employment Rights Office Commission; and Council wants to two positions on the Warm Springs Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. The Water Board has two vacancies. If interested, you must submit a letter of interest and a resume to the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

A criminal and credit background check are required. The deadline is November 30.

From Sanitation

Warm Springs Sanitation reminds the community that the landfill no longer accepts tires. Please do not leave tires at the dump or at the transfer stations. Also – large household appliances should be taken to the landfill where there is a dumpster for large metal items.

ACA

(from page 1)

"Tribal leaders and Native communities have made it abundantly clear that the ACA—while not perfect—literally saves lives. The ACA

permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and expanded access to health care for Native Americans through Medicaid expansion, and increased revenue for the Indian Health Service."

Happy Thanksgiving to all my family. Hugs— Love y'all. Be Safe. From Donna Lou.

Carpentry

Maupin Works is looking to fill the position of apprentice carpenter

Apply and learn carpentry and other property improvement skills on the former library and city hall buildings in Maupin.

Some experience in construction is a plus. However, we are willing to train any individual who has a strong work ethic. Apply now!

Call or email Ben at 541-460-7550. Or: info@maupinworks.com

CRITFC job

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is recruiting for the following positions:

Dispatch Supervisor. Location: Hood River.

Starting salary range of \$42,745 to \$63,039. Closing date is November 30. Employment application and full job announcement located at:

critfc.org

Northwest Indian Health Board reviews covid vaccine news

A vaccine for Covid-19 is in the news now and sometimes it is difficult to figure out what is fact and what is speculation or rumor.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs want to make sure you have the right information.

Making the vaccine

Right now the U.S. government is supporting the development of eight different Covid-19 vaccines and four of those are in clinical trials. A clinical trial is when a new treatment like a vaccine is tested by volunteers to determine if it is safe and effective.

Clinical trials have three main phases.

- In Phase I, a small group of healthy people will receive the vaccine primarily to test its safety.

- In Phase II, a few hundred people receive the vaccine to primarily test its effectiveness. These people are more representative of the people most susceptible to Covid-19.

- In Phase III, vaccines are tested on thousands of people from the general population to further test

safety and effectiveness and to look for reactions.

The four vaccines in clinical trials now are all in Phase III trials. Three of the trials will enroll approximately 30,000 people each and the fourth will enroll up to 60,000 people. Both healthy people and people at higher risk of contracting Covid-19 are included in these trials.

Many of us ask, Why are there so many vaccines being tested for one illness? One reason is to increase the opportunity for successful vaccines.

It is also because there are many different types of people in the United States and in Indian Country. The four vaccines in Phase III clinical trials may each be more effective with specific groups of people, for example, elders. The 120,000 people currently taking part in the trials will allow researchers to test the vaccines on people of many different heritages, ages, and body types—to determine which works best for which group.

Are tribes being consulted in the process?

Yes, very much. Tribes and the Indian Health Ser-

vice are being consulted in the planning process in many ways; and senior members of the Indian Health Service have been loaned to Operation Warp Speed, the federal government program developing the vaccines.

Tribes have also been included in the vaccine trials, if they choose. The Navajo Nation has chosen to participate in one Phase III trial, and the Lummi and Nooksack Nations are considering joining another trial set to begin this winter.

Tribal participation in vaccine trials may help understand which vaccines being developed are most effective for tribal populations.

Distribution of the vaccines has also included tribal input to make sure the vaccines the most are being prioritized.

Other government agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are also actively consulting with the tribes. Besides federally-recognized tribes, plans also are underway for the distribution of vaccines to tribal health facilities, including urban facilities, and non-federally

recognized tribes that are not officially connected to IHS.

When will the vaccine be ready?

Limited doses of the vaccine may be available by the end of 2020. Most people involved with the production do not expect the vaccine sooner than this. Once available, the distribution of the vaccines will likely be in three stages. The distribution may look like this:

- Stage 1, projected for the winter of 2021, because of limited availability, the vaccines will be given to the people who need them the most, such as health care workers, elders, and medically vulnerable people.

- Stage 2, in the spring of 2021, with more production, the vaccine will go to the critical populations who were not vaccinated in Stage 1 and then to the general population.

- Stage 3, in the summer of 2021, it is expected there will be enough vaccines for the entire United States population. Distribution is also reviewed at this stage to make sure that populations or communities with low coverage have access to the vaccines.

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus in Memoriam: Sid Miller
Editor: Dave McMechan

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs.

Any written materials submitted to **Spilyay Tymoo** should be addressed to:

Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 489, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: 541-553-2210 or 541-771-7521

E-Mail: david.mcmechan@wstribes.org
Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00