

Letters to the editor

Tribal education covid assistance

The Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes passed resolution 12,741, a Covid-19 emergency education assistance program. The resolution provides emergency education related assistance to tribal members who have been directly impacted due to the Covid-19 public health emergency.

Please complete the online application or drop off at the administration building. The application deadline is December 16, or when funds are depleted.

Only completed applications will be considered. Checks will be made payable to the parent or guardian unless the student is 18 years or older. This benefit is tax-exempt pursuant to the Warm Springs Tribal Code Chapter 550, "Tribal General Welfare Ordinance." A W-9 form may be requested if you are not in the tribal accounting system.

This program will be in partnership with the Warm Springs Education Committee. Thank you Council members, with help from tribal attorneys for creating and passing this program. See the site: cognitofirms.com/ArdisClark/caresactconfederatedtribesofwarmspringscovid19emergencyeducationassistanceprogramapplication

Veterans list addition

A name was missing in the recent Spilyay Veterans Roll call of tribal member veterans.

Ruben Paul Santos, SPC U.S. Army, served from 2000 to 2003. He was an Iraq War Veteran. Born 1982 ~ Journeyed to the Spirit World 2009.

Healthy matters

The Madras High School football camp that was planned this month for Warm Springs is being postponed until spring. The camp will be for youth ages kindergarten through eighth grades, male or female.

In a related item: All Madras High School sports were put on hold as the governor announced statewide freeze for K-12 sports.

This will be in effect until further notice. In other fitness news:

Fitness challenge

Warm Springs Community Wellness this month is hosting a fitness challenge called '50 Miles to the new year.'

The Challenge will run through December 31. Participants will track their miles and turn them in weekly.

There will be bonus challenges for extra points. Prizes and incentives will be offered.

To learn more and sign up Email: jennifer.robbs@wstribes.org

CTWS staffing

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs government offices will continue to operated at 50 percent staffing through Friday, December 11. Tribal facilities are closed to the public, as a precaution to help slow the spread of Covid-19.

On being Native

Dear Warm Springs community,

Near the end of the Confluence project's recent virtual event, an intriguing question came in from a non-Native attendee: "Do I have permission to call this land home?"

Author Robin Wall Kimmerer responded with words from an elder, who told her that so many descendants of colonizers seem to act like they "still have one foot on the boat. They're acting like they're not really here. That they're just going be here and to take what they can get and go somewhere else. Well, there isn't any 'somewhere else' anymore."

To become "native to place," Robin explained, is "to live as if your ancestors were from here and live as if your grandchildren are going to grow up here."

It was a powerful reminder to me of the gratitude I feel for the Columbia River Tribal elders I have met at Confluence, who have taught me so much about what it means to be from this place, to truly embrace our landscape as home, and to build a reciprocal relationship with it.

Gratitude and reciprocity. That is the theme of our latest Confluence Story Collection. See the website confluence.org

The videos and resources all explore ideas of giving thanks and giving back. Enjoy. Stay healthy,

Confluence executive director **Colin Fogarty**.

From St. Charles: 'You are now the front line...'

During one of our recent St. Charles Covid-19 Incident Command calls, the dire situation we face became increasingly clear.

On that day at that time, our Bend hospital was the only hospital in

the state with any available Intensive Care Unity beds.

Suddenly, the refrain I've been hearing from colleagues throughout the nation hit incredibly close to home: Our health care workers can no longer be consid-

ered the front line of this fight. We are now your last resort.

You are on the front line.

Your actions and choices can make the difference for yourself, your families and your loved ones.

Because we simply may not have the beds and staff to care for you if we don't stop the spread of the virus now. **Joe Sluka**, St. Charles Health System chief executive officer and president.

Births

Benita Nezbah Kylisa Yazzie

Alicia Yazzie of Warm Springs is pleased to announce the birth of her daughter Benita Nezbah Kylisa Yazzie, born on November 19, 2020.

Benita joins brothers McKie, 8, and Jerome 6; and sister Jaden, 9.

Clyde Kami Charley

Austin G. Charley and Rianna R. Fuentes of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Clyde Kami Charley, born on November 15, 2020.

Grandparents on the father's side are Keith Charley Sr. of Warm Springs; Marcella Vallo of Toppenish; Foster Kalama of Warm Springs; and J'Dean Kalama, Yakama and Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are tony Fuentes, William Fuentes, Tommie Fuentes, Versa Fuentes-Smith, Stella Langley and Rosetta Fuentes.

Oregon but many restrictions will remain in place until a vaccine against the coronavirus is widely available. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced the new measures on Wednesday. State officials also announced vaccines would soon be coming to Oregon.

Fry bread

Greetings,

In case you were not able to join us, here is a link to our fry bread demonstration videos:

cocc.edu/departments/multicultural/native-american/featured-native-american-events.aspx

Michelle Cary, Native American Program coordinator, Central Oregon Community College.

Covid national response team

A key leader to the Navajo Nation's response in the Covid-19 pandemic was selected to join the incoming Presidential advisory board to battle the pandemic on a national scale.

The announcement of Dr. Jill Jim's appointment happened over the weekend.

Dr. Jim is a member of

the Navajo Nation and executive director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health.

Her career has focused on preventing chronic diseases and addressing healthcare and health disparities among American Indians/Alaska Natives.

She's served as a cabinet member for the Navajo Nation Nez-Lizer Administration.

The Navajo Nation has had more than 15,000 Covid-19 cases, more than 8,600 people have recovered and more than 640 people have died.

MONTHLY MEETINGS
VITRUAL | WARM SPRINGS EXTENSION

WARM SPRINGS YOUTH AG COUNCIL

Interested in Ag? Want to know more about how the Government works? Join us for a series of monthly meetings to learn more!

The details:

- Open to 8th-11th grade aged youth in Warm Springs
- Meet once a month (December 2020 - September 2021)
- Meetings will be virtual until safe to meet in-person

Need a device to connect to meetings? We can help.

For more information, contact Tracy Wilson at (541) 460-7682 or tracy.wilson@oregonstate.edu OR Ellise David at (541) 553-3238 or ellise.david@oregonstate.edu



Restaurants

Restaurants in Oregon can reopen for limited outdoor service this week in

Health and safety message from Human Resources

A message from Warm Springs Human Resources:



The Tribal Council declared a reservation-wide state of emergency on March 13, 2020. The declaration recognized Covid-19 as a serious health and safety threat. As part of the declaration, employees are encouraged to stay home if he or she is ill.

Let's all do our best to protect ourselves and others.

Best management practices

For the health of all employees, it is the responsibility of all staff to continually self-monitor your health. And it is incumbent on each employee to follow the following best management practices (BMPs) for personal hygienic, physical distancing, and other aspects of a healthy work environment.

Additional BMPs and mitigation measures may become necessary in the future.

Basic BMPs

- Stay home if you are sick. Persons exhibiting symptoms of fever, dry cough or other illness should not come to work, and will be sent home by their immediate supervisor.

- Staff that may feel or become ill during the day shall immediately put on a face covering (mask), leave the workplace area, and inform their supervisor by phone or radio.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Recognize personal risk factors. According to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Certain people, including older adults and those with underlying conditions such as heart or lung disease or diabetes are at higher risk for developing more serious complications from Covid-19.

- Field-going employees will minimize time in the office. Communication with your supervisor can be partially accomplished by phone or radio.

- Staggered scheduling may be implemented to enhance physical distancing when other measures are ineffective.

- Continue to monitor tribal guidelines for Covid-19 as they are evolving.

- There are multiple measures and BMPs available to reduce the chance of exposure to the virus; and to ensure that you, the employee, are at the very least possible risk.

Practice Personal Hygiene:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use and alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60 percent alcohol. Always wash hands that are

visibly soiled.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Cover nose and mouth with elbow or fabric when coughing or sneezing.
- Wear clean clothing every day if possible.

Practice Physical Distancing:

- Avoid physical contact with co-workers by maintaining at least 6 feet of distance.

- Common work areas shall be redesigned to ensure that each staff member as at least 6 feet of distance from other staff

- Vulnerable staff shall have an office with a door for distancing from other staff and public.

- All staff are encouraged to close their office doors.

- Vehicles will be assigned to staff and cross-over use of vehicles will be avoided.

- To meet the Covid-19 physical distancing requirement in a vehicle:

- Only one person is allowed to travel in a standard pickup or extended cab pickup, all cars and small SUVs. Super cab pickups and full size SUVs may have a second person in the passenger back seat (if two people ride in that type of vehicle, face coverings must be worn).

- Assign equipment, no sharing (chainsaws, tools, etc.).

- Promote virtual meetings in lieu of traditional face to face meetings in the office space around buildings where staff interact with the public sneezing,

coughing and other contact/fluids from contacting staff.

- Limited access to facility from non-staff.

- Limited restrooms to one person at a time use an occupied/vacant sign.

Facilities/equipment

- Routine daily cleaning for vehicles and other equipment; follow the supplied checklist and submit to the identified safety officer.

- Designate personnel for daily cleaning.

- Maintain/enhance janitor's schedule for cleaning buildings.

- Clean all frequently touched surfaces every day; follow the supplied checklist and submit to the identified safety officer

- Wash hands thoroughly after cleaning.

- Managers will create a daily checklist for cleaning of vehicles and equipment; supervisors of each department will fill out daily.

Travel:

- Avoid all but critical travel/transportation.

- Minimize contact and time in public areas.

- If transportation by commercial transportation (bus, aircraft) use proper PPE.

- If staying in hotel/motel clean and disinfect surfaces.

- Utilize take out or delivery.

- Clean and disinfect vehicles.

- Be careful when using public facilities.

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