

# ~ 2020 Review ~ (Continued)

## July

**Shirley Stayhi Heath**, the wife of Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath Sr., passed away from Covid-19 on July 30, 2020.

Mrs. Heath, Yakama member and long-time resident of the Warm Springs Reservation, was a beloved mother, grandmother, and most trusted adviser to her husband.

Oregon lawmakers approved more than **\$3.5 million in emergency water system repair** funding to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Much of the reservation has been on an unsafe drinking-boil water notice since June.

Some residents had no water pressure during the emergency,

made especially hard because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The coronavirus rate on the reservation this summer has been several times higher than the overall state average, and four times the average of eight other recognized tribes of Oregon.

The current boil-water condition is similar to the one last year that lasted several months: The system at Shitike Creek failed, caused by pressure relief valve problems. The Oregon Legislature Emergency Board unanimously approved \$3.58 million from state reserves to start addressing these issues.

## August

The tribal organization is **set to re-open** on August 17. In late July and early August,

Tribal Council and the Covid-19 Response Team were considering re-opening the organization in early August; however, further testing then showed an increase to more than 70 active Covid-19 cases on the reservation.

Council and the team then agreed another week of closure was in order.

Like the other school districts in the state, Jefferson County 509-J will begin the 2020-21 school year using Comprehensive Distance Learning. Because of the coronavirus, there will be no on-site teaching at least for the first six weeks of the new school year.

State health metrics leave Comprehensive Distance Learning as the only teaching alternative available, at least for the start of the year. This is true of all or all but one of the other districts in Oregon.

The Shitike Creek crossing **water line replacement** was completed in mid August. The boil water notice remains in effect, though, for the Agency area until the required samples are completed and reviewed by the EPA.

Water conservation efforts are still needed as the water tanks recover. The Water Distribution Center is closed until further notice.

Families at the end of August can pick up the student **Chromebook computer devices** for the start of the new 509-J school year. A parent or guardian must be present to pick up the Chromebook; the student need not be present for pick up.

Importantly, you must sign up for the Chromebook before arriving to pick it up.

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 a month to register to vote in the November 3 General Election.

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

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.

*(Review continues on page 7)*

## Outreach available to community members

By **Buffy Hurtado**  
Health Care Analyst  
Health and Human Services

These are some facts about the Covid-19 Community Outreach project for 2020-21.

Any community member is eligible to receive a 'community basket.' The basket is comprised of whatever has been donated to my office, and does include things like laundry soap, bleach, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, paper towels, masks, etc.

Receiving items is based on household size to ensure that adequate supplies are given. A family of five receives enough supplies for their household just like a household of 15 would.

There are no income requirements—just a short survey.

If delivery is needed, that can be arranged.

Due to current organizational restrictions, phone calls are encouraged so that when pick-up is done there will be a limited amount of interaction.

Households do not need to be Covid-19 positive to receive items. Part of prevention is making sure each household has adequate supplies.

Employees can pick up items for their caseload(s) or individuals they

### Covid-19 Community Outreach Project



Covid-19 is in the community of Warm Springs, and to keep everyone safe please:  
Please wash your hands, wear a mask, & reduce going off the reservation.

How can you protect your home and family?

We can provide: household, cleaning, and personal protection supplies!



Call (541) 615-0141 or (541) 553-3415

Call I.H.S. if you feel sick with

- ⇒ Fever or chills
- ⇒ Fatigue
- ⇒ Runny Nose
- ⇒ Cough
- ⇒ Muscle or Body
- ⇒ Nausea or
- ⇒ Shortness of
- ⇒ Aches
- ⇒ Vomiting
- ⇒ Breath
- ⇒ Sore Throat
- ⇒ Diarrhea



This project is made possible by donations and collaboration between:  
The Pandemic Partners Facebook Group and the Office of H&HS Health Care Analyst

are working with.

All these items are donated and quarantined for at least five days, and in many cases longer.

Any person can make a referral and efforts will be made to reach out to that household.

If you have any specific questions regarding this program, please let me know and I will do what I can to assist and help answer them. Call 541-615-0141, or 541-553-34145.

### GED classes

Central Oregon Community College will be offering GED classes remotely this winter. You can register online up to December 28 and the term will start January 4.

Communication classes for reading and writing will be Mondays and Wednesdays. Math classes will be Mondays a Wednesdays, or Tuesdays and Thursdays. Science classes are being offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information visit [cocc.edu](http://cocc.edu)



*The most medicine I think is our food. Our čúuš, our deer, our roots, berries.... I think all that food is medicine to us.*

### Marie Dick

Photos and quotes taken from the National Endowment of Humanities CARES project, "Living in today's pandemic and Historical Pandemic and Catastrophes." The Education Department of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation received the CARES grant to document, through video interviews, elders and residents on the Umatilla reservation about their current thoughts on the pandemic as well as historical pandemics and catastrophes.



Merle Kirk made this service message for the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation. Her work is part of the National Endowment for the Humanities CARES project, *Living in today's pandemic, and historic pandemics and catastrophes*. CARES provided a grant to the Umatilla tribes Education Department.

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