

## Letters to the editor

### Vaccines

Second dose Covid-19 vaccine clinics are scheduled for this Thursday, March 11 and Friday, March 19 at the Warm Springs Community Center.

Covid-19 vaccines are also now available in Warm Springs for family members of Warm Springs 18 and over, and employees who work on the reservation.

Call for an appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 541-553-2610.

### W.S. Credit

The Warm Springs Tribal Credit Enterprise would like to announce: Loan payments can be made by all credit cards at the drive thru window, with the exception of American Express cards.

Please note the Bank window hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed during the lunch hour.

### Birth

*Bexley Seyler*

Dustin Seyler and Ardis Clark of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Bexley Seyler, born on February 27, 2021.

Bexley joins brothers Fiske, 10, and Cayson, 4; and sister Calla Dawn, 7.

Grandparents on the father's side are Dean and Jeannie Seyler of Corbett.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Dawn Smith and Frank Knychief of Warm Springs; and Darryl Smith of Warm Springs.

### Register to vote

An election is coming up in May that will determine three positions on the Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors, among a number of other local district boards. The May 18 election will be conducted entirely by mail. The last day to register to vote will be April 27.

### At. St. Charles

At St. Charles Bend, patient care is proceeding as normal.

St. Charles Bend technical workers represented by the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Profes-

sionals went on strike at last week for an indefinite period of time. Representatives from the hospital and union are scheduled to meet again this Wednesday, March 10 with a federal mediator.

St. Charles has engaged with an outside agency to recruit dozens of highly skilled replacement workers who will cover shifts at the hospital for the duration of the strike.

### For 8th-graders

Warm Springs Academy eighth-grade student families can participate this Wednesday evening, March 10 in the Virtual Forecasting and Information Night, 6 to 7 p.m.

This will be a chance to look ahead to ninth grade next fall at Madras High School; and to think about what classes you will be taking.

Please reach out to the school if you have had any changes to your contact phone number or email address so they can make sure you receive all information.

### From IHS

The Indian Health Service this month updated its coronavirus data for cases across Indian Country.

According to the most recent data: IHS has administered 2.1 million Covid-19 tests to its service areas members.

Of the total, 187,073 tests have returned positive for coronavirus.

As of early March, that represents an increase of 0.1 percent from late in February.

Since October of last year, the IHS has been providing additional information about the spread of the coronavirus within the system.

The cumulative percent positive column shows the historical Covid-19 infection rate, meaning the number of tests that have returned positive since the onset of the pandemic.

Based on the cumulative percent positive, the highest rates have been seen in three areas: Navajo Area at 16.7 percent; Phoenix Area, 14.2 percent; and Oklahoma City Area, 13.4 percent.

In recent weeks, the California Area, Great Plains Area, and Oklahoma Area also showed higher than average increases.

Overall in Indian Country, 9.6 percent of IHS tests have been positive since the onset of the pandemic, the data shows.

## Tribes welcome new W.S. Agency superintendent

I would like to introduce the newest member of our team, BIA Warm Springs Agency Superintendent Brenda Bremner.

Brenda started last week here at the Agency, allowing me to transition out of the acting superintendent role. Please allow me to introduce Ms. Brenda Bremner:

She is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; and most recently was the general manager of the Siletz tribes—a position she held that position for over 20 years.

In that role she led and managed tribal government operations by directing management teams and oversight of operations including budgets



Brenda Bremner

and service provision for the tribe.

More specifically, she was responsible for oversight of administration, maintenance, education, culture, social services, the Indian Child Welfare Act planning, natural resources, housing, community Health, and three satellite tribal offices.

In her role as Siletz general manager, Brenda managed programs serving the

Native American population in an 11-county service area targeting the Siletz tribal members, which includes over 5,000 in number.

She coordinated implementation of self-governance compacts, 638 contracts, grants and special projects to increase and expand programs for enhanced services provided to tribal populations.

Of note, Ms. Bremner has taught physical education and health to grades 9 through 12; and was also a volunteer coach in the community for youth basketball for over 15 years.

Brenda has also volunteered for many civic and community activities including event coordination, grant writing, and fundraising for charitable groups. She has

been a foster parent for over 30 years, has eight children ages 27 to 4, and a partner of 30 years.

Brenda received her Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from the College of Great Falls in Great Falls, Montana.

Her ties to Montana are very strong, as her father Cecil was an enrolled member of the Blackfoot Nation, and also a contracting officer in the then-Portland Area Office.

Please help me in welcoming our newest member to the superintendent ranks, Ms. Brenda Bremner. *Welcome Brenda!*

**Body Shaw**, Northwest Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### Community notes...

The Warm Springs Commodities Program is located in the Warm Springs Industrial Park. They offer food like: cereal, fresh fruit and produce, canned fruit and veggies, pasta, meat, eggs, juice and cheese.

You do need to meet eligibility requirements to qualify for commodities. Call 541-53-3422 for details, or check out the Warm Springs Commodities Facebook page for updates: facebook.com/wscommod

The Warm Springs Johnson O'Malley committee asks families with students 3-years-old through twelfth grade in the Jefferson County 509-J or South Wasco County School Districts, who are enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, to complete the annual Johnson O'Malley survey and enrollment forms. The

## New superintendent for school district

The Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors has named Dr. Jay Mathisen as the new superintendent of the district.

Dr. Mathisen currently serves as Director of Educational Leadership at George Fox University. His first day with 509-J will be July 1.

The school board conducted a months-long search for a new superintendent, following the announced retirement of current superintendent Ken Parshall.



Dr. Jay Mathisen

The final three candidates met with district families last week at the Per-

forming Arts Center, and online.

The district had also surveyed families about the priority qualities in the new superintendent. The school board then made the hiring decision late last week.

School board members would like to thank all of the staff, students, parents and community members for their participation in the interview process, and for providing valuable feedback on each of our finalists.

financial assistance form is now available.

You can find it on kwso.org in the 'News and Info' tab under opportunities. If you have questions, contact Carroll Dick at 541-553-3311.

The Madras High School girls basketball team is planning for their season in May and June this year. With that, they are starting to fund raise.

They have opened up their online Fan Clothing Store for

fans and players.

Every time a player sells an item, a percentage of the sale goes to the team. To learn more you can contact Jerin Say at email: jsay@509j.net

Or call 541-777-7904.

STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.



KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE. MASK UP & STAY HOME

**Spilyay Tymoo**  
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

**Publisher Emeritus in Memorium:** Sid Miller  
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### Warm Springs Holistic Health

The Warm Springs Holistic Health Center provides physical therapy and acupuncture care in Warm Springs with a focus on compassion, integrity, and full-body wellness.

You can contact them at 541-777-2663.

This week you can find their latest video on their YouTube page or the article on the Spilyay website, wsnews.org



## Why should we get vaccinated?

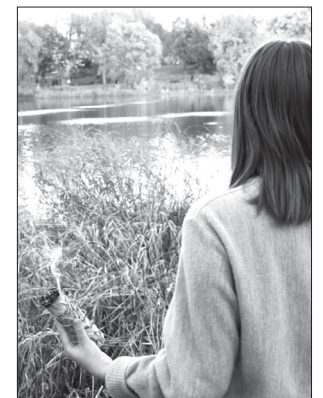
To protect yourself, your family and your community. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine adds one more layer of protection for you, your coworkers, patients, and family.

culturally-appropriate advocacy to victim-survivors across the nation."

### By the numbers

In 2020, StrongHearts advocates answered 3,074 calls and held 406 online chats. The types of abuse disclosed by Native intimate partner violence victims are broken down into six categories and listed here in order of prevalence:

- Emotional abuse, 87 percent of calls.
- Physical abuse, 78 percent.
- Financial abuse, 31 percent.
- Digital abuse, 19 percent.
- Sexual abuse, 19 percent.
- Cultural abuse, 10 percent.



The StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 culturally-appropriate domestic, dating and sexual violence helpline for Native Americans, available by calling 1-844-762-8483 or clicking on the Chat Now icon at: stronheartshelpline.org