

Helping her community at the River

Having lived along the Columbia River all of her life, Shawyna Spino is deeply connected to the area's Native communities.

"I grew up all along this river," Shawyna says. "I never left this river. I've always been here. My connection is to the people, it makes it easy to talk to my local people."

Ms. Spino, a Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs member, is the Pathways coordinator for the Washington Gorge Action Programs team. In this position Shawyna supports the Native American population throughout the program service area in Skamania and Klickitat counties.

She joined the Gorge Action Programs team last year as a youth specialist. "Pathways is a program that helps people find resources within their community," Shawyna says.

The service was added through a grant from Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health. Shawyna's role focuses on serving the homeless population, especially young people.

Growing up in Lyle, she wasn't familiar with the Washington Gorge Action Programs—the community action agency that works locally to fight poverty.

Later, she got to know the program. And now as part of team, she shares her experiences and serves the Native families of the area. "The people have an opportunity to talk to someone they feel more comfortable with," Shawyna says.

Her journey is a personal one.

IHS covid data update

The national office of the Indian Health Service over the weekend updated its coronavirus data.

According to the most recent data: IHS has conducted more 2,150,686 tests for Covid-19 among members of its service area.

Of the total tests: 188,890 have returned positive for Covid-19.

That represents an increase of less than 1 percent from the previous report a week before.

Since mid-October of 2020, the IHS has been providing additional information about the spread of the coronavirus within the system.

Based on the cumulative percent positive, the highest rates have been seen in three areas, as has been true for the past several weeks: They are:

The Navajo Area, 16.4 percent. The Phoenix Area, 14 percent. The Oklahoma City Area, 13.1 percent.

The 7-day rolling average positivity column offers a more contemporary look at the impact of the coronavirus. The data shows where Covid-19 cases have been increasing in most recent days and weeks. Based on the 7-day rolling average positivity, these areas continue to see higher Covid-19 rates: the Great Plains Area, the California Area, and the Oklahoma City Area.



Shawyna Spino in her new job, connecting people at the Columbia River with resources for better lives and healthier communities.

The Youth Specialist had to be a person who experienced homelessness: Shawyna speaks frankly, explaining that, during her youth, being without a home was a regular part of her life. Many factors contributed to her situation, but the result was moving often up and down both sides of the Columbia River, living where she could.

Her experiences did not stop her from succeeding and, "with support of many others," she graduated from Lyle High School in 2020. She credits her school counselor Julie Larson with referring her to apply for the Pathways position.

Over the years, Ms. Larson has cultivated a relationship with the Native community, and developed a bond of trust with Shawyna.

Julie learned of the Pathways position and thought it would be a good fit for Shawyna. When asked if it was the right place at the right time for Shawyna to apply, Julie said without hesitation, "Yes, I really think it was."

Julie adds that Ms. Spino had always been a good advocate for

herself, and she works especially well with others.

The initial training cycle for a program coordinator included extensive job shadowing. Shawyna is now working to create a cycle of visitations to places where Native people gather.

She wants to be a regular asset in making people aware of programs and services that are available like food banks and housing options within the Washington Gorge Action Programs system, and to make referrals to other local programs such as legal assistance and counseling.

When asked what her best moment has been so far, Shawyna said it was meeting with her "Aunties and Uncles" at one of the fishing in-lieu sites, where tribes maintain treaty fishing rights. Her relatives, she said, "Never thought they would see someone like themselves on the other side of the table."

Shawyna sees this position as an opportunity to give back and be available for her community.

School sports update

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.

The Warm Springs Youth Football Camp is happening this Wednesday, March 24 at

the Academy field.

There is no cost for this camp, and it's open to all k-8 students, male and female. The camp will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The camp is hosted by the Madras High School Football program.

All Covid-19 guidelines are enforced, including wearing a mask and social distancing. Parents are not allowed to stay at the venue during the camp times. The camp will be streamed live on Facebook at the football program page. Coach Taylor can be reached at 503-312-9680; or email: ktaylor@509j.net

Cougar sighting by the Academy

Warm Springs Public Safety officers earlier this month responded to a cougar sighting near the Warm Springs Academy. Police increased patrolling in the area, though they did not spot the cougar.

The Branch of Natural Resources also dispatched follow-up patrols, noting it is common for

cougars to expand into developed areas when food scarcity occurs, or when they are pushed by territorial disputes with other mountain lions. Meanwhile, Natural Resources and police recommend home-owners in the vicinity to be sure to keep dogs and cats inside and secured at night.

Howlak Tichum

Allen Elston ~ 1931-2021

Allen Elston of Madras died on March 16, 2021, surrounded by his family. He was 89 years old.

Allen was born on June 13, 1931, in Miami, Texas, to Charles and Myrtle Elston. He lived his early life in Huckabay, Texas, where he met and married Juanita Wylie, in 1949.

Allen attended Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. On March 15, 1960, he and Juanita moved their young family, which included Marsha and Alicia, to Warm Springs, where Allen became the pastor of the Warm Springs Baptist Church. Donna was added to the family a year later, and the Elstons spent over 33 years living among the wonderful Warm Springs people they so dearly loved.

Allen is survived by Juanita, his wife of over 71 years; daughter

Marsha Martinez and husband James, of Madras, Alicia Pugh and husband Dale, of Huckabay, Texas, and Donna Scheller and husband Ron, of Bend.

He is also survived by his six grandchildren and their families: Scott Armstrong and Eve Ooten, of Anchorage, Alaska, Jesse and Jessie Armstrong, of Bend, Aaron and Katie Elston, of Bend, John Pugh and Audrie Ayers, of Bend, Natalie and Jason Villanueva, of Bend, and Mikaela and Michael Bird, of Bend.

Allen and Juanita also have the joy of being great-grandparents to Livi and Lyza Armstrong, of Bend. In addition, four younger brothers, Gene, Baldy, Carroll and Mack, and a large extended family survives in Texas and points beyond.

CRITFC seeks to hire 4 officers

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission seeks to hire four police officers. These are new positions, all of them full-time.

The locations will be in Hood River or Boardman.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Enforcement police officers are directly responsible for carrying out all enforcement and protective pa-

trols by foot, vehicle, and boat on the main stem Columbia River and its environs and also patrol at the In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Access sites.

Starting salary range is \$50,506 to \$55,157. The closing date is April 30. Employment application and full job announcement:

www.critfc.org

PAPALAXSIMISHA & COMMUNIITY HEALTH

Beginners Yoga Virtual Class

INSTRUCTED BY: JENNIFER ROBBINS
EMPLOYEE WELLNESS COORDINATOR

Thursday's 12:10pm-12:50pm
On going activity

Join Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85403998530>

All community members are welcome and encouraged to join. There will be limited amount of yoga mats distributed if you need one, please contact Jillisa Suppah jillisa.suppah@tribes.org

State of Oregon update on covid cases

Oregon health authorities report this week that the overall death toll in the state from Covid-19 is 2,363. This number was reported after one new covid death in Oregon on Monday.

On Monday in the state there were also a reported 224 new confirmed or presumptive cases of the virus.

Some good news is that the state reports that health providers in Oregon have administered more than 1.5 million first- and second doses of Covid-19 vaccination.

The Oregon Health Authority reports receiving 22,232 new doses of the vaccine, to be administered as soon as possible.

The new confirmed and presumptive Covid-19 cases in the state were reported by county as follows:

Baker (1), Benton (8), Clackamas (21), Columbia (6), Coos (6), Deschutes (11), Douglas (8), Grant (3), Jackson (12), Jefferson (1), Josephine (13), Lake (1), Lane (8), Linn (12), Marion (38), Multnomah (28), Polk (4),

Union (2), Washington (40) and Yamhill (1). Regarding the recent covid deaths in the state:

Oregon's 2,354th Covid-19 death was a 66-year-old man in Clatsop County.

The 2,355th covid death was an 88-year-old woman in Marion County.

The state's 2,356th covid death was an 80-year-old man in Marion County.

Oregon's 2,357th covid death was an 89-year-old man in Wasco County.

