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Community update

A Warm Springs Indian Health Service-Community Health update early this week reported zero new Covid-19 cases on the reservation, from 62 who were newly tested. There were just four known active cases on the reservation, as of late Monday of this week.

IHS has given 2,123 primary doses of the vaccine against Covid-19; plus 1,600 booster doses. To schedule a vaccination appointment call 541-553-2131. Vaccinations from IHS are for anyone 18 and older, and in some cases 16 and older, who either: Lives in Warm Springs; works in Warm Springs, or is Indian Health Service eligible.

Senator virtual town hall from Warm Springs

Oregon's U.S. Senator Ron Wyden stopped at the Warm Springs Media Center this week to broadcast his virtual town hall meeting. "I would rather meet with people eye to eye," Sen. Wyden said. But with the covid restrictions, he said, the next best option is a Facebook Live broadcast, during which he fielded questions from the Warm Springs and Madras communities.

For the Confederated Tribes, the first topic of discussion was the water infrastructure on the reservation. Sen. Wyden, with Senator Jeff Merkley, are the

primary sponsors of the Western Tribal Water Infrastructure Act, which would help address the tribes' water, and some other infrastructure needs. This bill recently crossed a major hurdle toward becoming law (see article below on this page).

Sen. Wyden then talked about the Covid-19 relief that will help school districts, including 509-J, to safely continue and expand in-person teaching.

Speaking with the Senator, Warm Springs' Carina Miller also mentioned the fundamental importance of the water and other tribal infrastructure.

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At the Confederated Tribes Media Center, Sen. Ron Wyden and staff prepare Monday for the virtual town hall, conducted on Facebook Live.

Sacred Reflections at the museum

The Museum at Warm Springs is hosting *Sacred Reflections: The Art of Umatilla Artist Ellen Taylor*. The show opens this Thursday, April 8 at the museum Changing Exhibits Gallery.

Ms. Taylor is renowned for her Contemporary Native American paintings, a description of her style being: "Picasso meets Native American type of Contemporary art in Andy Warhol's living room..." Her artwork "comes from visions, feelings, life experiences, death, turmoil, new birth, illness, relationships and history of life."

Ms. Taylor adds, "The perfect balance comes from finding the time to create, articulate and harmonize these ideas onto canvass, in an otherwise busy life." Her show will be on display through May.

"For 28 years the Museum At Warm Springs has been proud to showcase the work of



The artist with one of her paintings, and another of her recent works.

artists not only from the Warm Springs community but also artists of regional and national renown," says museum executive director Elizabeth A. Woody.

"Ellen's innovation is phenomenal and the way her ideas hit the canvas is like no other. Visitors can expect to experience the incredible outpouring of Ellen's creativity and



be inspired by her immense talent."

The museum Gift Shop has an exclusive one-of-a-kind Ellen Taylor exhibition t-shirt.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council requires all visitors and staff to wear masks while in the museum. Other health and safety procedures are in place, which include allowing only a certain number of visitors in the Museum at a time and temperature checks at the entrance. All protocols are designed to keep the public and staff safe during the ongoing pandemic.

Pi-Ume-Sha has to wait another year

Like last year, there will be no Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow this year. Elders made the decision at the Root Feast, held safely this year outdoors at the Community Center Pavillion area.

On the reservation, "We're doing great with the vaccine," said Cassie Katchia, Pi-Ume-Sha Committee member. "But some youngsters will not have had the vaccine, and we're not sure about the visitors."

Pi-Ume-Sha is greatly missed, as the weekend events are some of the most anticipated of the year: The Grand Entries and dance and drum competitions; the Traditional Saturday Parade, the rodeo and boxing, Health Fair, Endurance Horse Race, stick games, and concessions.

Pi-Ume-Sha since the late 1960s marks the signing of the Treaty of 1855. This year on June 25 the treaty will see its One-Hundred and Sixty-Sixth anniversary.

Tribal infrastructure bill moves out of Indian Affairs Committee

Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr., and other tribal leaders, advocated to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for passage of a Western tribal infrastructure bill.

The Senate committee then last month approved the bill, sponsored by Oregon's U.S. Senate delegation. This is encouraging news, as on average only one in four bills are reported out of committee.

Infrastructure needs on the reservation exceed \$40 million, with immediate improvement to the watery system estimated at \$5-\$6 million, Chairman Tsumpti said. Investment in infrastructure could lead to economic development and employment for the membership, Mr. Tsumpti said.

The Senate first heard the proposal to fund Western tribal infrastructure—inspired in large part by the condition of water system serving the Warm Springs Reservation—two years ago.

The Western Tribal Water Infrastructure Act would provide up to \$62 million specifically for long-neglected Western reservation infrastructure.

"There are many federal programs to assist tribes," Mr. Tsumpti said. "But they have not individually or collectively been able to meet the magnitude of infrastructure challenges on our reservation."

Sen. Ron Wyden told the committee that the water crisis at Warm Springs and other tribes nationwide demands "swift federal action to fix a disgraceful legacy of shameful neglect by the federal government. And I'm glad to see the Indian Affairs Committee give this issue the attention it requires. I hope the Senate will advance our bill as soon as possible. No tribe should go without clean water."

In some of the other March testimony before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, director of the

‘ There are many federal programs to assist tribes, but they have not individually or collectively been able to meet the magnitude of infrastructure challenges on our reservation. ’

Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr.

Navajo Department of Water Resources Jason John said tribal water systems were not originally built by federal trust agencies to support growth and development. "To be able to afford the delivery of water, we need businesses to be part of the plan," Mr. John said. "It's really hard to build businesses in the Navajo Nation because of the lack of infrastructure."

Colorado River Indian Tribes Chairwoman Amelia Flores told lawmakers: "You don't need to just throw money at the problem," adding that more than money has held back tribal community development. Flores cited policies and laws affecting water rights and water quality. She said water management needs to improve with infrastructure.

Committee Vice Chair Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, opened the hearing by citing dangerous conditions in her home state, descriptions that echoed the problems in Warm Springs. "Boil water notices have become a way of life," Sen. Murkowski said.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium serves 229 federally recognized tribes in the state. Interim president Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson told lawmakers it's long been time to make a significant investment in water infrastructure.

"What we found is that infants in communities without adequate sanitation facilities are 11 times more likely to be hospitalized for respiratory infections and five times more likely to be hospitalized for skin infections," Davidson said, citing a study by the CDC.

"Put another way: Every year, we expect that one out of every three infants in those communities will be hospitalized, simply because they don't have running water," she said.

At the March oversight hearing, the Senate Indian Affairs committee also advanced the Respect Act, which its Republican sponsors say would repeal 11 laws that discriminate against Native Americans. "Throughout history, Native Americans have been subjected to federal laws that are offensive, immoral, and outright racist," Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota said.

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