

Tribal success with the vaccine

Despite enduring and tragic loss during the pandemic, tribal nations have led the way on vaccination: This was feeling of witnesses at a recent hearing of the House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

“We consider our work with the Indian Health Service to be a success story,” said Rodney Cawston, chair of the Colville Business Council for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Nespelem, Washington.

The IHS-Colville Tribes collaboration led to 40-percent of those tribes’ vulnerable population—roughly 3,000 patients with underlying health conditions—receiving a vaccine.

Similarly, the vaccination num-

bers for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, administered through the Indian Health Service, are impressive. This week the IHS reported 2,140 primary doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have been administered; plus 1,671 secondary doses. These numbers are among a reservation population of approximately 4,000 people.

All three vaccinations—Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson—are being administered on the reservation. The Moderna is available to members, residents and local workers 18 and over. The Pfizer is available to the population 16 and over. The Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine is available to the population 18 and over.

Senator: virtual town hall from Warm Springs

(Continued from page 1)

Carina then asked Sen. Wyden about his position on cannabis equity—treating sovereign tribes the same as other jurisdictions of the state in terms of the legality of cannabis. The state is addressing the equity issue, Ms. Miller said, but the federal government still considers cannabis among its Schedule 1 illegal drugs.

Sen. Wyden said he and colleagues are sponsoring a bill that would allow for sensible oversight regulation of cannabis in all jurisdictions, including on reservations.

Some of the questions on the Facebook Live town hall came from Madras, including one from Mike Britton, general manager of the North Unit Irrigation District.

The district and region have suffered through chronic water shortages. “And this is the worst year in terms of allotment and reservoir

levels,” Mr. Britton said.

Sen. Wyden described his bill—introduced with Sen. Merkley—the *Water for Conservation and Farming Act*.

The bill would help communities in Oregon and across the West experiencing high levels of drought, Mr. Wyden said.

If passed, the law would improve water access for agriculture and conservation by funding projects that improve dam safety, create more resilient watersheds and benefit agricultural and urban water users.

Sen. Wyden mentioned that in his time in office, he has conducted 970 in-person town hall meetings, and now continues with the virtual meetings, until the pandemic is over. He thanked the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and KWSO 91.9 for hosting the Monday virtual town hall.

— Dave McMechan

Summary of Tribal Council

April 5

The meeting was called to order at 9:27 a.m. by Vice Chair Brigitte McConville. Roll call: Chief Delvis Heath, Raymond (Captain) Moody, Lincoln Jay Suppah, Anita Jackson, Glendon Smith, Chief Joseph Moses. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

• Bureau of Indian Affairs update with Brenda Bremner, Superintendent.

• Federal and state legislative update calls.

• Indian Health Service update with Hyllis Dauphinais and Dr. Locker.

• Covid-19 update with Hyllis Dauphinais, Danny Martinez and Caroline Cruz:

The recommendation was given to continue with 100 percent workforce with tribal offices doors remaining closed. Tribal buildings

will remain closed and appointments can be made ahead of time to see staff, walk ins will be screened per covid protocols.

• School district campaign update with candidate Jaylyn Suppah.

• Tribal attorney update with Josh Newton:

Executive session, 2:05-2:48.

• Tribal attorney update with John Ogan.

Motion by Captain to adjourn at 3:45 p.m.

WATER: bill also repeals ‘embarrassing’ laws

(Continued from page 1)

“In many cases, these laws are more than a century old and do nothing but continue the stigma of subjugation and paternalism from that time period.”

Laws that would be repealed by the Respect Act include permitting the forced labor of Native Americans, and allowing for children to be taken away, said Sen. James Lankford, a Republican

from Oklahoma and co-sponsor of the bill. He called congressional action long overdue.

“I’m embarrassed that we as a nation ever had these laws in the books. I’m really embarrassed that they’re still on the books,” Lankford said.

Black Bear Diner
Good Old Fashioned Family Food!

BREAKFAST
Served All Day

LUNCH
Quick & Satisfying

DINNER
Comfort Food Classics

237 S.W. 4th St. • Madras, OR • (541) 475-6632
BlackBearDiner.com | Facebook.com/BlackBearDiner | #blackbeardiner

STUDY WHERE YOU LIVE

Stay in your Warm Springs community while earning your degree online from Oregon State University Ecampus.

Join our campus beyond boundaries by choosing from 80+ top-ranked programs including:

- Environmental sciences
- Fisheries and wildlife sciences
- Public policy
- 25+ STEM offerings

Visit our website to learn more:
ecampus.oregonstate.edu/programs

Oregon State University ONLINE