



Spilyay Tymoo

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From the Pi-Ume-Sha Committee

Again this year we have to cancel the Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow and Parade. We treasure the most natural resource in our community—and that is our people.

Vaccinations are still being given, and we want to keep our community safe.

Last year, the tribe handed out gifts to commemorate the signing of our Treaty of 1855, and it's possible we can do that again.

We want to celebrate life, when the right time comes, and honor those who have passed on. We're all in this together, and we wish everyone continued good health and safety.

Respectfully,

The Pi-Ume-Sha Powwow Committee.



Jayson Smith photo/Spilyay 2019

U.S. Senate passes bill to help W.S. water

The U.S. Senate last week passed proposed legislation to improve water quality and services for tribal communities. The bill is sponsored by Oregon's U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley.

The 2019-2020 water crises on the Warm Springs Reservation were a primary motivation for this legislation.

The new law would provide \$250 million for tribal water infrastructure, and will ensure that tribes most in need are prioritized. Following Senate passage of the bill, Sen. Wyden mentioned specifically:

"Native American tribes like the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and others nationally that are facing drinking water crises, deserve urgent action, and today the Senate delivered."

He added, "I'm not going to stop until this legislation is in black letter law, and until the Warm Springs reservation is free from boil water notices and have no questions about the quality of their drinking water."

Sen. Jeff Merkley serves as the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for both water infrastructure and for tribal programs. Last week Sen. Merkley said:

"The crisis at the Warm Springs Reservation is a powerful example of how the coronavirus crisis made existing water infrastructure challenges even more serious."

And Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti commented, "This legislation would throw a lifeline to tribes like Warm Springs that are in dire need of water infrastructure improvements to serve the tribal membership."

Sens. Wyden and Merkley first introduced the Western Tribal Water Infrastructure Act in 2019. The bill made some progress in 2020 and then last week made it through the Senate as part of the U.S. Drinking Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Act of 2021.

The vote in the Senate was 89-2; and the bill now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Last year, at the direction of Oregon lawmakers, the state Emergency Board unanimously approved \$3.58 million from state reserves to help address the water situation on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The BIA and Confederated Tribes for many years have known the water infrastructure on the reservation needs replacement and improvement. The water pipes are decades old; and in some cases, such as in the Campus area, are made of wood. This prevents economic development. In the summer time the leaking pipes put extreme pressure on the treatment, which itself is in need of replacement.

New path will address pedestrian safety along 26



D.McMechan/Spilyay

The walk-and-bike path will be on the westerly side of the highway, in the area where the bulldozer sits in this picture. Also as seen here: Pedestrians are required to walk immediately next to highway vehicle traffic, which often has to cross the center lines to make room for the people walking or biking.

Construction crews are now seven weeks into the Warm Springs Highway 26 Safety Corridor project. A feature of the \$6.5 million improvement will be the pedestrian path located to the side of the highway, from the Shell Station at Hollywood Boulevard to the Museum at Warm Springs and

Indian Head Casino. This will be a most welcome safety addition to the area, as this stretch of the highway is often used by pedestrians.

Another feature will be roadway repaving. The rock-fall safety work is now going on the hillside just before the Deschutes River Bridge.

Tribal Council, ODOT and state legislators initiated this over-

all safety project three years ago. The state allocated the funding in 2019, then last year the virus caused a one-year delay.

Highway repaving will be from the Highway 26-Kah-Nee-Ta junction—milepost 103.2—for eight miles toward Madsras to milepost 111.2.

The traffic volume on High-

way 26 through Warm Springs is about 6,700 vehicles per day.

The long-standing need has been for a sidewalk and bicycle lane within the Warm Springs corridor. A recent four-year survey showed 50 reported crashes along the corridor, a matter to be addressed with the current project.

Vaccination, community updates

Indian Health Service of Warm Springs reports this week that among the Confederated Tribes community, as of May 3, IHS had administered 2,347 primary Covid-19 vaccinations. The secondary booster shot number was at 1,965.

These are excellent numbers, and IHS reported having more than 200 primary doses on hand, as of May 3; plus 127 of the booster shots.

Also as of May 3, the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center had administered 10,603 total tests since the pandemic began last spring. Among the tribal community, the total positive cases since then has been 749. Hospitalizations



Courtesy Warm Springs IHS

over this time has been 82. Testing of the membership from other facilities added another 92 positives, for a total of 841. This is a 7.06 percent positivity rate. As of May 3, one person from the community was hospitalized with covid. Fortunately, no one was on a ventilator.

As of May 3, there were 20 people with active Covid-19 on the reservation, receiving daily monitoring by tribal and IHS staff; and 27 close contacts receiving daily monitoring. While in another development:

The FDA plans to authorize Pfizer's covid vaccine for adolescents ages 12 to 15 by early next week.

Recent vaccination clinic at Warm Springs Fire Management



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