

## Roc Your Mocs tourney



At the 2021 Roc Your Mocs High School Boys Basketball Tournament, Jordan Mitchell, All-Star, and David Belgard celebrated their Championship win, and Jordan Mitchell walks away an All-Star! Good job boys! Tanya Tewee

## Food Bank serving reservation families

Commodities is great for families who need a little help. The Warm Springs Food Bank allows us to work with individuals who may not qualify for Commodities, or for Food Stamps.

I started the Food Bank in December of 2020, and established a partnership with NeighborImpact.

We receive donations from the Waves Foundation, as well as others, and we serve hundreds of participants a month, sometimes a little less, sometimes a little more.

The Food Bank hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Friday. We are closed noon to lunch, and on tribal holidays and during shutdowns.

The Food Bank is in the Commodities building at the industrial



Theodore Perez Zamora (here with some of the available items) started the Warm Springs Food Bank with help from NeighborImpact, the Waves program and tribal Health and Human Services programs.

park, 4217 A Holiday Street, Warm Springs. If you have questions contact me at 541-553-3579. Or

email: [theodore.perez@wstribes.org](mailto:theodore.perez@wstribes.org)  
**Theodore E. Perez Zamora**

## From the desk of the W.S. Veterans Representative

Frankie Williams, the Confederated Tribes Veterans Representative, can be reached at 559-798-7102; or at his email: [frankie.williams@wstribes.org](mailto:frankie.williams@wstribes.org). His office is at the Warm Springs Forest Industries LLC building by the former mill. This week Mr. Williams wishes to share this recent item in the news:

After decades of failing to curb sexual assault in the armed forces, federal lawmakers and Pentagon leaders are poised to make major changes in military laws that many experts have long argued stand in the way of justice.

A bill championed by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Democrat of New York, would remove military commanders from a role in prosecuting service members for sexual assault and has gained support from scores of key members of Congress.

Among them is Senator Joni Ernst, Republican of Iowa and a retired National Guard lieutenant colonel, who said her own experience with assault and her daughter's stories from West Point helped shift her views on

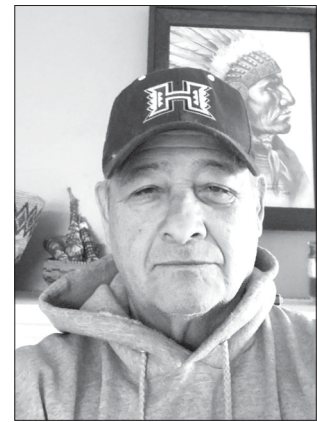
the issue.

"I have been torn," Sen. Ernst said. "On the one hand, I was a commander in the National Guard and know how important that role is. But also, as a sexual assault survivor, I know we have to do more. I never really wanted to take this out of chain of command, but we are not seeing a difference."

Ms. Ernst's nod on a new bipartisan measure is likely to attract several other key lawmakers, whose combined support could usher in the biggest change to military rules since the repeal of the ban on service by gays and lesbians in 2010.

Other senators—many of whom voted against the measure in the past—have said in interviews that they had waited long enough for the military to solve the problem and agreed that Congress should step in.

"Adding Joni Ernst to this bill is



Frankie Williams, W.S. Veterans Representative

the defining moment for passing it," said Ms. Gillibrand, who has pressed her colleague on the issue for years. "She is the only female combat vet among the Republicans."

Adding to the momentum, a panel appointed by Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III has

made a similar recommendation, saying that independent judge advocates should take over the role that commanders currently play.

These independent military lawyers would report to a special victims prosecutor, who would decide whether to court-martial those accused of sexual assault, sexual harassment or domestic violence.

The responsibilities could also extend to those accused of hate crimes.

The change to military law would require an act of Congress.

## IHS reports vaccine numbers

The Indian Health Service has updated its coronavirus data, showing Cov-19 vaccination distribution and administration through late April 26.

According to the data, the IHS has distributed 1,676,635 Covid-19 vaccine doses across 11 areas of Indian Country. Of that amount, 1,219,857 have been administered, representing 72.8 percent of the total.

The data shows the Oklahoma City Area has received the largest number of vaccines. The 438,790 doses account for 26.4 percent of the total. Of that amount, 73.6 percent have been administered in the region.

With 247,165 doses distributed, the Navajo Area comes in second, accounting for 14.9 percent of the total across the IHS. Of those, 79.4 percent have been administered in the region.

The Portland Area of the IHS has received 85,825 doses, as of late April.

According to the IHS, vaccination distribution and administration will be updated weekly across the 11 areas that are receiving doses directly from the agency.

Tribal health facilities in Alaska have chosen to receive their supplies from the state, so their region is not included in the data.

## Jefferson County remains at 'High Risk'

Based on case data from April, the state of Oregon last week updated its county Covid-19 risk categories. Jefferson County, including the reservation, remained at its same risk category, that of 'High Risk.'

Fifteen counties moved into the Extreme Risk category, and two—Hook and Umatilla—moved from Moderate to High Risk. Jefferson is one of nine counties in the High Risk category. Eighteen counties moved into higher-risk categories, while only two saw improvement, moving into the green 'Lower' category; while four counties were at 'Moderate.'

To the north, west and south of Jefferson, all of the counties—Wasco, Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Lane, Deschutes and Crook counties—are at the Extreme covid threat level. Immediately to the east of Jefferson, Wheeler County is one of the fortunate counties in the green Lower category.

The new designations were based on Oregon seeing more than 300 people statewide in the hospital with Covid-19.

As Jefferson County remained at its same risk level, the school district sports activities, and business restrictions—regarding gymnasiums and restaurants, for instance—continue as they were in April.

The state will update the county category designations this Thursday, May 6. In making the announcement last week, Gov. Kate Brown said:

"The fastest way to lift health and safety restrictions is for Oregonians to get vaccinated as quickly as possible and follow the safety measures we know stop this virus from spreading. I recognize the burden these restrictions place on Oregon businesses and working families.

"My goal is to lift these restrictions as soon as it is safely possible, and keep Oregon on the path for

lifting most health and safety requirements by the end of June so we can fully reopen our economy. But we will only get there if enough Oregonians get vaccinated. There are appointments available right now all across the state."

### Cases by county

The new confirmed and presumptive Covid-19 cases reported by the Oregon Health Authority, last Saturday, May 1, are in the following counties:

Baker (4), Benton (10), Clackamas (96), Clatsop (7), Columbia (15), Coos (4), Crook (6), Deschutes (88), Douglas (9), Grant (2), Harney (2), Hood River (2), Jackson (33), Jefferson (5), Josephine (9), Klamath (55), Lake (2), Lane (66), Lincoln (8), Linn (38), Malheur (5), Marion (60), Multnomah (115), Polk (5), Tillamook (1), Umatilla (9), Union (3), Wallowa (3), Wasco (4), Washington (106), Yamhill (22).

## 2 reasons why we're seeing more Covid-19 cases

Covid-19 cases have been on the rise in Oregon recently. This can seem surprising, because vaccination rates are high across the state. There are two reasons why cases have been increasing, according to the Oregon Health Authority:

Virus variants are more transmissible, and some people are socializing more without face coverings.

The Centers for Disease Control and Oregon Health Authority are

closely monitoring variants of concern, VOCs.

VOCs are variants that have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently.

One variant is B.1.1.7 which has now become the dominant variant in Oregon statewide. It is 50-percent more transmissible and may cause more severe disease. At this point, it appears that Covid-19 vac-

cines are effective against variant B.1.1.7. While we are seeing this variant become more prominent in Oregon, people also seem to be relaxing their precautions. Much of the increase in cases we're seeing is in younger people and is due to social gatherings where people are not wearing face coverings. The fact that variant B.1.1.7. has become Oregon's dominant strain is intensifying the spread at these events.

## About 'breakthrough' vaccine cases

A so-called 'breakthrough case' is an instance when a person tests positive for Covid-19 at least 14 days after receiving the final dose of a covid vaccine series.

While breakthrough cases are rare, they are expected to occur with any vaccine because no vaccine is 100 percent effective.

The Covid-19 vaccines that have received Emergency Use Authorizations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have all proven to be highly effective at preventing Covid-19, and that remains true despite the small number of vaccine breakthrough cases that have occurred.

Importantly, breakthrough cases can be prevented through basic public health interventions, such as masking, physical distancing and avoiding social gatherings. These protective measures remain essential as long as there is significant Covid-19 circulating in our communities.

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