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May - Xawit'an - Spring - Wawaxam

## Vaccinations for W.S. youth

The Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine is now approved for young people ages 12-15. The Warm Springs Clinic is hosting a Youth and Adolescent Covid-19 vaccine event this Wednesday, May 19, and Monday, May 24.

Hours both days will be from 1 to 7 p.m. at the clinic. No appointment is needed. For more information call 541-553-2131.

Meanwhile, the clinic is also planning a community event the first week of June to encourage the reservation community in the effort to vaccinate the young people.

Health workers will be reaching out by phone to families regarding the interest in getting the household child or children vaccinated. They also encourage parents to give them a call, 541-553-2131. Either way, this is a chance to get your child or children's names on the youth vaccination list.

When the young people are getting their vaccines, the clinic can also provide vaccination to the adults of the same household, who have not already had the shot. Some other covid updates from the clinic:

If you would like to be tested for Covid-19, check in at the front gate at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center and they will direct you where to go. You should not get a Covid-19 vaccine if you:

Have had a known Covid-19 exposure and are currently quarantined. Have symptoms of Covid-19, including cough, fever, shortness of breath, or loss of taste and smell. Also: No vaccine if you have a pending Covid-19 test; or had any other vaccine in the past 14 days.

As IHS continues its vaccine program, covid testing among the tribal community is trending in the right direction.

The positivity rate for Warm Springs last week was 2.2 percent. For comparison, the rate for the week of May 3 was 3.28 percent; and for the week of April 26, the rate was 7.98 percent.

**Tribal Council continues to require Covid-19 safety standards on the reservation: Masking and social distancing are required (see page 3).** St. Charles Health System is maintaining its Covid-19 protocol as well.

The CDC has not lifted its mask and social distance guidance for people using public transportation, visiting nursing homes, at homeless shelters, and at prisons.

Some of the latest covid numbers from Warm Springs IHS:

• The Health and Wellness Center has administered more than 10,875 Covid-19 tests since the pandemic began last spring.

• Over that time, of the total tested, 757 have come back positive. Ninety-seven tests of Confederated Tribes members have come back positive from other facilities, for a total of 854 total positive cases among the tribal community.

## Water Project opening Saturday

The community is invited this Saturday, May 22, to the grand opening of the tribes' solar-panel water project, hosted by the Confederated Tribes, Warm Springs Economic Development and Source Global.

Warm Springs Economic Development (WSED) has partnered with Source Global to create the innovative and new source of Warm Springs drinking water.

Source Global, based in Arizona, is a public benefit corporation. The company creates sustainable drinking water infrastructure for communities in the U.S. and around the world.

The technology involves a 'Source field' of solar hydropanels.

The panels harness solar power to condense water from the air. The high-quality drinking water will be made available for the first time to the tribal community this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. WSED is also making available 2.5 gallon jugs that can be reused; or you can bring your own jug for filling.

The panel field is located at the Warm Springs industrial park on Holliday Street.

"We're excited about this. It's been a lot of work," said Jim Souers, chief executive officer of WSED. "Now we're creat-



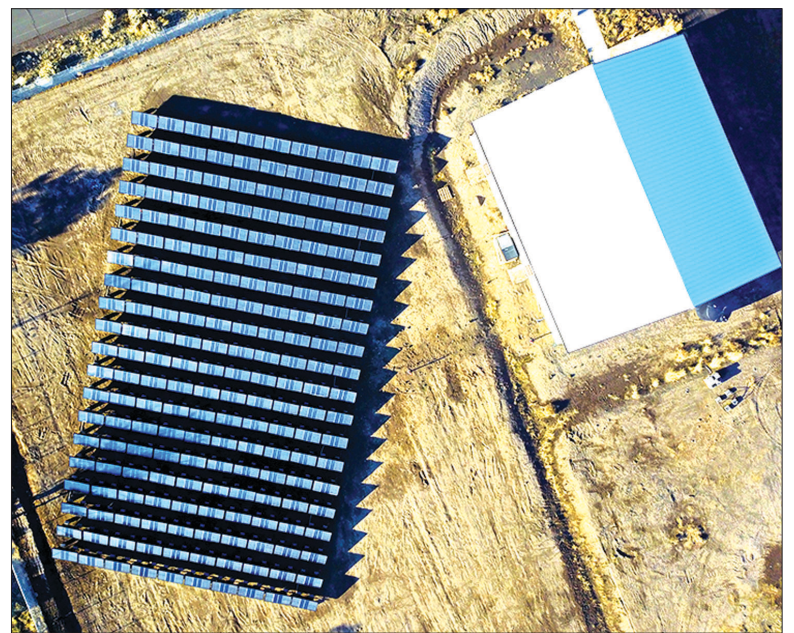
Warm Springs Construction crew—Jeremy KillsFirst, Warner Williams Jr. and Warner Williams Sr.—installing frames for a new set of Source solar-water panels.

ing our own sustainable source of drinking water, using nothing but the earth's renewable resources: Sunlight and air."

The Saturday grand opening will follow covid safety guidelines as developed by Tribal Council and the Response Team. After the opening, the WSED-Source water distribution site will be open on Mondays for water refills.

The Source field currently features 200 of the solar panels, producing about 158 gallons of water per day. The field eventually will be three times the current size, and able to produce up to 720 gallons a day.

See WATER on page 5



An aerial view of the Source panel field at the industrial park.

## Tribal fisheries issue at Willamette Falls

Portland General Electric last week submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission a draft "perpetual cultural practice easements" for Willamette Falls property, regarding tribal fishing at the falls.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and two other Treaty Tribes of the Columbia—Yakama and Umatilla—would not require the easements, as the tribes rely on their reserved fishing rights at all usual and accustomed fishing stations as specified in their respective ratified treaties of 1855.

PGE operates a hydro-dam at the falls, and under its hydro-facility license from FERC, it must ensure that it knows of and approves of all uses occurring within the license boundary area. The easement describes tribal cultural activities that PGE wishes to support, and for this reason submitted its draft easements request to FERC.

The Warm Springs membership has always fished at the falls, mostly for lamprey in modern times, and on occasion for salmon and steelhead as well.

The reason why PGE has now felt compelled to file the FERC 'perpetual cultural prac-



Mid morning scene at Willamette Falls.

ice easements' goes back 2018, when the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde constructed a fishing platform at the falls.

The Oregon Department of State Lands approved the Grand Ronde application for the platform. Previously, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife granted the Grand Ronde Tribes a state fishing permit to harvest 15 salmon and steelhead each year; and before they received state permission to build a platform, they fished from the rocks downstream of the falls. The Grand Ronde Tribe wanted to fish under its state license from a platform. However, the Department of State Lands did not conduct government-to-gov-

ernment consultation with Warm Springs, Yakama or Umatilla, all treaty tribes with fishing rights at Willamette Falls, before making its decision to authorize the Grand Ronde Tribe platform. The treaty tribes and PGE have appealed the DSL approval, citing a number of errors made by DSL in the process.

The administrative appeal process is still pending, as the parties continue trying to resolve the matter, said John Ogan, tribal attorney.

While the Department of State Lands approved the Grand Ronde application, PGE claims the property actually belongs to PGE. If PGE is the owner of the rocks where the scaffold is located, then the state would not have had the

authority to issue the scaffold permit.

A means to resolve the matter may be to confirm PGE ownership of the site. And to ensure tribal fishing access for all tribes, PGE also would grant the perpetual cultural practice easements.

This would guarantee fishing access to members of all tribes claiming historic fishing at Willamette Falls, including Grand Ronde and Siletz. Warm Springs, Yakama and Umatilla would continue to rely on the usual and accustomed rights as specified in the treaties of 1855, and the easement from PGE would add to, and be consistent with, those pre-existing treaty reserved access rights, Mr. Ogan said.



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