

Welcome reopening of Warm Springs DHS

Warm Springs once again has an Oregon Department of Human Services office.

This is a welcome return after more than a year of people having to travel to Madras to visit the office.

The new office is next door to Warm Springs Commodities building, on Holliday Street at the industrial park. The DHS office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

DHS is in the process of hiring a supervisor for the Warm Springs office, plus one more receptionist, three family coaches, two on-site eligibility workers, plus virtual eligibility workers. For



DHS receptionist Sonia Heath outside the new office.

now, the full-time permanent employee at the office is receptionist Sonia Heath.

Helping out until the new staff is on board are Alba Santos, manager of the Ma-

dras office, and Devin Conklin from the Bend office.

Oregon DHS provides services including assisting people with the Supplement

Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, employment-related day care, the Oregon Health Plan, temporary assistance for domestic violence survivors, initial eligibility for long-term care, and other services.

As of earlier this week at least, you can reach the Warm Springs DHS office at 541-553-1626—then press 1 as soon as it picks up. The office will have a new phone line any day, as the office is still settling in: The remodeled building is made possible by the tribes' Department of Health and Human Services.

Reservation guidelines

Warm Springs Tribal Council has so far maintained the established Covid-19 safety guidelines for the reservation. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control last week announced new guidelines for people who are fully vaccinated. The action created some confusion among local governments and businesses.

The tribes so far are maintaining the safety protocols that have been in place during the pandemic: Face masks and distancing are required in tribal offices and public places on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The Covid-19 Re-

sponse Team will continue to monitor the data, and make recommendations based on the health and safety of the tribal membership.

Meanwhile off the reservation, the CDC guidance says that even people who are fully vaccinated should wear masks when using public transportation, in hospitals, health care clinics and long-term care facilities.

School students and teachers will still need to be masked and keep a safe distance apart.

It's important to recognize that there is no way to know if someone without a mask has been fully vaccinated.

On the Tribal Council agenda for the remainder of May

The following are some of the items for the remainder of May on the Tribal Council agenda (subject to change at Council discretion):

Thursday, May 20: Legislative Commission on Indian Services spring celebration, virtual, 9 a.m.

Friday, May 21: School District 509-J memorandum of understanding with the tribes. Meeting 10 a.m. to noon.

Monday through

Thursday, May 24-27: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians mid-year convention, virtual.

Monday, May 24

9 a.m.: Education update with Valerie Switzler.

9:30: Public Utilities update with Chico Holliday.

10: TERO program update with Wendell Jim.

10:30: Gaming Commission/Surveillance update with Josephine Johnson.

11: Covid-19/509-J

school district updates with the Response Team and school district superintendent.

11:30: Century Link right-of-way update with Jim Manion and tribal attorney.

1:30 p.m.: Landfill update with Joie Simtustus and Said Amali.

2:30: Personnel manual update with Cheryl Tom.

3:30: Enterprise Zone resolution with Jim Souers and tribal attorney.

4: Opioid litigation update

with Autumn Monteau.

Wednesday and Thursday, May 26-27: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission meeting.

Monday, May 31: Tribal organization is closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Items for further discussion: December 2020 financials. January 2021 financials. Board appointments. NCAI 2021 mid year conference. Native Nation event in June.

IHS report on covid testing across Indian Country

The Portland Area of the Indian Health Service in May continued to see an increased Covid-19 positive testing trend. The trend began earlier in the spring, and continued into this month, according to the latest IHS data.

According to the data, across all of Indian Country, IHS has administered 2.37 million coronavirus tests. Of that total, 196,379 tests have returned positive for Covid-19.

Based on the cumulative

percent positive testing, the highest rates have been seen in three areas. Two of them include the state of Arizona, indicating a disproportionate:

The Navajo Area, 15.3 percent positive tests.

The Phoenix Area, 13.2 percent positive.

The Oklahoma City Area, 12.2 percent positive.

The 7-day rolling average positivity column offers a more contemporary look at the impact of the coronavirus. The data shows

where Covid-19 cases have been increasing recently.

Based on the 7-day rolling average positivity, three areas, out of 12 IHS areas, are seeing higher Covid-19 rates. They are:

The Portland Area, 7.5 percent positivity.

The Phoenix Area, 5.3 percent.

The Bemidji Area, 5.1 percent

Overall, across Indian Country, 8.9 percent of IHS tests have been positive since the onset of the pandemic,

the data shows. Meanwhile, the 7-day average has declined significantly after increasing during the holiday season. It now stands at 2.7 percent.

The data, however, is incomplete. While 100 percent of facilities run directly by the IHS are reporting data, only 33 percent of tribally managed facilities and 44 percent of urban Indian organizations are doing the same, the agency has told Indianz.Com.

Man charged with DUII following motor vehicle crash

Three drivers were hospitalized after a motor vehicle crash Sunday night, May 16, on Highway 26 on the reservation. One driver later was cited for driving under the influence, assault and other charges.

An unsafe pass attempt led to the wreck.

OSP troopers and other first responders were called to the scene around 9:50 p.m. on Highway 26 near milepost 97.

A preliminary investiga-

tion found that a 20-year-old Bend man was heading east at the wheel of a pickup and attempted an unsafe pass of a car driven by a 69-year-old Bend man. The pickup collided with a car driven by a 22-year-old Sandy man, then with the other Bend man's car.

The man from Sandy was flown by Life Flight helicopter to St. Charles Bend.

The 20-year-old was taken to the Bend hospital by ambulance and the 69-year-old

was taken by ambulance to St. Charles Madras.

The younger Bend man was taken into custody after release from the hospital and taken to the Jefferson County Jail, where he was cited on charges of DUII, third- and fourth-degree assault, reckless driving and

reckless endangering, the OSP captain said.

The crash and investigation closed Highway 26 Sunday night.

OSP was assisted by Warm Springs EMS, Warm Springs Police and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Community Notes...

The Central Oregon Community College 2021 commencement ceremony will happen on the Bend campus as a drive-thru event, beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 12.

The event will be open to graduates of both 2021 and 2020, who will be assigned a specific time slot depending on their major. Graduates will be able to exit their vehicle, in turn, and receive their degree or certificate on

stage.

All are welcome to a free **Heart of Oregon Corps** information session, happening every Tuesday through July.

This is for young people ages 16-24. The information sessions take 30 minutes, from 4:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Take this quick opportunity to learn more about Heart of Oregon Corps. Participating youth must be eligible to work in the U.S. See the website:

heartoforegon.org

Employment Opportunity

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises: **Staff accountant.**

This position is responsible for the verification and input of accounting records and reporting in accordance to GAAP and other applicable laws governing specific types of accounts and reporting requirements for a Hydroelectric Project under the supervision of the Controller. High school diploma and college level course work in accounting required. Previous accounting experience preferred.

Compensation based on experience. For a detailed job description contact Power and Water Enterprises at 541-553-1046. Applications and resumes can be submitted online at:

warmsprings-nsn.gov/ by following the Jobs link.

Application deadline: **May 28, 2021.**



COCC's summer program for Native high school students



ONLINE SESSIONS:

JUNE 22 THROUGH JULY 15

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

5PM-7PM

Earn a college credit and get ready for after high school!

Seniors earn a scholarship to COCC!

STRIVE is Central Oregon Community College's free summer program for Native American high school students. Through online sessions, students take classes from college professors, connect with Native college mentors, participate in workshops with tribal leaders and program staff, and explore pathways for serving their communities through higher education.



For more information and to apply, please visit our website or contact: Kelsey Freeman, Native American College Prep Coordinator, kfreeman@cocc.edu or 458-600-6210

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