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To tribal subsistence fishers

The federal government has made financial assistance available to tribal subsistence fishers who in 2020 experienced negative impacts to their subsistence fishing activities due to Covid-19.

The Confederated Tribes have adopted a plan for the use of the financial assistance, allowing subsistence fishers to apply for funds if their fishing was negatively affected by covid.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee will oversee the application and financial awards process.

Funds are limited. The amount of funding a subsistence fisher might receive is unknown until all applications are submitted and evaluated by the committee, said Mark Manion, tribal harvest manager.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee has developed an application form that requires providing some basic information about subsistence fishing activity. The application forms are available at the tribal administration office.

Completed forms must be returned to the drop box at the administration office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 2. Late applications and applications not put in the drop box will not be considered by the Committee.

Decisions of the Fish and Wildlife Committee about eligibility and amounts awarded are final.

Community updates

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center, as of late last week, had administered 11,311 total Covid-19 tests, since the pandemic began.

Of the total tested, 10,515 had come back negative.

As of late last week, there were zero tests pending.

There had been 765 total positive results.

Eighty-three people of the tribal community had been hospitalized with covid since last March, according to the recent IHS data.

There had been 25 deaths among the tribal community.

Another 103 positives tests of Confederated Tribes members had come back positive from other facilities, for a total of 868 positives.

In a good sign: Late last week IHS conducted 24 covid tests, and zero came back positive.

In other news of the region: St. Charles Health System hospitals reported being at almost 80 percent of capacity, with intensive care units at about 63 percent capacity. Current Jefferson County overall covid risk level is High.

Funding progress on new jail project

For years now the leadership of the Confederated Tribes has advocated for a new Warm Springs Jail. The jail is a BIA facility, so funding at that agency, part of the Department of Interior, has been an obstacle.

Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Tsumpti has been a long-time main advocate of the project, emphasizing the need for a safe and reliable jail for tribal law enforcement. The current Warm Springs Jail, built in 1970s, is old and well past its useful life, Chairman Tsumpti has said.

The Department of Interior announced recently that the project will be funded. A new jail is now in the preliminary planning phase, said Police Chief Wil-

liam Elliott. However, the agreement at the Interior Department and BIA to go forward is great news for public safety of the reservation.

For several months tribal Corrections has contracted to house inmates with the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility, or Norcor.

This has been necessary in part because the existing Warm Springs Jail is not capable of the safe housing of an inmate with a potential contagious disease, such as Covid-19. Covid is not the only reason, though, that Public Safety and tribes have contracted with Norcor, and at times also with the Jefferson County Jail.

There is a long list of deficiencies that make the Warm Springs

Jail unsafe for staff and inmates, Chief Elliott said.

Starla Greene, Corrections Lieutenant, began documenting the problems at the jail, eventually compiling an extensive list of the areas that would need to be fixed in order to make the jail operational.

Lt. Greene's work convinced the Interior Department and BIA that a new Warm Springs Jail is a priority. "She's put in a lot of hard work on this," Chief Elliott said.

The funding will come specifically through the Department of the Interior - Facilities Management and Construction Indian Affairs Office.

Preliminary questions such as location, size, features, etc. have not yet been worked out, as the announcement of the funding came

only this month.

Currently, when a person is arrested on the reservation at night, for instance, he or she may be housed at the Warm Springs Jail pending the court appearance the next morning. If the person is to remain in custody, Corrections staff will transport the individual to Norcor, located at The Dalles. This is about a 70-mile drive each way.

The BIA does fund the housing of the Warm Springs inmates at Norcor.

"We've built a great relationship with the Norcor staff, and Jefferson County Corrections," Lt. Greene said. "They've been great partners."

Still, a jail in Warm Springs, near the courthouse, police station and the community, is an obvious need.

A welcome gathering

For almost 15 months now since the pandemic began, the basic traditional ceremonies of life and passing have been cancelled or very limited, or otherwise potentially dangerous.

Warm Springs Behavioral Health, Prevention, Health and Human Services and partners last week hosted the Grief Conference. The gathering—safely outside on the lawn by Behavioral Health—was possible because of the success of the Tribal-IHS vaccine program.

The two-day conference was a chance to remember those we have lost to the virus, share prayers and words of hope. This was a kind of way to rejoin or restart some traditional social gatherings of the tribes.

Seven Drum Washat opened the day, followed by prayers and opening statements by Willie Selam, Charlotte Herskshan, Anita Davis, Councilman Captain Moody, and others. Masters of ceremony were Scott Kalama and



One of the teepees at the Conference; and at right, the undertakers are honored for their valued services during the pandemic.

Jaycelene Brisbois of Prevention.

"I thought it was all well received by the community," said Ron Hager, Prevention manager. "Everyone stayed safe, and we met all our expectations."

During the conference, Christine Johnson honored the undertakers who continued to help families and loved ones during the pandemic.

See CONFERENCE on 5



On the Tribal Council agenda for the rest of June

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

Monday through Thursday, June 20-24: National Congress of the American Indian Mid Year conference, virtual.

Monday, June 21
9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Executive Officer update with Michele Stacona.
9:30: July agenda, review minutes with the S-T.
10: Legislative update calls, federal and state.
11: Covid-19 and School

District update with the Response Team and district superintendent.

1:30 p.m.: Enrollments with Lucille Suppach-Samson, Vital Statistics.
2: Finalize Personnel Manual revisions with Cheryl Tom.

Tuesday, June 22
9 a.m.: Human Resources update with Cheryl Tom.
9:30: Finance update.
10: Governmental Affairs update with Louie Pitt.
10:30: Managed Care program update with Michael Collins.
11: Administrative Services update with Michele.
11:30: Procurement update with Libby Chase.

1:30 p.m.: Tribal Court update with Judge Lisa Lomas.

2: High Lookee Lodge update with Greg Tippet.
2:30: Public Safety update with Nancy Seyler.
3:30: Natural Resources update with Bobby Brunoe.
4:30 p.m.: Veterans Services update with Frankie Williams.

Wednesday, June 23
9 a.m.: Health and Human Services update with Caroline Cruz.
10: Education update with Valerie Switzer.
11: Tribal Employment Rights Office update with Wendell Jim.
11:30: Gaming Commission/Surveillance update with Josephine

Johnson.
1:30 p.m.: Public Utilities update with Chico Holliday.

Thursday and Friday, June 24-25: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission update meeting, virtual.

Monday, June 28
9 a.m.: Board appointments.
11: Construction articles update with Jim Souers.

Items for further consideration: National Indian Gaming Association meeting, July 19-22. AT&T FirstNet project/Beaver Butte lease.



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5th Annual Car Show

Saturday, June 19th 10AM - 3PM RAIN OR SHINE EVENT!

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