

Letters to the editor

Your input

The tribes are asking the community to participate in a survey regarding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP.

The survey is collecting input for tribal Social Services, and will determine the tribes' best use of the LIHEAP funding.

The survey asks questions such as:

Your tribal affiliation. Do you live on the Warm Springs Reservation?

What is the size of your family? Have you applied for LIHEAP through Warm Springs Social Services in the last 12 months?

What type of dwelling do you live in? Are you living with others? Is there more than one 'family' in your dwelling?

Are you an elder or do you share your home with an elder? Are you disabled or do you share your home with a person with a disability?

Your participation in the survey is valued and greatly appreciated. You can fill out the brief survey at following website:

<https://forms.gle/r9CDeVL5B6LzomME8>

Birth

Audri Tzivi Switzler

Cody Switzler and Hillary Camas of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Audri Tzivi Switzler, born on July 2, 2021.

Audri joins brothers JJ, 10, and JoJo, 7; and sister Jeba, 4.

Grandparents on the father's side are Danielle Wood of Warm Springs, and Victor Switzler Sr. of Warm Springs.

Grandparent on the mother's side is Eugina Camas of Madras.

Native program

Central Oregon Community College received a grant that will help fund the college's Native American college prep program. COCC wishes to thank the Central Oregon Health Council for the \$88,501 grant.

The support will enable the college to keep its Native American college prep coordinator funded through August 2022.

The Native American college prep program is currently offered in five Central Oregon high schools and serves approximately 40 to 60 students annually.

The program has led to a 98-percent high school graduation rate for participating students, a rate that surpasses the state's graduation rate for Native American students.

Additionally, approximately 76 percent of the students in the program go on to college.

Christy Walker, COCC director of diversity and inclusion.

To W.S. youth

Do you know a young person ready to make a change? Heart of Oregon Corps is now accepting applications for this summer and fall.

The Heart of Oregon Corps Thrift Store in Madras is now open.

Stewardship crews are now hiring.

We are excited to announce that Heart of Oregon programs AmeriCorps and Stewardship are open for applications for Summer 2021 and YouthBuild is accepting application for Fall 2021.

All programs are currently operating in person following our custom Covid-19 protocol.

Youth camp

The Warm Springs Prevention team is hosting Building Youth Resiliency Day Camp next week, Monday through Friday, July 19-23.

The camp will be at the Behavioral Health campus area, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, open to youth ages 9 to 18.

Meals and snacks will be provided. Monday night will be Movie Night. A Community Powwow will be Tuesday night, Youth Dance on Wednesday night, and Round Dance on Thursday night.

For youth who attend all week, Friday will be a trip to Jefferson County Fair.

Basketball court mural

The Warm Springs Community Action Team and Papalaxsimisha are working together with community partners and youth to renovate the outdoor basketball court on campus and they are seeking a mural artist.

The chosen artist will help create a court mural. Submit your ideas to Mallory at wscat.org

The deadline is this Friday, July 16 at 5 p.m.

Vaccine public service message: *To Protect My Loved Ones*

One of the Oregon Health Authority Coronavirus daily information updates this month included a spot by Warm Springs Prevention Specialist Scott Kalama.

The 30-second public service announcement is called *To Protect My Loved Ones*.

In the Health Authority video, linked to YouTube, Mr. Kalama relates why he got vaccinated. His reasons:

To protect my loved ones, to protect my Elders, to protect my family...

With the vaccine I'm excited to go see my family, to see my friends—to enjoy giving each other a hug again, giving each other a high five—normal



A screen shot from the Health Authority service announcement by Warm Springs Prevention's Scott Kalama.

things, the things we take for granted...

I look forward to going back to our Salmon Feast, our Root Feast, our Huckle-

berry Feast.

There's hope out there with this vaccination...

The OHA service an-

ouncement then references viewers to the state website where you find answers to the covid vaccine: Covid.Vaccine.Oregon.gov

Child tax credit

The Child Tax Credit in the American Rescue Plan provides the largest child tax credit ever and historic relief to the most working families ever. Most families will automatically receive monthly payments without having to take any action.

All working families below specific income limits will get the full credit. If you've filed tax returns for 2019 or 2020, or if you signed up to receive a stimulus check from the Internal Revenue Service, you will get this tax relief automatically. You do not need to sign up or take any action. Beginning this month, people will receive the child tax credit in monthly payments.

For SNAP

Most people who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—SNAP—benefits will receive emergency allotments this month.

The federal government has approved emergency allotments every month since March 2020, to give SNAP

recipients additional support during the Covid-19 pandemic. Emergency allotments became available on Tuesday of this week, July 13 for current SNAP households.

New SNAP households will receive the emergency allotments July 30 or August 3. SNAP recipients do not have to take any action to receive these supplemental benefits as they will be issued directly on their EBT cards.

Scholarships

Applications for the 2021 Oregon Native American Chamber Scholarship are now available. For the 2021-2022 academic year, ONAC Student Academic Awards will range from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

For additional details, and to apply, please visit: onacc.org/resources/scholarships

ONAC will accept applications through July 30. Notification of scholarship awards will be made by August 31.

Highest vaccination rate

American Indians have the highest Covid-19 vaccination rate in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control recently announced that its covid data tracker now displays U.S. vaccination progress by race and ethnicity.

The tracker is called 'Percent of People Receiving Covid-19 Vaccine by Race-Ethnicity, and Date Reported to the CDC.'

The early July data shows that American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest vaccination rate in the country. The rate was with 45.5 percent having received at least one dose, and 39.1 percent fully vaccinated.

The American Indian rate was followed by Asians at 36.6 percent vaccinated; and whites, 33.7 percent.

Native Hawaiian-Pacific Islanders were at 35.9 percent; Hispanic-

Latinos at 31.8 percent; and Black people.

American Indian vaccination rates were higher than white vaccination rates in 28 states, including New Mexico, Arizona, and Alaska, where many Indigenous people receive care from the Indian Health Service, and tribal health centers.

The CDC's vaccination rate data counters longstanding assumptions about vaccine hesitancy in Indigenous communities—assumptions that were already disproven in January by the results of a survey conducted in urban Indigenous communities.



From the desk of the W.S. Veterans Representative

Agent Orange exposure and Veterans Affairs disability compensation

by **Frankie Williams**
Warm Springs Tribal Veterans Representative

Agent Orange was a tactical herbicide the U.S. military used to clear leaves and vegetation for military operations mainly during the Vietnam War.

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange may have certain related illnesses. Veterans Affairs has added three more presumptive conditions related to Agent Orange

- Bladder cancer.
- Hypothyroidism.
- Parkinson disease.

If the VA denied your claim in the past for any of these conditions, we need to file another claim.

If you have an illness

that's not on the list of presumptive diseases, but you believe it was caused by Agent Orange exposure, you can still file a claim for VA disability benefits. But you'll need to submit more evidence: Keep reading to learn about service requirements and supporting evidence.

Service requirements for presumption of exposure

The VA bases eligibility for VA disability compensation benefits, in part, on whether a veteran served in a location that exposed you to Agent Orange. This is called this having a presumption of exposure.

You have a presumption of exposure if you meet at least one of the service requirements listed below:

Between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, you must have served for any length of time in at least one of these locations:

- In the Republic of



Frankie Williams, W.S. Veterans Representative

Vietnam, or

- Aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or

- On a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, or

- On regular perimeter duty on the fenced-in perimeters of a U.S. Army installation in Thailand or a Royal Thai Air Force base.

These bases include U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, or Don Muang.

Or at least one of these must be true. You:

- Served in or near the Korean DMZ for any length of time between **September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971,** or

- Served on active duty in a regular Air Force unit location where a C-123 aircraft with traces of Agent Orange was assigned, and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight, ground, or medical duties, or

- Were involved in transporting, testing, storing, or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service.

For more information on Agent Orange or filing a claim, contact the Warm Springs Tribal Veterans Service Officer, Frankie Williams, 541-460-0605 or 541-777-2957

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus in Memorium: Sid Miller
Editor: Dave McMechan

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs.

Any written materials submitted to **Spilyay Tymoo** should be addressed to:

Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 489, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: 541-553-2210 or 541-771-7521

E-Mail: david.mcmechan@wstribes.org.
Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00