

Paving almost done, sidewalk work continues

Most of the new road paving is done on the Warm Springs Safety Corridor Highway 26 project.

A final paving phase will resume on the morning of Monday, October 4, and conclude by the end of that week.

The contractor is now focused on finishing the sidewalks and other features, according to the most recent report from the Or-



View toward casino and museum, sidewalk work on the right.

regon Department of Transportation.

Construction began on the \$6.5

million project in early March, and is scheduled for completion at the end of November.

Tribal community benefits from library grant

The Jefferson County Library District received a \$145,794 grant that in part enhance services of the Warm Springs Library, and helps create culturally attuned programming. The programming will enhance learning and cultural awareness throughout the district.

The federal grant, through the American Rescue Plan Act, specifies the need for programming to meet the needs of the Warm Springs Reservation.

The ARPA grant will also increase access to technology, provide internet-connectivity hotspots available for checkout; and fund a book mobile providing access to materials and internet service in the district.

“The Jefferson County Library

received the grant in a very competitive process,” said Jane Ellen Innes, Jefferson County Library director. “Less than a third of the total funding requested was approved.”

In addition to enhancing services to the tribal community, other programs will be targeted toward the Latino population.

The grant also funds a year-long event, *I Am a Story*, that will celebrate the people of Jefferson County, and promote cultural education and dialogue among ethnic groups.

The Warm Springs Library, located in the Family Resource Building, has had to remain closed due to the pandemic. The library will reopen when the Covid-19 Re-

sponse Team and Tribal Council determine no health risk would be posed to the community.

LIHEAP help for Warm Springs

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP—for Warm Springs residents assists low-income households with their heating and cooling energy costs, bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization and energy-related home repairs.

To be eligible for this benefit program, you must need financial assistance with home energy costs. That includes heating and cooling that uses: electricity, heating oil, liquid gas, wood or pellets.

A new LIHEAP program supports energy-related home repairs. The funding comes from the

American Rescue Plan Act for LIHEAP supplemental funding.

If a homeowner needs repairs to heat pumps, furnaces, wood stoves, heaters or HVAC systems, you might qualify for this program.

This is a great opportunity to get ready for winter or get a jump on next summer.

Income guidelines are for 60 percent of Oregon’s state median income by household size.

To learn more about eligibility and to pick up an application you can stop by the Family Resource Center or call 541-553-2590 and ask about LIHEAP.

Job growth continues in region

Job growth in the region was slightly better than expected in late summer, continuing a trend that began this past spring.

The state Employment Department reports job growth during August in all three counties of the Central Oregon region.

For Jefferson County, including the reservation, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in August, down from 6.8 percent in July.

Still, the jobless rate remains higher than before the beginning of the pandemic: In February of last year unemployment in the county was 4.1 percent.

In Jefferson County, total non-farm employment was unchanged in August. Usually, there are modest job losses this time of year, the Employment Department reports.

In the county, construction has been the fastest growing major industry sector over the past year, adding 40 jobs. The retail sector and manufacturing also posted strong gains from this time last year.

Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in August, down significantly from 7.1 percent in July.

The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from Covid-19 in February 2020 when it was 4.4 percent.

Deschutes County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment

rate dropped to 5.4 percent in August from 5.6 percent in July.

The Deschutes unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from Covid-19 in February of last year when it was just 3.3 percent.

Nite Out Social Powwow

The Stomp Your Moccs NDN Nite Out Social Powwow is coming up on Thursday, September 30.

The Social Powwow, master of ceremony Macky Begay, will start at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Center Pavillion.

A meal box will be served,

drumming and dancing start at 6 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs. Social distancing and masks required. The Warm Springs Covid-19 Response Team approved this event. All drummers and dancers are welcome. For more information contact Preston T at 541-553-3243.

A note from Tribal Management: Please use the north entrance at the administration building—the doors by Human Resources—from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. this Thursday, September 23. Contractors will be working on the touchless door entry on the south side by the Tribal Council, Mail and Reception entrance.

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