

Letters to the editor

Firefighters Memorial Parade

Warm Springs Fire Management would like families and friends to take part in this year's Firefighter Memorial Parade coming up this Saturday, October 9 starting at 11 a.m. Line up will be on campus. The parade will go down to the Community Center for a loop around the Pi-Ume-Sha Grounds.

From there they will go up to Fire Management. Everyone is welcome to participate in honor of a wildland firefighters, and the community is welcome to come out and enjoy the parade. **Warm Springs Fire Management.**

Casino hours

Indian Head Casino has announced its new hours. The casino is now open Sunday through Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. Indian Head is closed Wednesday and Thursday.

Births

Gunner Allen Gilbert
Daniel Gilbert and Aja Maldonado of Simnasho are pleased to announce the birth of their son Gunner Allen Gilbert, born on September 21, 2021.

Gunner joins brothers Keiko, 7, and DJ, 2; and sisters Kalia, 7, and Avariyoona, 12.

Grandparents on the father's side are Allen Gilbert Sr. of Simnasho, and Evelyn Gilbert.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Willard Maldonado and Tanya George of Toppenish.

Navy Alice DeVore
Timothy Allen DeVore Jr. and Jasmin DeVore of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Navy Alice DeVore, born on September 23, 2021.

Navy joins brother Timothy Allen III, and sister Charlotte.

Grandparents on the father's side are Timothy Allen DeVore, Denise DeVore, and Cindy DeVore, from Madras.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Marie P. Hernandez of Madras.

Public safety

(Note: This letter is shared regarding recent actions at the Jefferson County, city of Madras and 509-J school board local governments.)

My mother taught me to not say anything unless you say something nice. *Sorry Mom.* 'Godsmacked' is the only word I have for our Jefferson County and Madras city elected leaders who absolutely refuse to solve or address our issues with Covid-19.

Repeatedly, they each propose clever dodges to avoid compliance with masking and distancing mandates.

Our county issues an emergency disaster warning.

Our Sheriff threatens to release prisoners because their staff is only 40 percent vaccinated.

Employees threaten to resign if they must be vaccinated. I say, 'Goodbye.'

Many refuse to wear or enforce masks and distancing in public buildings and spaces.

From the City Council agenda: "Due to governor mandates, masks or face coverings are required in City Council chambers and there are no social distancing requirements at this time."

"It's important to note that masks may be removed for speaking into microphones for the purpose of improved communication."

"As always, if you are not feeling well, or feel more comfortable staying home, please take advantage of the Zoom offering."

And yet photos show that four on the City Council dias were never masked during the recent meeting. Nor was it enforced inside the chamber.

Lead and be a role model we would wish for our children and community. Care for our community.

Enforce civility at public meetings. As a retired teacher in 509-J, I would not tolerate such behavior. (Threats, intimidation, exclusion, insensitivity, inequality, non-transparency.)

Let City Council, County Commissioners and School Board greet the public at the door and hand out masks and sanitizer. There are signs posted, but not enforced.

Encourage leaders to wear a mask if for nothing else to show they care. Do what you want in private, but we are talking about public spaces here—For the public.

The recent actions at the school board, county and city meetings were inexcusable and embarrassing. It's like you folks believe that we do not care. We are saying to you: "We want to feel safe and protected in this town." We depend on the city and county and school district to

How to tell if you need another covid vaccine

Did you receive the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine? If yes, then you may be eligible for a booster vaccine, if you are one of the following:

Sixty-five years or older. Eighteen years and older with underlying medical conditions (all intellectual and developmental disabilities are considered underlying medical conditions in Oregon).

Eighteen and older and live or work a high-risk setting.

You can get a Pfizer booster at least six months

after your last dose.

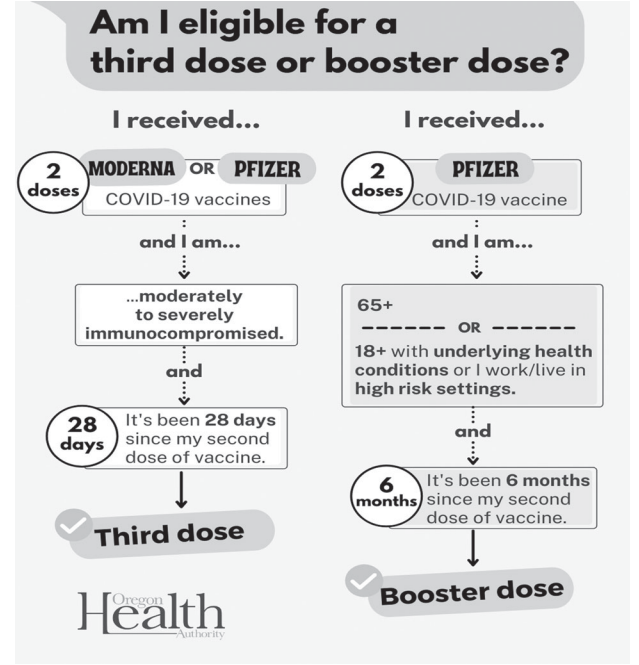
Are you immuno-compromised? If you answered yes, and you received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine:

You need a total three doses of the same mRNA vaccine, either Pfizer or Moderna.

You should get a third dose of the vaccine at least 28 days after your second dose.

All three doses count as your initial vaccine series.

If you get a third dose, you do not need a booster shot (only available in Pfizer).



keep us safe.

Public safety is not a matter of personal choice. You took an oath. The State Ethics Commission refuses to act. We will continue filing OSHA complaints until some consequence occurs. Fines are not a great answer, because it takes away precious money from the city, county and school district. But maybe it's what we need to do.

Idaho, Alaska and Washington state are needing to triage their ICU patients. Bend how has a refrigerated morgue wagon.

Judy Barker

Water is Life

The Water is Life Awareness Prayer Relay is coming up this Friday, October 8 starting at HeHe with runners going through Simnasho, Indian Head Canyon, Wolfe Point, Sunnyside, Upper Dry Creek, KWSO and ending at the Pavilion behind the Community Center.

Healing Hearts

Healing Hearts with Good Medicine is coming up on Friday through Sunday, October 15-17 at the Old Elementary School and the lawn in front of the Behavioral Health Center.

Healing Hearts with Good Medicine will start at 3 p.m. on Friday, and at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information call Mona Cochran at Behavioral Health, 541-553-3205 ext. 0120. Or email: mona.cochran@wstribes.org

Flu season

In addition to the Covid-19 pandemic, this is also flu season. You can avoid getting the flu bug by being vaccinated.

Warm Springs IHS is offering flu shots on weekday mornings (except Wednesdays) 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., and afternoons 1:30-3:30.

You can check in at the front gate at the Health and Wellness Center. They will direct you where to park and someone will come out to give you the flu vaccination.

From Vital Stats

Warm Springs Vital Statistics reminds tribal members to make sure you have current address information on file with them.

You can pick up an address change form at the south entrance of the tribal administration building, and return it to the outside drop box or at the front desk.

Remember to make sure you contact the person who is renting the P.O. Box you are using, to make sure you are listed for that box with the post office.

Attention: Tribal artists

The Museum at Warm Springs would like to announce the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Member Art Exhibit will be here soon.

Important: The deadline to submit art is 5 p.m. this Thursday, October 7.

Please email or call Angela Anne Smith, museum Curator, if you have questions.

The number is 541-553-3331; and the email: angela@museumatwarm springs.org

Applications are available at the museum.

LIHEAP help

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP—for

Warm Springs residents assists low-income households with heating and cooling energy costs, bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization and energy-related home repairs.

To learn more about whether you qualify for their programs, which includes LIHEAP supplemental funding for repairs to heat pumps, furnaces, wood stoves, heaters or HVAC systems, call 541-553-2590. Also see:

wsnews.org/2021/09/low-income-home-energy-assistance/

Strength Training and Cardio Class is held on Thursdays during the noon hour. It's led by Jennifer Robbins, starting just after 12 in the gym at the old elementary school.

Helping address veterans homelessness

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



Frankie Williams, W.S. Veterans Representative

Two community groups dedicated to providing housing and other support to veterans facing homelessness and other challenges have joined forces to provide over 100 beds.

Veterans Legacy Oregon and Housing Our Veterans joined forces last week, with the signing a memorandum of understanding.

Lorie Perkins founded Housing Our Veterans in 2005 to secure housing for veterans facing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, drug and alcohol abuse, and other health issues.

Veterans Legacy was founded by Dr. John LeBow, and acquired the former Lane County Sheriff's Forest Inmate Camp in 2016, renaming it Camp Alma. The camp uses "a rural residential set-

ting for care with a multifaceted treatment regimen," the group says.

According to the Veterans Legacy and Housing Our Veterans:

Between the two local organizations, over 100 beds will be available for veteran care.

Ideally, a veteran in need will begin care and rehabilitation at Camp Alma for an average stay of six months.

He would then sequence

into the care at Housing Our Veterans for about one year.

This time frame coincides with studies that show that an 18-month concentrated care management paradigm results in a vastly improved success rate for reintegration into the community at large.

"Shared goals of returning veterans in need to the community clean and sober with realistic employment potential, stable housing and the need for indefinite case management made the agreement a natural alliance between the two entities," the groups said.

"While applicable to male veterans only at present, both organizations agree that an appropriate treatment pathway is needed for female veterans as well, with development to begin in the near future."

Frankie Williams, Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Veterans Service Officer, 541-460-0605.

The booster shot and do I need it?

Booster shots have been recommended for some people who received the Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine. Booster shots are given when the protection from a vaccination begins to decrease. Getting a booster can help people continue their immunity for a longer period.

It's important to know that all Covid-19 vaccines are working well to prevent

severe illness, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant.

Booster shots of the Pfizer vaccine are to be given six months after the second shot. Here's a list of groups who are eligible for the booster:

These groups should receive a booster dose of Pfizer:

People 65 and older;

people living in a long-term care facility; and people 50-64 with underlying medical conditions.

Those vaccinated with Pfizer who are 18 through 64 years may get the booster if they:

Have underlying medical conditions, and are at higher risk of Covid-19 exposure and transmission due to occupational or institutional setting.

You can find booster shots at the clinic, and anywhere else that Covid-19 vaccine is available. You don't need to prove that you need the booster. There is enough supply of vaccine, but health care workers are extremely busy. You may need to make an appointment, or wait a while to get in for the shot. But don't worry, Your current Pfizer vaccination still offers strong protection against serious Covid-19 illness. The clinic number to call is 541-553-2131.

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