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December - Nch'i-An - Winter - Yiyam

Community update

The tribal community saw 13 new Covid-19 cases on Monday of this week, December 27, from 99 tests administered, according to the update from the Response Team, IHS and Community Health. Two of the positive tests came from outside facilities, the update says.

As of this past Monday, there were 20 active cases on the reservation, according to the update. In addition, 13 individuals were close-contacts receiving daily monitoring.

As of Monday of this week, the Health and Wellness center had conducted a total of 17,193 tests since the pandemic began, the recent update says.

This testing brought results of 1,143 total positive cases since the outbreak, among the tribal community. An additional 167 positive tests have come from outside facilities, for a total of 1,310 total cases among the tribal community since testing began in 2020. The latest update reminds the membership:

Vaccines are saving lives and keeping people out of the hospital. Vaccinations are the primary means of addressing the pandemic.

As of earlier this week, the Health and Wellness Center had given 3,063 primary doses of the covid vaccine among the tribal community.

Health and Wellness has provided another 2,580 second doses; and 764 booster shots.

Regarding New Years and any other planned gatherings: Please consider keeping family and friends safe by continuing to take covid precautions. This includes wearing a face mask and maintaining distance from others. Limit gatherings to your immediate household.

If you have not been vaccinated, the advice is to do so, for your safety and for that of others around you. Make sure to schedule your booster, and if you have a child 5 or older, he or she too can now be vaccinated. Call 541-553-2131 for information.

Appeals court back in session

The Tribal Council and management have re-established the Tribal Appeals Court. The panel of judges hears appeals from decisions of the Tribal Court. The Appeals Court has been out of session since 2019. Council appointed the appeals judges from among legal professionals from a variety of legal backgrounds.

They sit as a panel of three judges to hear the appeals. For the time being, the panel may conduct the appeals hearings and arguments virtually, because of the covid situation, said Councilman Glendon Smith, Secretary-Treasurer.

With the new Appeals Court again in session, there are pending appeals that can now be heard, Councilman Smith said.

Spring will see Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council

The tribal membership will elect a new Tribal Council during the first half of 2022. This will be the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes. The current Council as soon as January will discuss the 2022 election process, said Councilman and Secretary-Treasurer Glendon Smith.

The tribes have been conducting Council elections once every three years since 1938, under the terms of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution defines the powers of the Tribal Council, the length of terms, qualifications, etc.

Regarding the process the tribes use to conduct an election, the Constitution refers to the 'prevailing customs' of the

tribes.

While the membership during the past 84 years has chosen twenty-eight Tribal Councils, the tribes have never had to conduct a Council election during a pandemic: The Great Influenza pandemic, or Spanish flu, happened in 1918-19, twenty years before the first Council election, held under the 1938 Constitution.

Looking forward, the 2022 Tribal Council election itself could seemingly happen in a relatively safe manner, as individuals can follow the tribes' covid safety protocol—masking, distancing, etc.—while submitting a ballot.

A more immediate and potentially more complicated process would be the district nominations: The 'prevailing custom' to this point has been district nominating meetings at the Agency and

Simnasho longhouses, and the Seekseequa Fire Hall.

The virus makes the prevailing customary use of the longhouses and fire hall potentially dangerous, as people of all ages—from young people to the most vulnerable elders—gather together indoors for the nominations.

The current Tribal Council with input from the membership and Covid Response Team will determine the process for the nominations. And all of this will happen around the two-year anniversary of the pandemic outbreak: The virus arrived on the reservation in the spring of 2020.

Since that time many people of the tribal community have received their covid vaccines, and a good number have now received the booster. Still, these precautions only go so far, as break-through

cases happen on occasion.

The 2022 nomination and election process will be another important decision for the current Tribal Council, which has seen the tribes through some of the more trying times in recent memory. As examples:

Shortly after the Twenty-Eighth Council took office in early May of 2019, the Agency water system failed, making running domestic potable water unavailable to many residents for several months. Then less than a year into the term, the virus arrived, followed in the summer of 2020 by another extended water crisis.

While these events would not compare with the Celilo inundation disaster of the 1950s, for instance, the present-day and ongoing challenges have been and are very large.

— Dave McMechan

The Museum at Warm Springs Tribal Member Art Show will be on display for a little more than a week longer, through January 8, 2022. The Member Show will then be followed by the Youth Art Show. Stop by the museum 9 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, masks and distancing required.



Member Art Show works on display until January 8: beaded vest with elk (left); beaded vest with salmon and teepees; both by Angela Sampson, Xwt-Xwt.

Coming up in January 2022 at Tribal Council

The following are some of the items coming up on the Tribal Council agenda for January 2022 (subject to change at Council discretion):

Monday, January 3

9 a.m.: Bureau of Indian Affairs update with Brenda Bremner, superintendent.

9:30: Bureau of Trust Funds Administration update with Kevin Moore.

10: Realty items with James Halliday.

10:30: Indian Health Service update with Hyllis Dauphinais, clinic chief executive officer.

11: Covid update with the Response Team.

1:30 p.m.: Legislative update calls, state and federal.

2:30: Tribal attorneys updates.

Tuesday, January 4

9 a.m.: Appeals Court Judges meet and greet.

10: Q-Life Network discussion with Matthew Klebes.

11: Bluestone discussion with John Mooers.

1:30 p.m.: Water treatment plant discussion with Chico Holliday, Barry Buchanan and tribal attorney.

2:30: Chief Judge discussion.

Wednesday, January 5

9 a.m.: Akana update with Said Amali.

10: Willamette Falls Trust update with Gerard Rodriguez.

11: Heating, Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) update with Chico.

Monday, January 10 - Enterprise updates

9 a.m.: Indian Head Casino and Plateau Travel Plaza discussion with Jeffrey Carstensen.

10: Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprise update with Jim Manion.

10:30: Composite Products update with Jake Coochise.

11: Covid update with the Response Team.

11:30: Telecom discussion with Tim York.

1:30 p.m.: Credit update with Lori Fuentes.

2: Ventures discussion with Jim Souers.

3: Warm Springs Housing Authority update with Danielle Wood.

3:30: Timber LLC discussion.

Tuesday, January 11 - Enterprise and Committee reports

9 a.m.: Museum at Warm Springs update with Elizabeth Woody.

10: High Lookie Lodge discussion.

11: Fish and Wildlife Committee Off-Reservation update.

1:30 p.m.: Fish and Wildlife Committee On-Reservation update.

2:30: Culture and Heritage Committee update.

3:30: Education Committee update.

Wednesday, January 12 - Committee reports

9 a.m.: Timber Committee.

10: Health and Welfare Committee.

11: Land Use Planning Committee.

1:30 p.m.: Range and Agriculture Committee.

2:30: Water Board update.

Monday, January 17

9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer update with Glendon Smith, Secretary-Treasurer—Chief Executive Officer.

9:30: February agenda and review minutes with the S-T.

10: Draft resolutions with the S-T.

11: Covid update with the Response Team.

1:30: Legislative updates, federal and state.

2:30: Enrollments with Lucille Suppach-Samson, Vital Stats.

3: Human Resources update with acting director Carol Funk.

3:30: Administrative Services update with the S-T.

4: Health and Human Services update with Caroline Cruz.

Tuesday, January 18

9 a.m.: Governmental Affairs update with Louie Pitt.

9:30: Managed Care update with Mike Collins.

10: Administrative Services update with the S-T.

10:30: Procurement update with Libby Chase.

11: Tribal Court update with Lisa Lomas.

1:30 p.m.: Public Safety update with acting general manager Nancy Seyler.

2:30: Natural Resources update with Robert Brunoe.

3:30: Finance update with Isaac George.

Wednesday, January 19

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

10: Public Utilities update with Chico Holliday.

Tuesday, January 25

9 a.m.: Akana update with Said Amali.

Monday—Thursday, January 24-27: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians convention, virtual.

Items for further consideration: November-December financials. Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission January meeting.



NEW YEAR'S DAY SLOT TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st | 5PM

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