

Water system upgrades slated for tribes

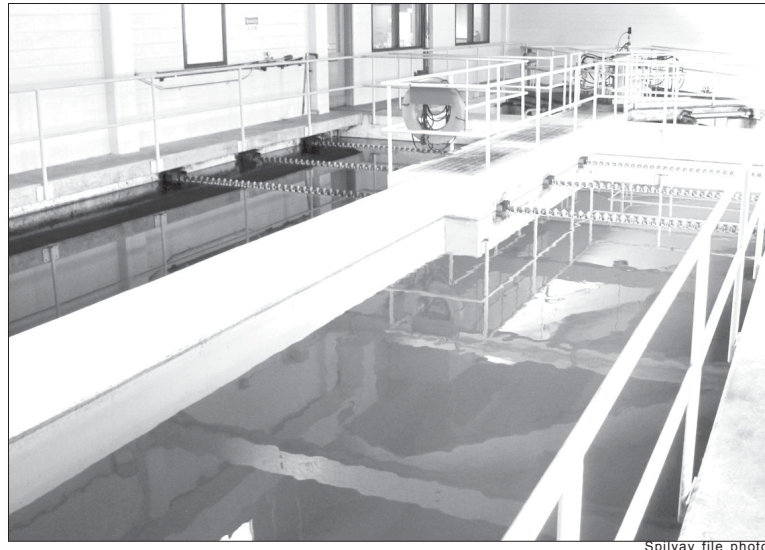
The massive infrastructure bill signed in late November promises to bring change to Native American tribes that lack clean water or indoor plumbing, through the largest single infusion of money into Indian Country.

The law includes \$3.5 billion for the federal Indian Health Service, which provides health care to more than 2 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The legislation also delivers money for water projects through other federal agencies.

Tribal leaders say the funding is welcome yet won't make up for decades of neglect from the U.S. government.

A list of sanitation deficiencies includes more than 1,500 tribal projects, from septic systems to



Inside the Warm Springs water treatment plant, slated for upgrades and eventual replacement.

pipelines.

A number of these—from the water treatment plant to the deliv-

ery pipes, and the wastewater system as well—are on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Great option for tribal community pets

Thank you is only a sliver of our gratitude for the families of Warm Springs for the trust placed in Fences For Fido to serve as a resource for their pets.

Today we celebrate our Warm Springs Fences For Fido partners, Street Dog Hero and Humane Society of Central Oregon for their free veterinary services at the December spay-neuter event.

We provided vaccines to nearly 20 Fences For Fido Warm Springs dogs and cats from the reserva-

tion.

It was such an impactful day for families and their pets! This helped make healthier and safer dogs and cats, while helping to reduce the free roaming dog and cat populations.

All dogs and cats were transported by volunteers to Bend for their surgeries and veterinary exams, then returned home later that night.

We continue to provide a free Warm Springs Pet Food Bank ev-

ery second Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Register at: fencesforfido.org

Gratefully, we have permission from the Tribal Council to continue to hold spay and neuter and vaccine clinics on the reservation. We are continuing to search for a building for the clinics on the reservation so stay tuned for updates!

Kelly Peterson, chair and co-founder, outreach coordinator, Fences for Fido.



Fences for Fido reservation dog transport; and the spay-neuter operation.

Jobs recovery for region

Unemployment continued to fall across Central Oregon in late fall and early winter.

Rates on average were only 1.5 points or less off their historic low levels before the pandemic.

The improvement to the unemployment rate is due to rapid hiring across the non-farm sectors.

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.6 percent in November, down from 5.8 percent in October.

The unemployment rate for the county—including Warm Springs and most of the reservation—is fast approaching levels of February 2020, when it was 4.1 percent.

Jefferson County is nearing an employment recovery from the pandemic shock with employment in late November-early December only down by 0.6 percent, or 40 jobs, from levels in November 2019.

Job gains in the county over the past year were concentrated in local government (plus 120 jobs); manufacturing (plus 60 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (plus 30 jobs).

There were notable job losses in private education and

health services, shedding 50 jobs from November 2020, and professional and business services, down 40 jobs from the same time last year.

Deschutes County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped significantly in November to 4.6 from 4.9 in October.

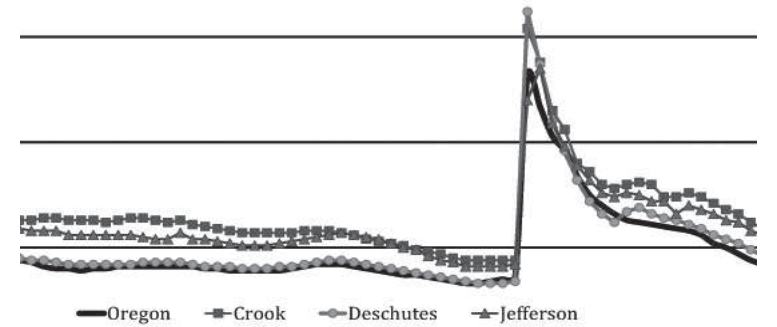
The unemployment rate remains higher than before the first impacts from Covid-19 in February 2020, when it was at a record low of 3.3 percent; however, levels of unemployment are well below the 10-year average of 6.9 percent.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that Deschutes County posted very strong hiring in November:

The county added 160 jobs in November at a time when a loss of 300 would be more typical based on normal seasonal patterns.

Employment levels in November 2021 exceeded November 2019 levels.

Crook County: The unemployment rate dropped significantly to 5.9 percent in November, down from 6.2 percent in October.



KWSO now features phone app

The KWSO app is now available for phone and mobile devices. The app makes it easy for you to listen to KWSO on your

phone, and features the daily community calendar and local news plus more connections to news, events and lan-



guage lessons.

Find links to download the app to your device at the top of our website, kwsu.org

Plaza space available

The Plaza at Warm Springs has a suite available on January 1, 2022.

The location is on Highway 26 next to Indian Head Casino.

The suite is approximately 525 square feet.

If you're interested, please email your business plan to: Sandra.Danzuka@wstribe.org Or call 541-553-3565 if you have any questions.

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