

## New highway signs on the way for museum

A generous \$25,000 gift from Visit Central Oregon will provide the Museum at Warm Springs with new signs on Highway 26.

The signs will feature the museum's new logo, and will help draw attention to east and west bound travelers, encouraging them to visit the museum.

"We are thrilled about this gift from Visit Central Oregon," said



Parking entrance signage at the museum.

Elizabeth Woody, museum executive director. "This will enable us to step up our marketing efforts and bring more visitors to the museum. Look for the new signs soon!"

Julia Theisen of Visit Central Oregon says: "Central Oregon is fortunate to be the home of such rich cultural heritage, including the Museum at Warm Springs. We ap-

preciate this opportunity to support the museum's new signage, designed to enhance their visibility to the countless vehicles that pass by their location on a daily basis.

"The signage will create an opportunity for more visitors to experience the museum as they travel to and from Central Oregon."

## IHS Portland area posts low covid rate for Indian Country

The Indian Health Service Portland Area saw one of the lowest Covid-19 rates among the 12 IHS areas across Indian Country. The Tucson Area and Alaska Area were lower than the Portland Area, though Portland was quite a bit lower than most other areas, and lower than the overall average.

The national headquarters recently released its latest Covid-19 numbers for Indian Country, reflecting cases, vaccine and testing as of mid-late December.

According to the latest data: 300,328 IHS covid tests across Indian Country have returned positive for the virus, since the pandemic began in March of 2020.

The number was an increase of 0.6 percent from the previous update just two days before.

The release of the data on December 21 marked the first time cases within the IHS surpassed the 300,000 mark.

Altogether, IHS has administered 3,536,808 coronavirus tests across Indian Country for its client base.

Since mid-October of 2020, the IHS has been providing additional cumulative information about the spread of the coronavirus within the system.

Based on the cumulative percent positive, the highest rates have been seen in five areas. Two of them include the state of Arizona, indicating a disproportionate toll of Covid-19 in the state: The positivity numbers are as follows:

Navajo Area, 13.9 percent. Phoenix Area, 12.9 percent. Oklahoma City Area, 12. California

Area, 10.1 percent. Albuquerque Area, 9.7.

In addition: The seven-day rolling average positivity column offers a more contemporary look at the impact of the coronavirus. The data shows where covid cases in Indian Country have been increasing recently.

Based on the seven-day rolling average positivity, six out of 12 IHS areas are seeing high covid rates, marking yet another instance of surges across every region of Indian Country. The high areas are:

The IHS Phoenix Area, 12.8 percent. Nashville Area, 12.3 percent. Navajo Area, 11.7. Albuquerque Area, 10. The Oklahoma City Area, 9.5 percent. Bemidji Area, 9.5 percent.

Among the lower areas was Portland at 6.9 percent.

Notably, with the release of data from mid-late December, the Alaska Area finally fell below 5 percent positivity for the first time in several months.

The region had earlier seen a notable increase in cases, with the highest seven-day positivity of 11.3 percent reported.

Throughout most of the pandemic, the Alaska Area had seen the lowest rate of covid cases within the IHS.

Overall, 9 percent of IHS tests have been positive since the onset of the pandemic, the data shows.

Meanwhile, the seven-day average has fallen to 8.0 percent following a long period of high rates since the summer of 2021.

## December Gift Giveaway



Outside the Family Resource Center, Warm Springs Police officers help with the Health and Human Services December gift giveaway, held again this year as a drive-by event for covid safety. The team also delivered Christmas bags to elders, and Emergency Preparedness helped distribute the holiday food boxes.

## Community notes...

The **Oregon Ducks** football team is in San Antonio for the Alamo Bowl this Wednesday evening, December 20. The Ducks play the Oklahoma Sooners. Game time is 6:15 Pacific Time, and will be on ESPN.

For anyone who was out of town for the **holiday**, or who attended a large gathering where you may have been exposed to active covid; or if you have covid symptoms: You should get tested today at the Orange Tent at the Health and Wellness Center. And for information on vaccines, call 541-553-2131.

Most Oregonians who receive **SNAP**—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—benefits

will continue to receive increased emergency food benefits in January. Approximately 382,000 SNAP households will receive approximately \$61 million in extra food benefits in addition to their regular SNAP benefits. Find resources to meet your basic needs: Dial 2-1-1, or text your zip code to 898-211, or see [www.211info.org](http://www.211info.org)

The Branch of Natural Resources reminds tribal members about recently installed multiple **seasonal gates** on main roads in the Lionshead fire area. The seasonal gates will be closed December through March each year. This seasonal closure helps reduce the impacts to road systems in the winter months and secure wintering big game within the closure area.

## Shuttle transport service for veterans

Veterans Services offers a weekly free transport, available on Wednesdays. The transport is from Warm Springs to Madras, and from Madras to Redmond and Bend.

The service is intended to help veterans travel across Central Oregon for shopping and special events. The program offers four to six-hour trips. Veterans Services transport will stop at Walmart, Costco, and allow additions with prior approval. They are using community centers for pick-up and return sites. Operation will be Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The shuttle follows strict Covid-19 and masking guidelines, as well as requiring Veterans ID. You can contact 541-408-4147 for more information or comments. Donations are accepted for fuel and maintenance.

## Region seeing an influx of winter robins

Central Oregon is seeing an increase in the number of robins, as thousands of the birds are flocking to the region.

Robins are migratory, and the number in the region usually increases during the winter months.

This winter, though, Central Oregon is seeing a 'bird Irruption,' the term for a sudden and significant increase in a particular bird population. Bird experts are not sure why this is happening, though it could be related to the wildfires that have burned in the West during recent summers.



## Summaries of Tribal Council

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**December 6, 2021**

Motion by Anita adopting Resolution No. 12,889, that an amount not to exceed \$650,000 is hereby authorized for expenditure from the Scholarship Fund for the calendar year 2022. Second by Joe. Discussion. Anita/yes, Glendon/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Wilson/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

- Indian Health Services update with Hyllis Dauphinais, Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center.

- Covid update Hyllis.
- Federal and state legislative update calls.
- Tribal attorneys update.

Due to loss of internet connectivity the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**December 14, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr. Roll call: Glendon Smith, Lincoln Jay Suppah, Anita Jackson, Vice Chair Brigitte McConville, Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Chief Delvis Heath. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

- Columbia River Housing Workshop with tribal attorney John Ogan.
- Attorney contract review with

Josh Newton and Howie Arnett:

Motion by Captain adopting Resolution No. 12,891, that Tribal Council hereby consents to the assignment of the currently effective Attorneys' Contract between the Confederated Tribes and the law firm of Karnopp Petersen LLP approved by Tribal Council Resolution 12,7903 to the law firm Best and Krieger LLP, and authorizes the Chairman, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer (each an "Authorized Representative") to execute any documents or take any further actions to effectuate the same, as amended. Second by Anita. Discussion. Glendon/yes, Jay/yes, Brigitte/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/yes, Captain/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

- Blue Stone discussion.

Motion by Brigitte to reinstate Blue Stone. Blue Stone will make adjustments to their budget, then come back: Motion rescinded.

- January agenda discussion.

Motion by Brigitte approving the January 2022 meeting agenda. Second by Jay. Discussion. Glendon/yes, Jay/yes, Brigitte/yes, Delvis/yes, Anita/yes, Captain/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Motion by Brigitte to adjourn at 12:20 p.m.

## Secretary Haaland highlights infrastructure investments across Indian Country

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland visited South Dakota in December, where she highlighted federal government commitments to strengthening tribal communities, protecting public lands, and investing in infrastructure.

In Rapid City, Secretary Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland met with tribal leaders of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

During the meeting, Haaland, a member of the Pueblo Laguna Tribe, discussed Interior's progress for Indian Country, and commitment to honoring the agency's trust and treaty obligations.

She also highlighted how the Infrastructure Law makes historic investments in tribal communities, including a \$466 million investment in tribal infrastructure projects and climate resiliency initiatives.

Some of this funding is planned for investment in the domestic water system on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The Interior Department leaders also met with local Indigenous youth participating in the 2021 Lakota National Invitational.

"As the effects of climate change continue to intensify, indigenous communities are facing unique challenges that pose existential



Secretary Deb Haaland

threats to tribal economies, infrastructure, livelihoods and health," Haaland said.

"With new resources to invest in tribal communities, we are committed to ensuring that tribal leaders have a seat at the table and can work directly with federal officials to safeguard their communities."

Haaland also visited Wind Cave National Park, where she heard about investments the park is making to improve its infrastructure and enhance visitors' experience. The infrastructure law provides for a five-year reauthorization of the Federal Lands Transportation Program, which will help invest in re-

pairing and upgrading National Park Service roads, bridges, trails and transit systems.

The law also invests in projects that will help fund bridge replacements and resiliency, repair ferry boats and terminal facilities, and maintain wildlife crossings that keep people and surrounding wildlife safe.

"The infrastructure law makes historic investments in bolstering community resiliency, protecting natural areas, and strengthening our response to the effects of climate change," said Secretary Haaland.

"This is the largest investment in physical and natural systems in American history, and a much-needed down payment to ensure our grandchildren and great-grandchildren get to enjoy the same outdoor experiences we all have today."

Secretary Haaland also toured the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and met with local landowners who are participants in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program offers financial and technical assistance to interested landowners, helping to keep working lands in working hands.