

Letters to the editor

Free home Covid testing

Earlier this month the federal government released guidance clarifying the expanded coverage for at-home, over-the-counter Covid-19 tests.

The new guidance applies to health plans, including all self-funded plans, and is intended to remove obstacles allowing individuals greater access to Covid-19 tests.

The expanded guidance will be in effect during the public health emergency. The key provisions to individual access are as follows:

The tests must be covered by health plans without the involvement of a healthcare provider, an order or individualized clinical assessment, for those over-the-counter tests for which the FDA does not require a health care provider's order.

The tests must be covered without imposing any cost-sharing requirements.

Order online

The federal government has launched a new website where you can order free at-home rapid antigen tests, to be delivered to your home by the U.S. Postal Service. See the site: covidtests.gov/

Current supply limits orders to four tests per residential address. It will take at least a week after an order is placed for tests to be shipped for free first-class mail. See the site also: special.usps.com/testkits

the administration's all-of-government approach to strengthening Indian Country. As we work to tackle public safety and criminal justice issues impacting Indigenous people or the implementation of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I'm proud to bring tribal leaders and government officials together to further invest in our trust relationship.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests more than \$13 billion directly in tribal communities across the country to bolster community resilience, replace aging infrastructure, expand access to clean drinking water and help ensure everyone has access to high-speed internet.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are set to receive drinking water infrastructure funding through the law.

The session will also focus on the executive order on Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. For more information, visit the White House Council on Native American Affairs website.

Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior.

A wish...

Happy Birthday, Emma Fish! Love You, Donna and Bubba.

Tribal discussion on infrastructure

The U.S. Department of the Interior today announced the White House Council on Native American Affairs will convene an engagement session on January 31 with tribal leaders focused on the implementation of the Infrastructure Law, and public safety resources across Indian Country. The session will be led by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, who serves as co-chair of the Native American Affairs Council.

During the virtual session, tribal leaders will share their guidance, recommendations and perspectives on the committees' all-of-government efforts. The meeting will follow nation-to-nation consultations on the Infrastructure Law to be held earlier that same week.

The White House Council on Native American Affairs is an important tool in

Warm Springs Pet Food Bank

The Warm Springs Pet Food Bank has been providing for about 200 families in Warm Springs each month.

We are currently working on increasing their capacity to serve more families, and also currently can only distribute to those families who are already signed up.

Once we are able to take more families we will be sure to let you know, and we can have more families sign up. We are also working on another spay and neuter clinic for this spring.

Meanwhile, coming up this Sunday, January 30 at 9 a.m.: Let's Build a Fence for Newbe and Jumbo.

Patti Lovernic, president board of directors, Fences for Fido, Warm Springs Pet Food Bank.

Winning logo design for Bureau of Indian Education

Kayla Jackson of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and graduate of the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, created the new logo for the Bureau of Indian Education. This is the first logo for the BIE since becoming a bureau in 2006.

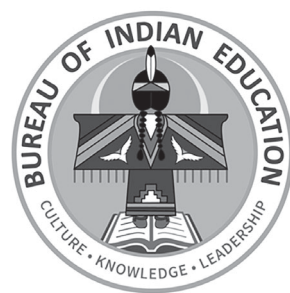
Jackson submitted her design as part of a BIE-wide competition, inviting students to lead in the creation of the new logo. "This design captures culture, knowledge, and leadership," Ms. Jackson said, further explain the details:

Image meanings

The open book represents lifelong learning. The Indigenous student is wearing a fancy shawl regalia including moccasins, ribbon skirt, shawl, yoke, beaded headband, and eagle feather with hair long and braids.

The student embodies the spirit of ancestors by dancing with honor, and carrying out prayers with every step.

The eagles emblazoned on the shawl represent acknowledgement,



strength, and determination. Finally, in the background, there is the sun which gives us growth, abundance and hope."

The four lines on the book represent the four directions, the four seasons, the four stages of life and four sacred plants.

The logo represents the ongoing commitment of the BIE to its mission as it provides educational services to its students and Tribal communities.

The logo will be used on all official bureau correspondence, as well as publications, website, social media and communication materials.

Established in 2006, the Bureau of Indian Education currently supports 183 bureau-funded elementary and secondary schools located on 64 reservations in 23 states that serve approximately 46,000 Indian students. Of these, 53 are BIE-



Kayla Jackson designed the first-ever BIE logo.

operated and 130 are tribally controlled through BIE contracts or grants.

Additionally, the BIE directly operates two post-secondary institutions: Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"The bureau is working to lay the foundation for the

next generation of Native children to succeed," said Bryan Newland, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs.

"I'm proud the BIE will have an official logo, as we carry out our mission moving forward. And I'm even more proud that it was designed by a BIE student—Ms. Kayla Jackson."

A thank you for Name Giving



I would like to thank everyone that showed up to help during our Name Giving in November. In these unique pictures are Gary III, Kysen and myself. Again, Thank you all! And all my best for 2022! Valerie Squiempfen.



Courtesy photos

Latest data: Vaccines, boosters are key to health

Health officials released the latest complete data highlighting the role of covid vaccines and boosters in preventing severe illness.

The numbers for last month show the risk of hospitalization in unvaccinated people as compared to people who had received an initial series of a Covid-

19 vaccine was:

- Nine times higher in people ages 12-17.
- Twelve times higher in people ages 18-49.
- Seventeen times higher in people ages 50-64.
- And 17 times higher in people ages 65 and over.

For the same time period, the risk of hospital-

ization in unvaccinated people as compared to those who had received a primary series plus a booster dose was:

- Forty-four times higher in people ages 50-64.
- And 49 times higher in people ages 65 and over.

The data are clear: vaccines and boosters protect

people from severe covid illness. The data come from the Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network, which includes more than 250 hospitals in 14 states, including Oregon.

If you're looking for a Covid-19 vaccine or booster, call the clinic at 541-553-2131.

Community notes...

The Warm Springs Community Action Team is offering Tax

Aide again this year. You can schedule an appointment for February by calling 541-553-3148.

The service will be drop-off and pick-up, so you will

need to gather everything needed for your income taxes and then drop it off on your appointment date.

All Community Well-

ness fitness classes, basketball practice, personal training, youth activities and senior fitness classes are on hold until further notice.

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