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Community input needed on new tribal jail site

The Confederated Tribes are in the process of choosing a site for the new Warm Springs Jail. The tribes are asking the community for input on a preferred site, to be reviewed and endorsed by Tribal Council.

When a preferred site is chosen, the decision will be reviewed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Facilities Management and Construction, an office of the Department of the Interior, the funding entity.

Tribal Land Services has developed a list of 14 potential sites, though perhaps four or five of the 14 may not be feasible from the perspective of infrastructure, and therefore budgeting, said Chico

Holliday, general manager of tribal Utilities.

Still, there are a number of options for the proposed jail site. Public Safety, Utilities, Land Planning and Land Services have developed the preliminary list of potential sites. Based on community input, the list will be narrowed to a preferred location, and two alternatives. Tribal Council will then make a final decision, forwarding to BIA.

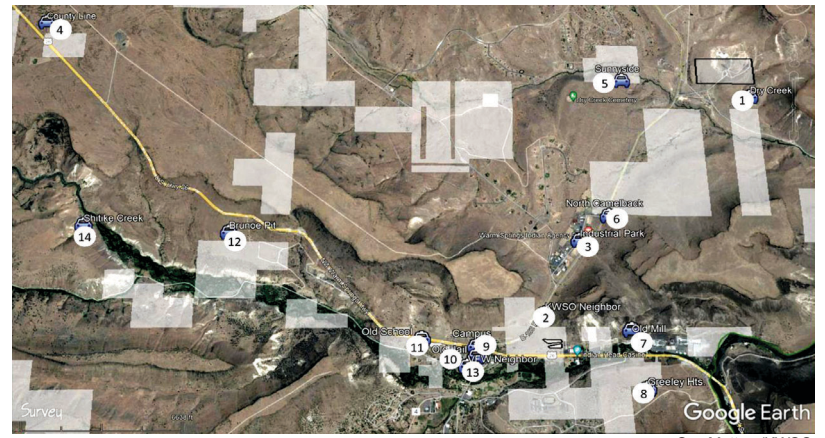
The jail will have a bed capacity of 60, requiring about five acres of land. The facility will be only for jail detention. The Police Department, Dispatch, Tribal Court and their offices will remain at the current locations.

The federal funding is available

for a jail, based on a needs and deficiencies assessment of the former jail, conducted last year and the year before by Warm Springs Corrections Lieutenant Crystal Greene.

A number of factors go into the final decision as to the best location. The infrastructure—roads, water, sewer, etc.—are a large factor. A cultural inventory of the site will weigh in the decision, as will the ownership—allotment or tribal ownership. Some proximity to the police station and courthouse are another factor.

The team working on siting includes leaders at Public Safety, Utilities, Land Services and Land-Use and Tribal Council.



Map summary of the proposed sites, as catalogued by tribal Land Services. You can see more details at kwso.org and wsnews.org; and at the Land Services jail site display board.

Chico Holliday at Utilities, and Nancy Seyler, Public Safety interim general manager, have both men-

tioned the Dry Creek site as a potential preferred location.

See **JAIL SITE** on page 5

Community update

The incidence of Covid-19 among the tribal community has decreased over the past few weeks, as has happened across the state and country overall.

An Warm Springs IHS-Community Health report last week showed there were 37 active cases of covid among the tribal community. For perspective on the trend: A covid report in mid January showed more than 140 active cases.

Last week, there were 15 close contacts receiving the daily monitoring. The tribal covid protocol remains in place (see page 5 of this publication).

While the numbers are looking much better, the covid risk is still there: Last week, six people from the tribal community were hospitalized with the virus.

Statewide last week, the Oregon Health Authority reported a decrease of 16 percent in the incidence of covid, compared with the week before.

Across the state last week, there were 794 covid-related hospitalizations, a decrease of 18 percent.

Tribal health officials encourage the community to please continue to take Covid-19 precautions, including the face mask and distancing in public tribal buildings.

For a vaccine appointment, call the Health and Wellness Center during business hours to schedule a day and time, 541-553-2131.

Meanwhile, the Warm Springs Clinic announced new covid outdoor testing hours. The hours are as follows:

This Wednesday, February 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, February 25 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Monday, February 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 2 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Friday, March 4 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Home testing kits are available at Emergency Management, 1160 Wasco Street (the former elementary school).

Please call when you arrive 541-777-2803.

To limit entry into the building, car side delivery is available.

Dean Seyler retiring as IHS Portland Area director

Dean Seyler has many years of service to Indian tribes and Native Americans of the West, and especially here at home with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Mr. Seyler has been serving as the director of the Portland Area of the Indian Health Service. This week Mr. Seyler announces his retirement, following his 27 years with IHS.

Along with his time with the Indian Health Service, Mr. Seyler worked two years with the BIA; and as a young man he worked 15 years for the Confederated Tribes.

Dean began working at the age of 14 as a busboy at the Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge. At the age of 19, he became a police officer, eventually joining the Warm Springs Police Department for three years. He transitioned to fire medic for Warm Springs Fire and Safety, where he stayed for 10 years—six years as a fire medic and four as Fire Chief.

During his time working for Fire and Safety, Dean saved at least a dozen lives, fought multiple fires, all while enhancing department revenue from \$30,000 to \$300,000 by his last year.

In 1992, Dean transitioned to the position of Occupational



Dean Seyler

Safety and Health Manager for the BIA Aberdeen Area, now the Great Plains Area.

During his two years of BIA service, he identified several OSHA related violations that assisted the Area in obtaining the highest level of funds to address issues in the Area's history, assuring that the buildings were safe for occupation.

Dean and his family then returned home to Warm Springs to help care for his mother Aradonna's healthcare needs.

In 1995, Dean accepted a position at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center as the Deputy Service Unit Director. In his tenure, he developed the clinic's first urgent care model that hired providers to see same-day appointments only, allowing established providers to focus on scheduled patients and general, non-urgent

needs.

In 2000, Dean transitioned to the job of Administrative Officer of the Whiteriver Indian Health Hospital in Arizona. Shortly after he started his new position, he was asked to serve as Acting Chief Executive Officer for two years, and then was selected as the permanent Chief Operations Officer for another two years.

During that time, Dean acquired a CT Scanner, the first in hospital history; and when he left, the total revenue of the hospital was \$25 million. Dean was also asked to serve as the Phoenix Area Acting Director of Field Operations for that Area's IHS, where he supervised 11 chief executive officers.

Near the end of his time as CEO at Whiteriver IHS, Dean felt it was time to return home to Oregon and pursue his goal of becoming the Portland Area Director. In 2006, Dean accepted the position of Public Health Emergency Manager at the Portland Area IHS.

Soon thereafter he accepted the Executive Officer position, setting him up to become the Acting Portland Area Director in 2010. At the end of 2010, Dean was selected by the director of the IHS and Portland Area tribes to become the Portland Area Director, a senior executive service position.

For the past 12 years, Dean has served proudly as the director. He has amassed many accomplishments including:

Establishing the use of a quality improvement model that is now standard across the Agency; and a shovel-ready, 10-year in the making business plan to set up three regional referral centers staffed with specialists of all kinds. This is now close to funding;

He oversaw the creation of the first in the Agency patient experience program, designed to enhance the quality of healthcare to all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Dean would like to thank his wife Jeannie for her ongoing love, commitment and unwavering support, his two sons, Kevin and Dustin, for their love and encouragement, and his late parents, Cecil and Aradonna, for teaching him the true value of work and steadfast love.

Lastly, Dean would like to encourage all young Natives to "Keep your head up, establish a goal, never let anyone distract you, and accomplish all you can. Lastly, in the immortal words of Spock, 'Live long and prosper.'"

Family and friends invite all to wish Dean Seyler the best in this next adventure in life.

School mask mandate projected to end March 31

The Oregon Health Authority announced that the statewide indoor mask mandate for schools will end on March 31.

This will apply to all schools of the Jefferson County District 509-J; the decision regarding the mask mandate at the Warm Springs Academy will be determined by Tribal Council, the Response Team and health advisors.

During the first half of this month, Oregon saw a decline in positive Covid-19 cases of more

than 40 percent. Experts are predicting that decline will continue in the weeks to come.

The school district will be in communication with local health authorities in the district communities about the next steps.

"We are grateful for these strong partnerships and their expertise, and look forward to working with them as we take another step into local decision making," said district superintendent Jay Mathis.

"On April 1, we will no longer require masks in indoor spaces. The

requirement will instead become a recommendation," Mr. Mathisen said.

This does not apply when on a school bus. Masks are required on public transportation, which includes school buses, until lifted by the federal government. This cannot be waived by state or local authorities.

In partnership with Warm Springs, the school district has deferred to Tribal Council and the Covid-19 Response Team for protocol to protect individuals against

Covid-19 throughout the pandemic on tribal lands. "We will continue to partner with those leaders going forward, as we make decisions about the Warm Springs Academy," Mathisen said.

Other health and safety protocols and practices will likely remain in place as directed by the state.

"In the meantime, we appreciate your patience as we follow state mandates requiring masks in schools until they are lifted," Mathisen said.



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