

Coming up on Tribal Council agenda

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

- Friday, March 11**
10-11 a.m.: Weekly check-in with Blue Stone group.
- Monday, March 14**
9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer update with Glendon Smith.
9:30: April agenda, review minutes.
10: Legislative update conference calls, federal and state.
11: Covid update with the Response Team.
1:30 p.m.: Enrollments with Lucille Suppach-Samson of Vital Stats.
2:30 p.m. Cannabis Commission update with Ronald Roome.
3: Development update with Bruce Irwin.
3:30: Tribal Employment Rights

- Office update with the TERO Commission.
- Tuesday, March 15**
9 a.m.: Human Resources update with acting director Carol Funk.
9:30: Finance update with Isaac George.
10: Governmental Affairs update with with the S-T.
10:30: Managed Care update with Michael Collins.
11: Administrative Services update with the S-T.
1:30 p.m.: Procurement update with Libby Chase.
2: Tribal Court update with Gayleen and Eliah.
2:30 pm Public Safety update with acting general manager Nancy Seyler.
3:30: Natural Resources update branch general manager Robert Brunoe.

- Wednesday, March 16**
9 a.m.: Health and Human Services update with general manager Caroline Cruz.
9:30: Education update with Val Switzler, branch general manager.
10: Public Utilities update with general manager Chico Holliday.
1:30 p.m.: Tribal Employment Rights update with Wendell Jim.
2: Gaming Commission/Surveillance update with Josephine Johnson.
2:30: Administrative Service Center update with Doris Miller.
- Friday, March 18**
10-11 a.m.: Weekly check-in with Blue Stone.
- Monday, March 21**
9 a.m.: Credit Enterprise update with Lori Fuentes.
10: REDW accounting firm discussion with Tom Friend.

- 11: Blue Stone/AKANA update.
1:30 p.m.: Water Treatment Plant update.
2:30: Covid-19 update with the Response Team.
- Tuesday-Wednesday, March 22 and 23:** Open agendas.
- Friday, March 25
10-11 a.m.: Weekly check-in with Blue Stone.
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 28-30:** Open agendas.

Note: All draft resolutions ordinances, including any attachments or exhibits, are due by the first Friday of each month by 5 p.m. Email for review (Word form).
Copy to gsmith@wstribes.org

Good jobs numbers continue for region

So far this year, employment levels in the region including the reservation have continued to improve, though not as quickly as happened during the first part of 2021. For Jefferson County, including Warm Springs, the unemployment rate for the first part of this year fell to 5.1 percent, down from down from 5.3 percent at the end of last year. The unemployment rate is fast approaching levels of February 2020, pre-pandemic, when the county unemployment rate was 4.1 percent before the first impacts from Covid-19. Total nonfarm employment in Jefferson County fell by 20 jobs in January, slightly fewer losses than typically expected this time of year. Recent benchmarking revisions revealed that the recovery was slower than initially estimated in 2021, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

Employment levels in Jefferson County remain down 170 jobs from levels just before the onset of the pandemic in January 2020. Jefferson County added 170 jobs over the past year. Job gains were largely concentrated in tribal government, according to state Employment Department.

2022 Primary Election ballots mailing next month

Ballots are going out next month for the May 17 Primary Election. Regarding the vote, the Jefferson County Clerk's Office would like to share this important voting information: According to the state Vote by Mail Manual, misspellings or abbreviations of write-in names are disregarded by the Election Board if the board cannot determine who the vote is intended for. For example: A first initial is not sufficient to determine who the vote is intended for, but a common abbreviated version of the first name is allowed (such as Bob for Robert). In Jefferson County, there are 16,560 registered voters. The registration numbers by party are: Republican, 5,493. Democrat, 3,370. Independent, 825. Non-affiliated: 6,511. Other minor parties: 361.

There are presently, 1,443 registered voters in the Warm Springs area precinct. Here is a timeline for the upcoming Primary Election: April 1: Military and overseas ballots go out. April 8: Out of state ballots mailed. April 26: Last day to register to vote, change your political party or request and Independent ballot. April 27: Ballots mailed out. May 17: Ballots must be in an official drop box or received by the Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day, or postmarked by the U.S. Post Office to be counted. No postage is required on the mail-in ballots. If you have not received your ballot some days after April 27, you can call the clerk's office at 541-475-4451.

There will be a 24-hour drop site in Warm Springs, on Wasco Street by Fire and Safety. Other drop boxes are at the County Clerk's Office, the Metolius and Culver city halls, and at Crooked River Ranch. Public certification of the county's ballot tally machine will be on Tuesday, May 10 at 11 a.m. at the Jefferson County Annex conference room. The public is welcome. Remember to sign your return envelope. A ballot will not be counted unless the return envelope is signed and the signature matches the signature of the voter registration record. Some other information from the clerk's office: Voters who are registered as Democrat or Republican will receive a ballot that includes candidates for that specific party, along with nonpartisan contests. Voters

registered in any of the minor parties or as nonaffiliated—not a member of any political party—will receive a ballot for the Primary Election that includes only the non-partisan contests. Voters who change affiliation or register close to the mail-out date may receive two ballots: Only the ballot issued to that individual that reflects the most recent voter registration information will be counted.

State of Oregon covid, mandates update

Two years into the Covid-19 pandemic, Oregon lawmakers want a review of how the Oregon Health Authority handled it. As case counts are on the decline, and state mandates are set to be rolled back soon, some lawmakers think it's a good time for a thorough look back at how the agency did. They approved a \$900,000 study of the pandemic response. Republican Representative Cedric Hayden says one of the most im-

portant parts of the bill is the requirement for a third-party to lead the review. "We know in a lot of agencies, when they police themselves, we may not get an unbiased opinion," Rep. Hayden said. "That's why it's important that it comes out of their hands." An initial report would be due by this November, with a final evaluation by September, 2023. The bill passed both chambers and is on its way to the governor's desk.

The mask mandate will be lifted in Oregon beginning March 12. This does not apply to tribal and school buildings on the reservation. The Tribal Council and Response Team work together to set the tribal mask, vaccine and testing requirements for the tribal community. For a vaccine appointment, call the Health and Wellness Center during business hours to schedule a day and time. Call 541-553-2131.

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Community notes...

The **Young Life Club** meets Thursday afternoons from 4:15-5:15 in the Roots trailer next to the old Warm Springs Elementary School. The club is for youth in sixth- through twelfth grades. You can contact Earl Simmons at 541-815-0992 to learn more.

The Madras Aquatec Center is taking registrations for its **Spring Break Day Camp**. The camp is for youth ages 6 to 12, and will be Tuesday through Friday, March 22-25. Sign up for either the 7 a.m. to noon, or the 1-6 p.m. session. Register online at: macrecdistrict.com

Friday, March 11 is **Senior Breakfast** instead of Lunch for delivery or pick up at the Greeley Heights Community Building.

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