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March - Wiyalppt - Spring - Wawaxam

Powwow, feasts set to return

Tribal Council voted in March for Pi-Ume-Sha to return in June. The Council motion also includes provisions for the return of Fourth of July activities, and all feasts.

The action comes as the tribes have seen a sharp decline over recent weeks and months in the incidence of Covid-19 among the community.

Earlier this week, for instance, there were no known cases of covid on the reservation. Monitoring included the standard practice of checking wastewater for the presence of the virus.

The Covid-19 Response Team met with Tribal Council earlier this week regarding possible changes to the tribes covid protocols. At that time there were no changes made to the existing requirements including masking in tribal buildings, temperature checks, vaccinations for employees, etc.

The Response Team is set to return to Council on Monday, April 11 to continue the discussion. Listen to KWSO early next week for the latest on any potential changes.

All of this has been great news, said Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services, and member of the Response Team.

However, as has happened in the past with Covid-19, the emergence of variants can quickly become a matter of concern.

The first of these was the delta variant that last summer spread rapidly across Africa and Europe, then arriving in the U.S. including on the reservation. Then the omicron covid variant became the dominant strain in the U.S.

Now, the concern is the omicron variant called BA.2, believed to be the most contagious variant detected so far.

On a brighter note, BA.2 does not appear to cause more severe illness than the original omicron variant, called BA.1.

And BA.2 has not caused a widespread rise in hospitalizations in Europe, though researchers are still learning more about this latest variation.

Another important question in dealing with all of the variants, is whether the vaccinations are effective in preventing serious illness, were a person to come in contact with a variant.

At this point, studies show that people who are fully vaccinated and have gotten boosters have strong protection against hospitalization from both BA.1 and BA.2.

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

The tribes have a vaccine requirement for tribal employees, with exceptions for people who qualify under a religious or medical exemption.

Members choose Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council

The membership last week chose the new Tribal Council. There was an excellent voter turnout for all three districts, the Election Board reported.

The ballot counting process also went smoothly, with every single ballot cast included in the final tally, the board reported.

There will be five new members on the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council. Meanwhile, three incumbents of the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council won re-election to the tribes' policy decision-making body.

Lincoln Jay Suppah and Raymond 'Captain' Moody are retaining their seats for the Simnasho district, and Wilson Wewa Jr. retains his place for the



Scene at the polls, the morning of March 30, 2022.

Seekseequa District. The Agency District saw a change in all three of its elected positions. Here are the

results by district:
Agency District: James Manion, Alvis Smith III, and

Jonathan W. Smith.

Seekseequa District: Rosa Graybael and Wilson Wewa Jr.

Simnasho District: Carlos Calica, Raymond Moody and Lincoln Jay Suppah.

The elected members will join the three life-time members, Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, Simnasho District; Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Sr., Agency District; and Paiute Chief Joseph Moses, Seekseequa District.

Tribal Council last Thursday, March 31, confirmed, accepted and adopted the election results, as certified and presented by the Election Board. The Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council is scheduled to be sworn in on Monday, May 9 outside the tribal administration building.

— Dave McMechan

Big move for WSCAT Commissary project

The Commissary building is now settling into its new location by Highway 26, at the corner of Wasco and Paiute streets on the campus area.

Moving the two-story, 126-year-old structure took just a few hours this past Monday. There was a light rain during the move, which nevertheless went very quietly and smoothly.

During the morning and afternoon, people were pausing to take pictures and videos, witnessing the rare site of a 5,000-square-foot structure making its two-block trek.

The Warm Springs Community Action Team is now well on the way toward fulfilling its Commissary business development plan.

Over the coming year the building will see a complete three-stage remodel.

Stage one will be the upstairs, to become a resource center for small businesses; with the downstairs becoming storefronts for local crafters and small businesses. Phase two will add an outdoor food pavilion, spaces



Commissary building on the move to new location by Highway 26.

for food carts, and a stage. A later phase will add a commercial kitchen, and other welcome amenities.



The Warm Springs Community Action Team hosted a space for watching the move. The light rain required the tent covering. There was a good turnout for the historic building relocation. At left, the building move as viewed from across the highway.

On the Tribal Council agenda during April

The following are some of the items already discussed, and coming up on the Tribal Council Agenda during April (agenda subject to change at Council discretion):
Monday, April 4

9 a.m.: Bureau of Indian Affairs update with superintendent Brenda Bremner.

9:30: Office of Special Trustee update with Kevin Moore.

10: Realty items with Greta WhiteElk.

10:30: Legislative update conference calls.

11: Indian Health Service update with clinic CEO Hyllis Dauphinais.

11:30: Covid update with the Response Team.

1:30 p.m.: Tribal attorneys update.

3:30: Water treatment plant update with Barry, Chico and Ellen.

Weekly check-in with Blue Stone Strategy, via Zoom.

AGENDA continues on page 2



\$95,000

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Total cash & prizes in April. See Players' Club for details.

