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April - Hawit'an - Spring - Wawaxam

New Council taking office

The Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council will take office on Monday, May 2 at the administration building. The community is invited. The BIA superintendent will administer the oath, and community members are invited to wish the new members their best as they begin the new three-year term.

First orders of business are items such as selection of officers, discussion with the Secretary-Treasurer of any pending resolutions and other immediate business.

For the new Tribal Council, Lincoln Jay Suppay and Raymond Moody are two returning members for Simnasho; and Wilson Wewa is returning for Seekseequa District.

There will be five new members, possibly the most ever for a Council of the Confederated Tribes.

The new members are Carlos Calica for Simnasho; Rosa Graybael, Seekseequa; and James Manion, Alvis Smith III and Jonathan W. Smith for Agency.

Community update

A recent study among people 60 and older found that rates of Covid-19 infection and serious illness were lower in people who had a fourth dose—or second booster—vaccine compared to three shots. However, there is some debate among health experts about whether a second booster is a good for everyone: The idea of simply adding booster after booster of the same vaccine may be a problem for the immune system, some health officials believe.

On the other hand, a second booster is recommended for elders who are immuno-compromised. Health scientists are still studying the question.

For most adults, being up to date with Covid-19 vaccines right now means getting vaccinated, and then receiving a booster dose a few months later.

This spring, the Centers for Disease Control recommended a second booster for certain immuno-compromised individuals, and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least four months ago.

Speaking with your health provider about this would be the first step in answering questions for individuals, as the decision is one of personal choice. For a covid vaccine appointment, call the Health and Wellness Center during business hours to schedule a day and time. Call 541-553-2131.

41 years' service with Power & Water

In 1981 at the age of 21, Jim Manion took his first job with the tribal enterprise now called Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises. Jim worked as an inspection trainee in the Engineering Division at the tribes' hydro plant: This was before the actual construction of the plant.

Then as the construction process went forward, he moved from inspection trainee to the Assembly Division, assisting the engineers in assembly of the hydro turbines, quality control, wiring and piping, and finally the placement of the turbines. "I was very fortunate to come into the position with engineers who were more than willing to teach me," Jim says.

An example of how he was there about from the start of the project: During the very first concrete pour at the tribes' hydro plant, the engineers and staff were tossing in a few coins as the concrete was pouring, telling Jim it's a tradition during this kind of event. So somewhere in the first concrete area of the re-reg dam are 70 cents that Jim tossed in.

He then worked with the senior engineers to ensure the several miles of coiled wires were properly in place. Overall, "I was given a clear idea of how the plant would operate," Jim says.

When the team finished the construction of the plant, Jim was thinking his job there was done. He credits engineer, and trusted friend of the tribes, the late Edward



Mike Lofting, Jim Manion, Heather Alford and Tricia Melvin at Power and Water Enterprises.

'Jerry' Dibble with keeping him on at the enterprise. "He asked if I would like to stay on and run the plant for the tribes," Jim recalls.

He was in his mid 20s. "I was

wondering if I was really the one who should run this multi-million dollar operation for the tribes," Jim says.

See **POWER & WATER** on 2

Tribes cautiously end covid restrictions

Tribal Council last week at the recommendation of the Response Team dropped most the Covid-19 protocols for tribal buildings.

The Response Team will review and monitor the situation in case the circumstances change. "We are not out of the woods yet," said Caroline Cruz, Team member, and general manager of Health and Human Services.

She points out that at one point early this year, the tribes had very few covid cases; then the next week the number spiked to over a hundred. However, the more recent decline in cases has at times brought the number of confirmed cases on the reservation to zero, with IHS

testing finding one or two new cases now and then, still very good numbers that warrant the recommendation to Tribal Council.

Currently, complicating the matter is the omicron B.1.1.529 variant, which has caused large-scale shut-downs in China and other Asian countries.

There is a debate as to why the Asian countries are seeing higher covid number compared to the U.S. Ideas are that the U.S. vaccines are more effective; and that a higher percentage of people in the U.S. have already had the virus, compared to countries in Asia.

At this point the Tribal Council has adopted the following guidelines:

• Doors to tribal buildings are to be open for public access, with no need to sign in or prove the

visiting person is vaccinated.

• Temperature checks will remain as a prevention tool: If a person's temperature exceeds 100.4, the individual should not enter building.

• There are no capacity limits in buildings.

• Masks will be optional, recommended but not mandatory; however, the IHS Health and Wellness clinic has different rules for patient care areas where masks must be worn.

• Events are not required to be approved by the Response Team.

• For cooks and servers: If food is served at any event, to reduce possible exposure, the recommendation is to use paper and plastic products. Cooks and servers should wear masks and gloves.

• This protocol is contingent upon no new outbreak in the community, to be reviewed over time. Some other notes:

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

You can get a Covid-19 home test kit, if needed, at Warm Springs Emergency Management during workdays, and at Fire Safety on campus.

In Simnasho you can get a kit at the fire hall, after hours and on the weekends.

You can also order free test kits online from the U.S. Postal Service. Residential households are eligible for two orders of kits. See the site: covid.gov/tests

These are some of the items on display at *Savages and Princesses: The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes*. The traveling exhibit will be at the Museum at Warm Springs through May. *Savages and Princesses* comments on some of the stereotypes of Native Americans, taking the Native perspective on this persistent phenomena.



Courtesy MAWS



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