



Spilya Taimu

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Community update

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center has available the latest single-dose booster designed for the most recent covid variants and the original virus. This is the first change in the shots since they were first available two years ago.

You can schedule an appointment by calling 541-553-2610. Any person 12 or older can get the new booster, as long as it's been at least 2 months since their last covid vaccine.

Covid-19 may seem to be a thing of the past; however, the virus is still in the community: The most recent testing of the community wastewater—results from mid September—found “a strong concentration detection,” according to Warm Springs IHS. “This is the fourth month in a row that we are seeing increased Covid-19 detection in our wastewater testing.”

Regarding the vaccine, the idea is now proposed that the covid shot could become yearly like the one for the flu.

Seasonal flu shot

The first day of fall is this Thursday, September 22, meaning flu season is coming up, and the Health and Wellness Center this week began offering this year's flu shot.

All people age 6 months and older are encouraged to receive a flu vaccine every year. The flu vaccine is especially important for people at higher risk of having serious complications from the flu virus.

Some disease forecasters say the upcoming flu season could be serious: Nations in the Southern Hemisphere that already had their flu seasons saw higher-than-average peaks; so, locally the flu could be a problem, even while covid is still circulating.

2023 budget progress at Tribal Council

The following are coming up for the rest of this month at Tribal Council:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 21-23: Budget call backs.

Monday, September 26

9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer update with the S-T.

9:30: October agenda and review minutes.

10: Draft resolutions.

10:30: Enrollments with Lucille Suppach-Samson, Vital Stats.

11: Federal and state legislative update calls.

1:30 p.m.: 2023 budget discussion and October posting with the S-T and Finance.

Items for consideration: The October 2022 National Council of American Indians. National Tribal Health Conference. District meetings and General Council meetings in October 2022.

New skatepark coming to Warm Springs

A new skatepark is coming to Warm Springs. Location will be the Elmer Quinn Park across from the Community Center. The new skatepark, replacing the existing ramps, will be of concrete, built on the existing pad.

The project has been in the works since early 2021, when Scott Koerner, of the Tactics skate shop in Portland, contacted the tribes. Mr. Koerner explained that some skateboarders on his team are from Central Oregon, including one of who grew up skating in Warm Springs.

Koerner and his Tactics team had discussions about giving back to the local communities, and the Warm Springs skatepark idea came up.

Tactics garnered support from a number of Oregon companies, one being Collective Concrete. Then after many meetings and consultations with tribal departments, the idea was presented to Tribal Council, who gave their support.

Tactics reached out to the Skatepark Project—formerly the Tony Hawk Foundation—and Ginew, a Native-owned denim clothing line. This is a family business founded by Amanda Bruegl

(Oncida, Stockbridge-Munsee), and Erik Brodt (Ojibwe). These individuals also work with the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center through the Managed Care Program.

As the Skatepark Project, Tactics and Ginew started formulating a plan to raise funds for the skatepark, word began to spread throughout the community. The Warm Springs Community Action Team agreed to help as a financial sponsor. The major donors for the project now are the Skatepark Project, Tactics, Ginew, PacificSource of Central Oregon, Visit Central Oregon, the PTM

Foundation and the Dehen Company.

It has taken time and work to get to this point. “Now things should start to move fast,” said Michael Collins, director of Warm Springs Managed Care. If all goes as planned, the new park should be finished by October, he said.

The old ramps will be resurfaced and relocated to Simnasho. “And we’re hoping to get a concrete pad placed at Simnasho,” Mr. Collins said. “That’s the next goal.”

The old ramp covers will be given to Warm Springs Community Action Team to preserve the art on them.

SKATEPARK continues on 7

Wolves may become the ‘Warm Springs Pack’

The tribes’ Branch of Natural Resources biologists have known for more than four years that gray wolves were living, part-time at least, on the reservation. Then about two years ago, Natural Resources remote cameras snapped photos of a pair of adult wolves and two pups, meaning the animals were likely making a northern area of the reservation their home territory. The wolves at the time were considered part of the White River Pack.

One of the young wolves of this pack left the reservation in late 2020. During 2021 the wolf, called OR-93, made national headlines for traveling all the way to southern California.

The animal was wearing a Resources tracking collar so its whereabouts were known until OR-93 reached the northern California area, where the collar apparently malfunctioned. Late last year OR-93 was confirmed to have died after being struck by a motor vehicle.

Amazingly, OR-93 had traveled 900 miles, as far south as the southern Sierras, then west to San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties, almost to Los Angeles. OR-93 was the first reported wolf on the central California coast in 200 to 300 years. Clearly, wolves are capable of



great feats of endurance and survival. OR-93 likely left the reservation in order to find a mate and establish his own territory, said Austin Smith Jr., tribal Wildlife biologist and acting Natural Resources general manager.

Wildlife biologists apply standards when determining whether a location is considered an ‘area of known wolf activity,’ or AKWA.

This is important because wolves are protected under the Endangered Species Act: It is unlawful to shoot wolves or to harm them in any way, except in defense of human life or in certain chronic livestock depredation situations.

Several months ago, the tribes’



The tribes’ Branch of Natural Resources-Wildlife remote cameras captured these photos of wolves of what may become the Warm Springs Pack.

CTWSBNR

Natural Resources remote trail cameras captured images of two more adult wolves, a dark colored male and a lighter female.

The cameras also caught images

of two pups, so the pair are breeding. The pups are now about 30 to 40 pounds, Austin said.

WOLVES continues on 10

November ballots almost ready for mailing

The November 2022 General Election is a little less than seven weeks away: During election years in the U.S., following the primaries, the general elections happen on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, as set by federal law; so this year the General Election is on Tuesday, November 8.

The Warm Springs Reservation is voting precinct 14 of Jefferson County. There are 1,473 registered voters in precinct 14.

There is less than a month left to register online in order

to vote in the November 8 election, as the deadline for registration is the end of the day on October 18. To register to vote online go to jeffco.net

Some other upcoming dates for this General Election:

Friday, September 23: The county clerk provides the military, out of country, and permanent limited ballots.

Monday, September 26: Absentee ballots are available.

October 10: Out of state, permanent traveler ballots mailing date.

October 19: Mass ballots mailing date, and open drop sites.

November 1: Last day to conduct public certification of vote tally system.

In order to register to vote in Oregon you must be a U.S. citizen, resident of the state, and at least 16 years of age. A person who registers who is not yet 16 will receive a ballot for the first election following the person's eighteenth birthday.

Madras Aquatic Center

There will be a number of local questions on the ballot. For instance, the election will determine one Jefferson County Commission position.

ELECTION continues on 7



Official drop box by the Agency fire station.

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