

# CTUIR now vaccinating all residents of 11 counties in Oregon and Washington

HERMISTON HERALD

With more doses than appointments, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation expanded its eligibility to include not only all of Umatilla County, but also several neighboring counties.

The tribes held a two day clinic on Monday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 13, at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, open to the 11 counties that span the CTUIR's ceded territory.

In Oregon, all residents 16 years old and older that live in Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Baker, Wallowa, Grant and Malheur counties were eligible for the vaccine. In Washington, the new rules applied to Benton, Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield counties.

In a statement, Yel-lowhawk CEO Lisa Guz-

man explained why the Tribes made the last-minute expansion.

"We have more than 1,700 first doses to provide, but as of this morning only 600 appointments are filled," she said before the clinic took place. "We are eager to support our surrounding counties and get more people in the door."

The Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla's territory used to include much of Northeast Oregon and Southeast

Washington before a 19th century treaty between the U.S. government and the Tribes shrunk their footprint to a much smaller piece of land in Umatilla County. The CTUIR's ceded territory doesn't fit cleanly with modern county lines, and the ceded land's boundaries cover only a small portion of some counties. But all residents of the 11 counties are eligible for the vaccine, regardless of whether they live on the ceded land.

# UEC returns \$4 million in capital credits

HERMISTON HERALD

HERMISTON — Umatilla Electric Cooperative will return \$4 million to cooperative members in April as part of the utility's Capital Credits program.

According to a news release, 10,265 refund checks will be issued to members who purchased electricity during 2019. Checks will be mailed on April 7, and the amount will be based on the member's energy usage. Amounts of less than \$10

will not be mailed now, but will be added to a future refund check for the customer once their total credits surpass \$10.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned company, UEC operates at cost, with net revenues returned to members in the form of Capital Credits refunds. The cooperative has returned more than \$92 million to members since 1960, according to UEC, including \$11.6 million during the pandemic.

"The return of Capital Credits reflects UEC's financial strength and stability and provides a means to inform members about the cooperative difference," Robert Echenrode, UEC General Manager and CEO, said in a statement. "One of the best features of a rural electric cooperative is being able to invest in and support our local communities."

For questions, call 541-567-6414 or email customer.service@umatillaelectric.com.

# Veterans Services to hold free presentation

HERMISTON HERALD

Morrow County Veteran Services is partnering with Community Counseling Solutions to hold a free presentation about constructive ways to talk about mental health and suicide, according to a press release.

The 45-minute presentation will cover stigmas surrounding mental health and define and identify the causes and treatments for mental health conditions. It will also share guidelines about how to talk about mental health and suicide, and how speak to survivors of suicide loss, the press release said.

"By subtly shifting the way we talk about mental illness and suicide," the press release said, "we can help reduce the stigma around them, leading to normalized and candid conversations so those experiencing them can confidently ask for help without fear of judgement."

The presentation will be held over Zoom on Tuesday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Those interested in attending can call 541-922-6420 to learn more.

# Cattlemen's association offers conference

HERMISTON HERALD

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) has announced the opportunity for six young ranchers to attend the OCA Mid-Year Conference on July 11-13 at the Salishan Coastal Lodge.

This scholarship opportunity is available to young ranchers interested in learning more about the work of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, according to a news release.

The money awarded will cover the expense of lodging and event registration.

Candidates must be able to attend the full conference and be willing to participate in all facets of it.

"The conference is an opportunity for young ranchers to immerse themselves in the work and mission of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for the future of the cattle industry," the news release stated.

The application can be found at www.orcattle.com. For questions, call the Oregon Cattlemen's Association offices at 503-361-8941.



## Boardman Chamber of Commerce

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