

~LWHS TIMES~

ONCE A MUSTANG ALWAYS A MUSTANG!



PICTURE CAPTION: How expensive is an online school?

LWHS COVID-19 Budget

ALLISON CLIFFORD
10/19/2020

Little Wound School has been closed this school year due to the pandemic. They invested a lot of money to set up learning at home for every student. Paulette Poirier, Business Manager of Little Wound, budgeted for iPhones and hotspots for 99 cents each, and the data for both of those cost around \$53,500 monthly. The school also bought iPads for K-5 that cost \$128,411 and the monthly data plan for those costs around \$17,000. They are also investing more in food costs because normally the school would buy a classroom supply but the school is spending more trying to get the food to students this year. Little Wound also recently received help from The Bureau of Indian Education and The Department of Education to renovate the bathrooms to become completely touchless. Little Wound seems to be spending more money on necessity items and most likely saving money on electricity since no one is in the school.



PICTURE CAPTION: Christensen kneels on the course to assess his next move.

Christensen wins Golf Regions and sets eyes on state.

SHAWNEE WHITE
10/19/2020

Lance Christensen Jr. was the Region and State A golf champion last year. This year he came back stronger than ever. Due to this pandemic Christensen Jr. thought he would not have been able to play golf. He made an appearance at the O.S.T Tribal building attempting to secure a meeting with the Tribal President. Christensen Jr., succeeded in the battle to be able to play golf one last time his senior year. Despite the pandemic Christensen Jr. went to golf courses whenever he could to get practice in. He says, "It was definitely different from what I was used to having to go through the checkpoints to get to the golf course and wearing a mask around people was a weird preparation." When he could not get to the courses he would practice right behind his house.

Going into the tournament Christensen Jr. was not really feeling nervous he was simply happy to have the opportunity to play. When regions came he felt prepared. His regional golf meet was hosted at Hot Springs. He says "I had played that course in Hot Springs a lot that summer and I knew what I had to do". Christensen Jr. had no doubt that he was going into that tournament with a positive mindset. He knew he would win. He was so prepared and confident that he was ready to take home a region championship. Christensen Jr. was able to take home the victory at regions. His score was 73 3 over par. After that win he moved onto state where he placed 6th. Christensen Jr. has loved golf since he could walk, his dad had him practicing all the time. He hopes to come back after college and help build a golf course around the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for young kids to start golfing.

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Is it possible to return to school? *Precautions in a pandemic.*

TALAIHAH BEAR KILLER
10/19/2020

It is no secret that COVID-19 changed every school's plan to return to campus. In the past six months, school boards have been trying to come up with safe plans to try and get the students back to school, while also trying to prevent the spread of disease.

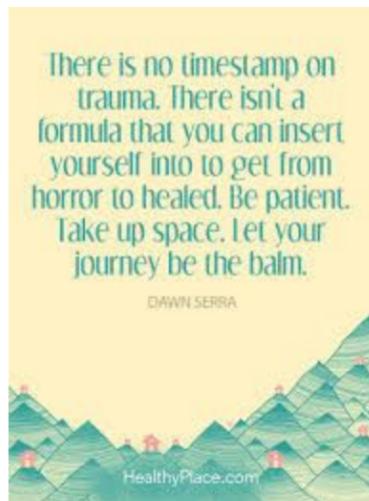
As of now, most schools are doing virtual learning. If we go back to school we would have to take precautions such as wearing masks because it can spread through person to person even if you are not feeling the symptoms. If someone were to contract COVID-19 they would not be allowed to come to school and the people who were in contact with them might have to stay home and quarantine.

As for sports, the fall sports have been cancelled until further notice. Students are supposed to be training on their own at home and before the sports start you must get tested. Before games the athletes will get their temperature taken.

The school board is hoping we can go back to school, depending on how the virus is by the end of first semester. Hopefully they come up with a safe plan.



PICTURE CAPTION: LWHS has completely switched to the virtual Google platform.



PICTURE CAPTION: Healing takes time.



The Impact of Trauma.

JULIA SWAN
10/19/2020

Youth Suicide is particularly devastating because we are always left thinking about how much life they had left to live. All of the possibilities for what their life could have been like. What they could have contributed to our society.

Drug and alcohol use easily goes beyond experimenting and dives into the realm of addiction. It is challenging because it gets in the way of a person's potential for growth. It also inhibits healing, because it only numbs the pain and allows you to escape for a minute. It is not until we learn to sit with ourselves as we are that we can learn ways to heal our wounds and no longer need to self-medicate.

Mark Hetzel, Little Wound Teacher, says, "It's been really difficult dealing with suicide among students. My first year here was 2014 when the state of emergency was called. I saw my 9th graders very affected by the loss of their peers." We lost 14 youth to suicide that year.

Personally I lost someone close to me to suicide and someone another close friend to drugs and alcohol. The topic hits home to most of us. We have all lost so many to suicide, drugs, and alcohol. The entire Pine Ridge Reservation is impacted every day. Mental health is minimized worldwide. People lack understanding. Most believe someone is just "sad," but it is more than that. The person battling mental health has so much going on within themselves. Remember to always be kind no matter what and listen when someone needs to talk.

Randonautica

CHEYENNE WHITING
10/19/2020

Randonautica is an app that randomly generates coordinates that enables the user to explore their local area and report on their findings.

According to the New York Times, "many of the places users have been sent to are unremarkable; parking lots, grasslands, many bodies of water, However, two dismembered bodies were found in a suitcase by teenagers in Seattle."

My best friends and I used Randonautica and it sent us to a location. We went down on a dirt road to an abandoned house. As soon we went in we heard laughing, footsteps, and screaming. This app is dangerous, you should never use it at night.

Community Needs for the Medicine Root District

<p>ELIZABETH IRON HORN 10/19/2020</p>	<p>She also says that the district needs a Rec center so that the kids are not bored at home. For a while the road to North Route has been made of dirt making it difficult to drive on without having car damages. Janis says, "The road out to the North Route and the dam just gets too dusty and it's bad. Can affect your lungs." There have been complaints about the road out to the North Route and how the road is too bumpy and there have been wrecks caused by the road. Okay about a solution to this problem? How do we fix it? Gayla Gay, 66, third-grade teacher, when asked about how she thinks the community is helping, says, "Not much, we keep to ourselves. Only thing keeping us riled up is the roads, we really need a new road." Gay thinks a huge community building is needed, "for certain wakes a lot of people need a place to stay because you need to pay to use the church."</p>	<p>Gay also suggests that the community should invest in a laundry mat and a bigger grocery store. "A lot of people go off the rez to do their laundry. That's what I do every weekend," Gay says. She suggests a bigger grocery store because the community will have more options to choose from, "We'll have more of a variety of food because sometimes you want a certain thing and the food in the city can be expensive." Later Gay was asked about what she would want for the community and she had a long sigh and said calmly, "For the sickness to go away." Then she laughed herself off but got serious again. "Because of not seeing people and talking I think it's hard for others. I wish everything was back to normal, back to being able to hug, visiting and shaking hands."</p>
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Dear Class of 2021

<p>MARY KATE MARTINEZ AND HEATHER HINKLE 10/19/2020</p> <p>I would like to write something motivating and positive here, but I have nothing. I can tell you that everything will be fine, but I don't know that. I can tell you that, this year will be the year for us, but unfortunately, I can not say that either. I can't tell you how you should feel and what's going to come because I'd be lying. I am only telling you all that I am ready to walk with you all on this difficult journey we are about to tread.</p> <p>Even though this may be just an article from a school newspaper and some of you may have read this far and some of you might have skipped this piece, it's important to come together as a class.</p> <p>I know I should be saying encouraging things to you but the truth is I don't know what to say, or how to approach it. So my words to you, for now is good luck, good luck with the crazy amount of work that has been handed to you.</p> <p>The confusing deadlines and the crazy work schedules the teachers provide you. I know this isn't easy anymore, This isn't normal, and this isn't routine, this is like being rejected by the opportunities that were supposed to make our parents proud.</p>	<p>We grew up with each other, we were there for each other. I know half of all 72 of you. Look at us now. Beginning of high school, we were all thinking the same thing, "man I am going to walk that stage in 2021" but I don't think that's even possible anymore. 2020 made it rough. We stopped school in the middle of March abruptly and everybody passed without a grade lower than C.</p> <p>2021 is different though. My friends, we are going to struggle this year. As long as we are struggling together right?</p> <p>It's important not to stress. This does not mean that you should not do your homework. It means you shouldn't be worrying about little things like not passing one test. Don't be too hard on yourself. You can get your grade back up by moving forward to new assignments. Always do your homework, even if you feel like it's pointless. Go in for help when you need it, and spend your time wisely. The effort will make a difference in the long run.</p> <p>Don't take the people around you for granted. When this whole pandemic is over, run to your friends and family and hug them tightly. Tell the people you care about you love them. Spread positivity around you.</p>	 <p>PICTURE CAPTION: Being a senior during a pandemic.</p> <p>Lastly, get involved. This school year will be what you make you of it. Participate in Circle Up on Mondays, join us for morning prayer at 8:20 a.m. every morning, join the available extracurricular activities.</p> <p>Be present. Show up. Make the best of a bad situation.</p>
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Reservation Lockdowns

ZOE LONG SOLDIER
10/19/2020

As of Thursday the 21st, there will be another lockdown, but not only on the reservation but in other tribes as well. The Tribal Council set this up because of the many active COVID-19 cases. Testing was being conducted again around last week.

The majority of cases have been positive is considered a very high risk to all of us. It seems as if people are saying what to do and how to do it but they are not proceeding on their own terms. People do not take the necessary precautions to prevent spread. Human error contributes to the high rise in COVID-19 on the reservation.

The OST council has had meetings for a lockdown but the people made them postpone because of their concerns about not having food or other necessities in stock for it.

For lockdowns people are not allowed to go into each other's residences nor places, and cities. You are told to stay home and quarantine even if you are not sick. Staying home helps us stop the spread of the virus as it is moving along person to person.

You have to have stock that will last you because some stores are only open for so long and some are just not open at all through the lockdown.

The checkpoints will still remain but during the lockdown people are not allowed to leave town. If someone leaves, they are not allowed back in. Additionally, if any people from different states try to enter, they are told to turn around.

Most of us do not like sitting still in one spot for too long but we have to understand it's for our own safety. It has to be done, before COVID-19 takes us all.

