

Wildhorse Pow Wow back in action



The 26th Annual Wildhorse Pow Wow on Friday, July 1, 2022, kicks off at Wildhorse Resort & Casino near Pendleton. The event draws the top dancers and drummers from the western part of the United States and Canada.
Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE

STANFIELD

Community comes together



Locals dine on barbecue and cake Sunday, June 3, 2022, at Bard Park to help raise funds for fireworks and kick off the July Fourth weekend.
Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

HERMISTON

Fireworks light the Butte



Children play Sunday, July 3, 2022, at Funland Playground in Hermiston as fireworks light up the sky.
Erick Peterson/East Oregonian

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Dress:

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“For some reason when indigenous women go missing in this nation they slip through the cracks,” Morning Owl said.

Morning Owl said this is the first time the Pow Wow held an event of this nature, and the staff showed their support for the new activity. Most staff members wore red Wildhorse staff shirts on July 3 to honor those missing. Many of the women participating in other events also wore red.

The Red Dress remembrance initially was scheduled for the early evening on July 3, but a thunderstorm with heavy wind and rain July 2 sent spectators and participants alike to seek cover, ending the festivities a few hours early. The rescheduled slate pushed the final day’s competitions back to the evening of July 3.

After finishing up the previous day’s events, the Red Dress competition took place, where women were judged by other members for their dancing and dress.

The event was a part of three days’ worth of compe-



A young woman dances Sunday, July 3, 2022, at the Wildhorse Pow Wow competition in Mission.
Antonio Arredondo/East Oregonian

titions with more than \$90,000 in prizes. The event typically brings in 5,000-7,000 guests per year, and the

crowds packed in to watch the celebrations July 3.

Along with the guests, nearly 100 participants from

several tribes came to participate at Wildhorse, the first Pow Wow on the site in two years due to the pandemic.

Wildfires:

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While the fear of fire danger in the short term has been slightly lowered, 88% of respondents expect wildfires to increase during the next 10 years. Nine out of 10 Oregonians (92%) see wildfires as a serious threat to “people living in Oregon.”

However, not as many people believe they are in harm’s way. Just six out of 10 respondents (60%) see wildfire as a very or somewhat serious threat in their communities. Five out of 10 people (53%) see wildfires as a direct threat to themselves and their families.

Most Oregonians (83%) said greatest concerns over the impacts of fire were about the health effects of smoke. Loss of wildlife and fish habitat registered as the second-highest level of concern among Oregonians, with 82% saying they had great or moderate concern.

Nearly eight out of 10 (79%) respondents had moderate or great concern about the loss of public forestland.

Deschutes County resident Robin Johnson said the best way to deal with fires is for fire officials to attack and extin-

guish them instead of letting forest fires burn naturally. “The fires can quickly get out of control, so they need to be managed,” said Johnson. “In addition, the smoke impacts larger portions separate from the fire causing respiratory issues, and the fire may take out habitat.”

Survey results show that 75% of Oregonians agree with Johnson. The remaining respondents lean toward or agree with, the idea of allowing a wildfire to burn out naturally.

A respondent from Polk County, who declined to be named, was blunter when it comes to managing wildfire. “We just can’t let our state burn to the ground,” she said.

Just how many Oregonians have had to evacuate due to wildfire? According to the survey, 19% of respondents said they have evacuated their homes due to wildfire. Some 43% of respondents said they have an evacuation plan in place.

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is an independent, nonpartisan organization. The center partnered with Pamplin Media Group and the EO Media Group, which owns the East Oregonian and The Bulletin. The survey has a margin of error of about 2.5%.