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# Spilyay Tymoo

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Filling up—Members of the Career Exploration Project launched a tissue balloon last week. To see the results, check out page 12.

## Sherar's Bridge petition

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission are accused of discrimination in a petition being circulated by Prineville sport fisherman Bill Moncrief regarding Warm Springs' ownership of Sherar's Bridge.

The petition, being circulated in behalf of Central Oregon sport fishermen (not an organization), asks for "protective right of way on the Deschutes River at Sherars Falls, which was recently purchased by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs" and "written agreement guaranteeing us fishing rights and access forever."

"We feel that we are being discriminated against by the State of Oregon, the Oregon Fish and Game (sic) Commission and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs by allowing the private

ownership of what should be public land.

"As taxpayers we want our rights protected for future use."

Moncrief said that sport fishermen at Sherar's Falls have not had any problems yet with any of the parties mentioned in the petition, nor with Indian fishermen, but that the petition was a protective measure in the event that sport fishermen were charged additional fees for use of the Falls area or "if they close us off and try to restrict us in any way."

If this should happen, said Moncrief, the petition would then be given to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for legal action on the grounds that sport fishermen pay for the right to fish on the Deschutes with state license fees.

Moncrief did not elaborate on what grounds a suit might be filed.

## Fire races through Snuffy Smith residence

What was once the home of Claude "Snuffy" Smith and his wife Versa looks like a ghost ship that burned and ran aground on jagged rocks. Their mobile home and all contents were totally destroyed by fire Saturday, May 31.

The alarm sounded at 4:32 p.m. and water was being applied to the blaze by 4:39 p.m., a scant seven minutes later. Despite the quick response by the fire department, the whole front of the trailer was fully involved in fire by the time the firefighters arrived.

"Smoke and flames were visible at all windows and openings," reported Fire and Safety Chief Ray Rivero. He also said that upon his arrival at 4:35 p.m., the external aluminum siding was being consumed.

When the occupants smelled smoke, they tried to leave their home by way of the front door. But they were stopped by the intense heat and smoke. They ran to the back of the trailer, closed the bedroom door and broke out a window to escape. "They did the right thing by closing that door," said Rivero. It gave them precious seconds against the heat and smoke.

Rivero said that a significant factor in this particular fire was that there was a 15 to 20 mile-per-hour wind blowing from the front to the back of the

home. "It just blew the fire right through the trailer," he said.

"Also, because of the way they're constructed, mobile homes burn quickly," Rivero explained. "They're built like an oven — insulated on all sides. They hold the heat in longer."

"The thing was beyond our control," Rivero continued. "We had to make an exterior attack. At that stage of involvement, it is no longer safe to make an interior attack on a mobile home. He said they had to apply exceptionally large amounts of water to the fire."

Because of the nature of trailers and the way they are built, the initial burden of fire safety rests with the owner or occupant, Rivero stressed. "Faulty wiring or anything that would increase the probability of fire is more significant in trailer homes. They burn quickly."

Rivero said he wasn't implying any negligence on the part of Snuffy. He was just trying to explain why fire safety is so important in trailers, and why trailer fires are worse than other structure fires.

He mentioned that there was a smoke alarm at the Smith residence, but that it apparently did not activate. Rivero noted that, in a recently released report, ionization-type smoke alarms have a limited life expectancy because the

effectiveness of the radio-active element decreases with time.

When questioned about a rumor that the dispatcher gave the wrong location of the fire, Rivero said "it's not true." He said the first truck went to the right place, but that the second truck detoured through the tribal garage, "with maybe 10 seconds lost."

The cause of the fire has been determined as most probably due to an electrical malfunction.

The family lost everything in the fire, so friends, relatives, and members of the community have held numerous fire showers and benefits to help replace some of the necessities.

Until they get resettled, the family is staying at the Rosetta Fuentes place.

Meanwhile, it's eerie in trailer space number 16. Charred and twisted fragments of aluminum creak and clank in the breeze. And the scent of scorched remnants still lingers in the air.



RAVAGED — Fire totally destroyed the mobile home of Versa and Snuffy Smith Saturday afternoon, May 31. No one was injured in the blaze which was most probably caused by an electrical malfunction. A 15-20 MPH wind fanned the flames, hampering the efforts of firemen.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Rangila