

Tribal huckleberry gathering at Meadows

More than 80 Warm Springs Tribal members gathered for the Twelfth Annual huckleberry picking event at Mt. Hood. The day hosted by Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort.

Activities started at the main lodge with a chair lift ride on the new Stadium Quad Lift, bringing guests up to take in the views of Mt. Jefferson and the Cascades.

Many elders have memories of first coming to this area when they were young, as summer was the time to gather First Foods for the winter.

Some members are concerned about the diminishing of number of berries on the mountain, and increased competition from non-tribal and commercial pickers.

12 year partnership

Since 2004, Mt. Hood Meadows has posted signs around more than 30 acres of the best potential huckleberry lands, asking the public to respect the rights of the Warm Springs Tribes by not picking berries in this traditional picking area, part of the tribes' Ceded Lands.

Louie Pitt Jr., director of tribal Government Affairs, was on hand to talk about the long-time relationship between the tribal members and the mountain. He advocated the need for proper forest



Mt. Hood Meadows hosted lunch for the berry gatherers.



Photos courtesy The Leo Co.

management practices to increase the yield and health of the huckleberry fields.

Huckleberries like warm sunny areas between 4,000 feet and 5,000 feet in elevation, with reduced competition from other foliage on the forest floor.

Historically, fires would clean the forest floor. But cur-



Signs are posted informing visitors that the area is for tribal member berry gatherers.



rent forest management practices have discouraged burning, resulting in prime huckleberry areas becoming overgrown, discouraging the growth of berries.

For more than 12 years now, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area have been working together to identify, improve and protect the huckleberry habitat on Mt. Hood.

Good huckleberry habitat is the same as good ski slope habitat, so cooperation between the tribal pickers and

the ski area is a natural partnership.

The sun-loving berries need to have other competing foliage cut back or burned, while similarly the ski area needs to make the slopes smooth for winter sports.

About 40 tribal member participants came by bus, courtesy of Meadows. The rest of the participants, many family groups, came by car.

Ralph Dougherty has helped with this event in previous years. This year he shuttled members from the Hood River Meadows Lodge to Elk Meadows, Sahalie Falls and other known huckleberry picking spots.

Dougherty reported that spirits were high among the pickers who found productive berry patches.

In the alpine meadows where the brush has been better controlled, the berries were more plentiful.

The tribal members who attended the annual event were appreciative of the efforts by Mt. Hood Meadows to protect these traditional tribal picking areas. Many thanked Mt. Hood Meadows for the partnership that makes this a successful event.

Next Ski Day

Mt. Hood Meadows has also sponsored a Tribal Ski Day each winter. Ski Day is also in its twelfth year.

This is an effort to bring tribal members of all ages to the mountain for a different perspective during March or April.

Science indicates that the strong *El Nino* weather pattern that we are experiencing should result in near-average snowfall for the 2015-16 season, so hopes are high for a good snowpack and a better ski season. Stay tuned to KWSO for updates during the ski season.

Recreation Jamboree Day

The Warm Springs Recreation Department will host the Family Jamboree Day on Wednesday, August 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Community Center and the ball fields.

The day's activities include the Jurassic Adventure, Jungle Adventure,

Surf-n-Slide, the Rock Wall, Wild Rapids Slide, and archery.

All ages are welcome. Bring water play and swim wear, sandals, a towel, bottle water, chair and the whole family.

For more information call Recreation at 541-553-3243 or -3244.

Farm hay, barley for sale

The Warm Springs tribal farm has beardless barley hay and first cutting alfalfa for sale.

The alfalfa is \$180 per ton for non-tribal members; and \$160 per ton for members. Five-ton minimum or \$85 per bale.

The barley is \$160 per ton

for non-members; and \$140 per ton for members. Five ton minimum or \$70 per bale.

Purchases may be made at the Branch of Natural Resources main office. Please contact the Range and Ag Department for more information, 541-553-2001.

Earring making classes

A class on how to bead a pair of post back earrings using size 11 beads, center pieces and rhinestone banding is coming up on Tuesday through Thursday, August 18-20. Daily classes are from

9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Warm Springs community center social hall.

The instructor will be Angela Bellanger. Space is limited, call 541-553-3243. Registration required. Supplies provided.

Positive Indian Parenting Classes

will begin August 11 and 12 at the Community Counseling Center. Class will be on Tuesday 10 a.m. til noon in the Prevention Conference Room or on Wednesday from 5:30-7 p.m. in the main conference room. This will be an orientation to Positive Indian Parenting.

The Warm Springs Boys & Girls Club

is open weekdays 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. and is now located in the Old Elementary gym building.

The entrance is on the east side by the playground The TRAIL diabetes prevention program is today at 11. TRAIL combines physical, educational, and nutritional activities.



Telecom: police, FBI investigating

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Meanwhile, the Telecom towers are equipped with video cameras that will record activity around the facilities. The Warm Springs Police and the FBI are investigating the vandalism to the Pelton dam tower.

If anyone has information, please contact the police at 541-553-3272.

The Warm Springs Telecom began operation about three years ago. The enterprise is one of just nine tribal telecoms in the nation. The Warm Springs Telecom

is seen as a model operation for tribes that are considering a similar service.

The Warm Springs Telecom employs eleven people, including six tribal members, two married into the tribes, one other Indian, and two non Indians.

Fire: burn-ban in effect on rez

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Fire teams from Warm Springs—the Hot Shots, and camp crews—have been helping with other fires in the region.

The Hot Shot crew went a fire near Walla Walla, and has another assignment in Southern Oregon. Two camp crews went to the Wolverine fire in Washington.

The state of California is in a state of emergency with more than 20 large fires burning.

August is the time when the reservation is at especially high risk, Wilson said. Lightning strikes are a main threat, along with human-caused ignitions.

Embers can smolder for a few days during cooler tem-

peratures, and then flare up into major fires when the heat returns. So Fire Management remains on alert, with teams on watch at all times.

Meanwhile, there is a burn-ban in effect on the reservation. This applies to burn barrels, debris-burning, etc.

For more information call Fire Management at 541-553-1146.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Warm Springs Fire Management hosted a community picnic marking the 71st birthday of Smokey Bear. There was a barbecue, DJ and water games for the kids.

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