Coyote News, est. 1976

August 3, 2016 Vol. 41, No. 16

August - Shatm - Summer - Shatm

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Paddle to Nisqually 2016

The N'Chi WanaPum Canoe Family arrived at the Port of Olympia North Point area on Saturday.

They joined more than 120 tribal canoe families for the landing of the Paddle to Nisqually 2016 Canoe Journey.

The landing, hosted by the Nisqually Tribe, was followed by the Medicine Creek Treaty and Protocols, lasting through the week.

The N'Chi Wanapum Family left from the Celilo area in mid July, paddled for several days, meeting up with other tribal canoe families along the way.

The Warm Springs Canoe Family was founded in 2010, and has made the Paddle Journeys most years since then. The Museum at Warm Springs is the host of the program.

This year the Family includes the pullers, dancers, drummers, singers, camp crews, elders and sponsors, organizers, cooks, drivers, and all who helped with the Journey. They are:

March Arthur, Daisy Begay, Douglas Brisbois, Darren Brisbois, Linda Clingan, Carlicia Dixon, Thaisa Dixon, Cassidy Dixon, Damean Frank, Donnell Frank, Alexys Gonzales, Jefferson Greene,



N'Chi Wanapum Canoe Family leaving Swinomish (above and below) on the way to Tulalip Bay.

Thayliah Henry-Suppah, Colleen Johnson, Wanda Johnson, Victor Johnson, Corey Johnson, Marcus Johnson, Deanie Johnson, Marge Kalama, Praise LeClaire, Ervanna LittleEagle, Brandon Lucei, Iysha Macy, Emma Marquez, Sue Matters, Brigette McConville, Reyes Paco, Clem Picard, Becky Picard, Tiiwanii Sahme, Charles Scott, Deb Stacona, Aurelia Stacona, Kota Stacona, Michael Templeton, Jocene Tufti, Jazmine Viviano, Jeryn, Clara, Phranzyz, Sarah and

(More on the Canoe Family on page 8.)



Fire leads to wider discussion at Council

The Rattlesnake Springs fire in late July burned across 9,235 acres of reservation land, including range land.

No structures were destroyed and no one was injured, but the consequences are still serious. The loss of grazing land, and the increase in non-native invasive weeds are two examples.

These and other issues came up at Tribal Council when Fire Management and Forestry gave their report on the Rattlesnake Springs fire.

Discussion included the cooperative agreement by which the tribes are reimbursed by the federal government for the cost of fighting fires that happen on the reservation.

Under investigation

The cause of the Rattlesnake Springs blaze was still under investigation this week. There is evidence that the blaze was human-caused.

A person can be held financially and criminally liable for causing a wildfire. This happened two years ago when a woman was sentenced to 18 months in prison for starting the Sunnyside Turnoff fire.

Meanwhile last month, about 250 fire fighters helped contain the Rattlesnake Springs blaze. There was air support—a helicopter and single-engine air tanker—through the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center.

The blaze broke out on Sunday afternoon, July 24, in the area of Rattlesnake Springs, near a swimming hole at the Deschutes

Over the following days, the fire burned up to Webster Flat and the Culpus Bridge areas, near the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course. Some homes were threatened, but the fire crews were able to keep the flames away from the structures.

Still, residents were adversely affected: The fire burned across grazing land, including 360 acres that a resident was planning to use for his cattle later this summer.

All but 10 of the 360 acres were consumed, said Orvie Danzuka, of tribal Forestry. Danzuka and Trey Leonard, Fire Management Officer, updated the Tribal Council on the situation last week.

See FIRE on 6

Berry trip to Meadows

Mt. Hood Meadows is hosting the 2016 Huckleberry Picking Day for the Confederated Tribes this Saturday, August 6.

The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from the Warm Springs community center. The bus can take up to 50 people. Additional pickers can drive up on your own.

Everyone must be signed up and complete a liability release form: Sign-up by stopping by or calling KWSO, 541-553-1968.

The bus will arrive at Mt. Hood Meadows around 9 a.m. for introductions, morning snack

and berry picking.

There will be a shuttle to the main base area available mid-morning. Meadows will provide vouchers for lunch and Stadium Express lift rides.

Lunch will be at the main base area. There will be live music during lunch, with the shuttle returning to the picking areas after lunch.

The bus will leave Meadows for Warm Springs around 3 p.m. Bring baskets and buckets, good shows, a hat, and reusable beverage container.

Big setback for oil proposal

The Confederated Tribes have been long-standing opponents of an oil-by-rail project at the Columbia River. Now, the state of Washington Attorney General has stated his opposition. This is a serious setback for the proposed Vancouver Energy Project, proposed by Savage Companies and Tesoro Corp.

If built, the transfer facility would handle 360,000 barrels of crude oil daily from the Bakken Region of North Dakota. Once in Vancouver, the oil would be pumped from train cars into storage tanks.

From there, it would be loaded onto ships bound for West Coast ports.

The tribes have stated their opposition, as this would be a serious threat to the Columbia River fisheries, a treaty-protected resource of the tribes.

The potential for catastrophe was shown in dramatic fashion by the June 3 train derailment at Mosier. There was an explosion and an oil spill. Tribal Council members met at Mosier a few days later, stating the tribes opposition to the oil-by rail industry along the Columbia.

Tribes developing plan for timber co.

Tribal Council continues work on two separate aspects of the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries closure.

One aspect is to cut the losses from the WSFPI shut-down, and the other is to bring in revenue through a new tribal enterprise.

The membership can learn the details of both projects at a General Council meeting, currently set for Monday, August 22. The planned location is the Agency Longhouse.

The WSFPI receiver, and the business consultant for the new timber enterprise, are expected to be on hand to answer questions.

The receiver—administering the WSFPI tribal court receivership proceeding—is Ed Hostman. The business turnaround consultant is Clyde Hamstreet and Hamstreet & Associates

Hostman and Hamstreet met with Tribal Council in July, each providing an update on their work on behalf of the tribes.

Some finished lumber products at the mill were sold, bringing in some revenue to the receivership, Hostman said. This is now in an escrow account until the situation with the WSFPI creditors is finalized.

WSFPI had up to 500 creditors, he said. All but a few were unsecured creditors, meaning there is no WSFPI asset that can be taken and sold to satisfy their claims.

The main secured creditors include the tribes, through Credit; and VanPort International, the former WSFPI partner that marketed the lumber.

There would appear to be no chance of re-opening the WSFPI mill, according to the report from Hamstreet & Associates. The equipment is for the most part obsolete, driven by old technology, Mr. Hamstreet said.

Meanwhile, the tribal timber resource is a valuable trust asset. The issue to be addressed is how to maximize the financial gain to the tribes from the sale of the timber.

The plan will involve hauling logs to off-reservation mills.

According to the Hamstreet & Associates report: Harvesting and selling delivered logs should be more profitable than selling standing timber.

Logging and delivery should be generally competitive with off-reservation rates, the report says. One consequence of this: The current allowable timber cut—31 million board feet per year—is not sufficient to employ five logging companies.

An advisory group will work on a fair resolution and report back to Tribal Council and the membership.

