

Seventh Annual DRCI Powwow

Inmates at the Deer Ridge Correctional Institute hosted the Seventh Annual DRCI Powwow last weekend.

There was a good turnout of friends and family from Warm Springs. At Deer Ridge there are over 900 inmates, with between 30 and 40 being Native American.

On hand from Warm Springs Behavioral Health were Guy Wallulatam and Sarah Frank, among others.

Sarah had just finished another series of the Wellbriety Celebrating Families classes at Deer Ridge. She introduced the four recent DRCI graduates of the program, who spoke of the benefits of completing the course.

She is also conducting the classes at the Warm Springs Jail. If you would like more information on this program, you can reach Family Preservation at 541-615-0036.

The DRCI Powwow included the drum and songs, Grand Entry, lunch, talks and prayers, and the sweat lodge. On the menu were venison and salmon, hamburgers, grilled hot dogs, corn, fry bread and huckleberries. The new Chaplain at DRCI, Ken Ball, helped to organize the event.

At top, the Deer Ridge drum during powwow; and at right, Grand Entry.



Dave McMechan/Splyay



Nena Springs fire mostly contained



Jayson Smith/Splyay

Besides the Nena fire, flames kicked up at the site of the old mill.

The Nena Springs fire burned across more than 40,000 acres of mostly Warm Springs Reservation land.

The human-caused fire, located in the northeast area of the reservation, destroyed 10 buildings including six residential structures, one of which had been an active residence.

The other buildings were unoccupied, or were outbuildings. Two of the structures were old enough to be considered of historical significance.

The fire started off the reservation on private land, August 8. It spread quickly to the reservation, with wind gusts and high temperatures creating extreme fire behavior.

The Simnasho community and nearby residences were evacuated. The Warm Springs Red Cross team set up temporary shelter for evacuees at the community center.

By Tuesday of this week the Nena Springs fire was more than 60 percent contained. The cooler weather over the weekend, bringing some rain showers, was a great help to the fire teams.

The response effort included more than 440 personnel, including 112 firefighters. The Warm Springs Hotshots worked on the east side of the Deschutes River, making sure west winds did not spot the fire across the water.

The response included nine hand crews, three helicopters, five dozers and 32 engines. The fire was under the command of the Northwest Incident Management Team 12.

When the fire first started, there was a challenge in gathering resources, because teams were already at other fires burning around the state and region.



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