

Year in Review ~ 2019 ~ Continued

September

(from page 7)

As with other police departments, the Warm Springs department equips each of its officers with a **Taser**. “It’s a good option,” said Carmen Smith, Branch of Public Safety general manager.

The Taser provides a non-lethal option in making an arrest of someone who may be belligerent or resisting. The Taser option can remove the need for an officer to pull his or her firearm, for instance, Mr. Smith said. And for this reason the use of a Taser can save lives.

The Warm Springs Police Department has had the Tasers since June of 2017, when they were purchased through a public safety grant.

Earlier this year the use of Tasers by the Warm Springs department became an issue when an officer was apparently misusing the device: The officer no longer works at the department, Smith said. He spoke with Tribal Council this month. While elsewhere:

The **summer water crisis**—with the months-long boil water notices—is over;

yet the tribal water system is far from secure in the long-term.

The tribes are working toward an assessment of the entire water system, as a compliance measure with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The assessment will determine the future course of repairing and upgrading the system, with the most pressing matters to be addressed first.

Finding a solution is important, as the EPA in time could issue fines in the instance of non-compliance.

Replacement of the water treatment plant on the Deschutes River will be the single biggest and most expensive item, though other areas of the system also need to be addressed.

The task is daunting to say the least, with overall funding likely in the tens of millions of dollars.

There are grants and other non-tribal sources available to tribes, though these could not cover the entire cost of all that needs to be done, said Alyssa Macy, Chief Operations Officer. “There is no way to grant-write our way out of this,” Ms. Macy said.

October

At least ten **wolf pups** were born this year to two separate packs in Central and Western Oregon. One of the packs—the White River—lives and dens on a remote part of the Warm Springs Reservation.

The tribes’ Branch of Natural Resources captured trail camera footage of wolves with the White River pack rearing six new pups. This was a large litter, as usually two to four pups can be expected, said Austin Smith Jr., wildlife biologist with tribal Natural Resources. In other news:

After the time immemorial there are certain years of significance to the tribes:

The year 1805 when the Lewis and Clark expedition arrived at the tribes’ Nixluidix trading area at the Columbia River. Eighteen-fifty-five when the tribes agreed to the Treaty. Nineteen-thirty-eight when the tribes adopted the Constitution and By-Laws, establishing the first Tribal Council.

And in more recent de-

cadecades is the year 1969—one half-century ago this year.

It was in 1969 that federal Judge Robert Belloni in the lawsuit *Sobhappy v. Smith*—with the combined *U.S. v. Oregon*—issued his decision. The dispute in the case—now called simply **U.S. vs. Oregon**—was in regard to the tribal share of the an-

nual fisheries harvest.

The judge ruled in favor of the tribes and the U.S., which joined the suit against the state on behalf of the tribes. The judge ruled the tribes have a treaty right to a fair share of the harvest.

This fall there are 23 seniors on the Madras High School White Buffalos varsity football team. In October—on **Seniors Day** at the high school—the team

will play a final regular season home game, as family and friends pay tribute for the winning season.

Like the record number of seniors on the football squad, overall attendance is up at the high school. And with this comes the recent high graduation numbers:

The Class of 2019 saw eighty-seven students from Warm Springs graduate from Madras High School—the most ever.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

June of 2019 saw the Fifty-Year Anniversary of the Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days. The tribes and Powwow Committee hosted the first Treaty Days in 1969, honoring veterans were away in Vietnam. This year marked the 164th year of the signing of the Treaty of 1855.



Your health insurance could be free.



Health insurance can expand your options for getting the care you need. It covers a wide variety of providers and services. If you’re a member of a federally recognized tribe, you can sign up anytime, year-round. If you qualify, your insurance may even be free.

Do you qualify?
Find out if you’re eligible for free insurance or payment assistance to lower your costs:

- Apply online at **OregonHealthCare.Gov**.
- Get **free help** at your tribal headquarters.
- Or call the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace at **1-855-268-3767** and ask for free, local help. Calls are toll free.

Sign up now | OregonHealthCare.Gov

