

# Graduation ceremony June 13

The 200 seniors of the Madras High School and Bridges High School graduating classes will take the stage in a non-traditional fashion on Saturday, June 13 at the high school. The graduates will be broken into eight groups, in alphabetical order. Beginning at 9 a.m., each group will have a designated time to arrive.

To maximize the number of supporters for our graduates, the graduation ceremony will be conducted in a drive-up fashion. Each graduate is allowed one vehicle, passenger car or pickup,

to attend the graduation ceremony.

To that extent, they are able to bring as many family and friends as can ride along with them in their one vehicle. The school district is continuing to examine ways for additional viewing by extended family.

The school district hopes that graduates and their supporters will take pride in appropriately decorating their graduation transportation.

"This was the safest way to enable seniors to walk across the stage while also having their loved ones witness this special event with them," said Brian Crook, Madras High School princi-

pal. Graduates will receive their diploma on stage where a professional videographer and photographer will be capturing the event. Each graduate will also have their photo taken at the MHS White Buffalo prior to leaving the ceremony.

While all commencement speeches and performances will be pre-recorded, Madras High School would like to recognize this year's graduation ceremony speakers:

Madras High School Principal Brian Crook; Madras High School Vice Principal Mark Stewart; Bridges

High School Principal Jay Weeks; Madras High School staff speaker Melissa Wheeler, 2019-20 Valedictorian; Kelsey Olivera 2019-20, Salutatorian; Kelly Huang and Emily Plant.

As a result of Covid-19 and current social distancing requirements, this year's graduation ceremony will not be open to the general public.

After the event, the school district will have the complete ceremony available electronically for community members to enjoy. As more information and details develop, it will be provided.

# Housing help for seniors

The Warm Springs Housing Authority has received funding for privately owned housing senior home emergency repairs.

Each home owner can receive a one-time emergency home repair not to exceed \$3,000.

Applications will be accepted from through June 30. Applications can be picked up at Housing, or emailed by request.

Each application must be fully completed, including all income verifications and returned to the Warm Springs Housing Authority no later than June 30.

This is limited funding, so only the completed applications will be screened and prioritized for health and safety issues.

# The Native vote 2020

The National Congress of American Indians Native Vote effort held a 'Virtual Rally' to kick off voter registration drives and citizen engagement in the voting process, across Indian Country.

Mark Trahan of *Trahan Reports* was one of the participants, commenting as follows:

It is really extraordinary to be having an election during a pandemic and the stakes couldn't be higher.

Two years ago was one of the most remarkable elections in history. Native Americans elected the first two Native women to congress, the first Native won as a state lieutenant governor, and dozens of candidates elected to state and local offices, the most ever.

Two years ago there were nine Native candidates for Congress, this year at present there are 13 candidates running for the House and three more for the United States Senate.

There are more than 70 Native candidates running for state legislatures, county commissions and city councils.

*You can register to vote online.*

# Traffic enforcement on the reservation

The Warm Springs Tribal Police Department would like to advise the public that over the last few months, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, law enforcement has been re-tasked to handle demands placed on it by the pandemic and stay at home orders.

However, as the stay at home orders are lifting in some areas, we are once again patrolling the reserva-

tion for traditional violations, including traffic.

In general, the public should be congratulated for their observance of traffic laws and rules of the road during this time.

But as the level of traffic has been increasing, law enforcement has been receiving an increasing number of citizen complaints concerning people blatantly

exceeding the speed limit, and driving in a reckless manner on Highway 26 as it crosses the Warm Springs Reservation.

These types of actions create a public safety concern for the citizens of the reservation, and so the the Police Department will be increasing its presence on the roadways traversing the reservation, and issuing ci-

tations to offenders.

In addition, the public is advised that the closures, and other restrictions to access that were put in place as part of the tribal and state emergency declarations are still in effect, and those found in violation will be cited for criminal trespass.

**William Elliott**, Warm Springs Chief Of Police.

# Fire season begins with added precautions

This week marks the beginning of the 2020 fire season. So far this season there has been only one small wild land fire on the reservation, an acre in size, caused by lightning over the weekend.

The projection at this point is for a hot and dry summer, meaning the risk of wild land fire is elevated.

This season will see changes in the way crews respond to fire events, as there is the added hazard of the Covid-19 virus. The job of fire fighting can be dangerous, and the virus is an added challenge that the fire professionals must contend with.

One measure that fire crews can use is to limit the



number of personnel in the fire vehicle, while other crew members can follow in separate vehicles. This will be an added cost; however, safety is the priority.

Fire camps generally include many people in a close area; so social distancing, hand washing and health monitoring will be more important than ever.

Warm Springs Fire Management, like other tribal, federal and state agencies, has been planning since March on Covid-19 prevention.

An added complication is that Warm Springs fire fighters often travel out of the area to assist other agencies; and outside crews can arrive and assist during an incident on the reservation.

Jurisdictions have different regulations regarding the coronavirus. Coordinating among the agencies, out-of-state and locally, will be a challenge.

*As fire season begins this week, the public is asked to be especially careful about accidental fires, as the crews are at an added health risk.*

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