

## Reward for fatal arson information

The FBI is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever was responsible for a fatal arson fire May 17 on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The FBI says the fire killed 77-year old Lamont

Brown. A second person in the home suffered critical injuries, and a third resident escaped but not before being seriously burned.

A fourth person escaped through a window and was uninjured.

Anyone with information can call the Bend or Port-

land FBI office. The Bend office number is 541-398-1202.

Or call the Warm Springs Police. The dispatch number is 541-553-1171.

Information can also be left on the FBI tips website: tips.fbi.gov

## Last day to register is coming up

The last day to register to vote in November 3 General Election is Tuesday, October 13. You can register online at sos.oregon.gov.

Or see the site: jeffco.net/cc

And there is a link at kwso.org

Other dates to keep in mind: October 14: The first day ballots are mailed out.

October 28: Last day to mail return ballot. November 3: Election Day.

The ballot will include the U.S. Presidential candidates. On the Oregon ballot will be one U.S. Senate seat, in a race between Sen. Jeff Merkley, Demo-



crat, incumbent; and Jo Rae Perkins, Republican. Other candidates: Gary Dye, Libertarian. Ibrahim Taher, Progressive-Pacific Green.

The Oregon Second Congressional District represents the reservation.

The candidates on the November 3 ballot for this position are: Cliff Bentz, Republican. Alex Spenser, Democratic. Robert Werch, Libertarian.

In the state legislature, the reservation is part of Or-

egon Senate District 30, also covering much of eastern Oregon.

The candidates on the November 3 ballot are Carina Miller of Warm Springs, Democrat; and Lynn Findley, of Vale, Republican.

The reservation is part of District 59 in the Oregon House of Representatives. The candidates this year are incumbent Daniel Bonham, Republican; and Arlene Burns, Democrat.

Candidates for Jefferson County Commission are Wayne Fording, Republican; and Kim Schmith, Democrat.

— Dave McMechan

## Lionshead, other fires update

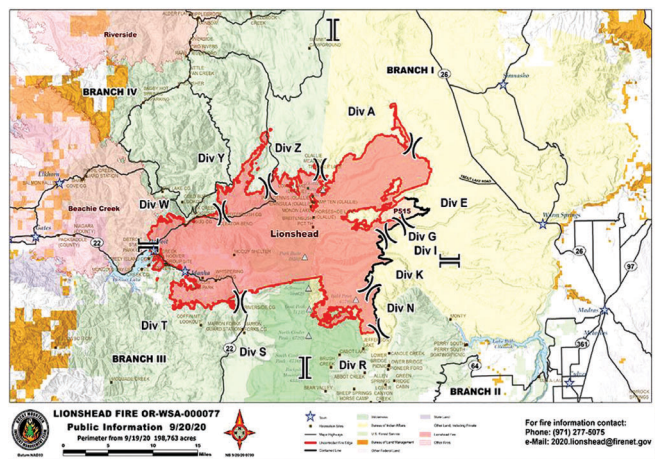
The fight against the Lionshead Fire is getting more help from the sky and on the ground. The fire continues to burn 14 miles west of Warm Springs.

Last weekend the weather finally provided some relief. This allowed firefighters to fly sections of the fire for the first time in seven days.

Having favorable weather has been extremely helpful in this regard. Helicopters were able to accomplish water bucket work and helispots for future work were identified, according to Fire Management.

Containment of Lionshead was above 10 percent. The fire has burned 198,763 acres.

Resources from the National Guard to fight the fire arrived last week. The troops, along with other crews coming to combat the



fire, achieved more work on the fire.

Good progress was made, including on the east side of the fire on the reservation, which approaches containment.

Evacuation notices were in effect for Sidwalter and Miller Flats areas.

Roads and trails near the fire were closed to the public Forest closures were in place for Deschutes, Mt.

Hood and Willamette National Forests.

### Statewide

Lionshead was one of 10 large wildfires that were burning this week in Oregon. The number was down from a high of 17 earlier in September.

In all across the state, close 2,300 homes have been destroyed this summer by the wildfires.

## Tribal Council summary

### September 8

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr. Roll call: Chief Delvis Heath, Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr., Lincoln Jay Suppah, Raymond (Captain) Moody, Anita Jackson (by phone), Wilson Wewa Jr. (by phone), Vice Chair Brigitte McConville, and Glendon Smith. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs update** with Floy Lori Anderson, Superintendent.

**Office of Special Trustee** call with Kevin Moore.

**Four Chairs meeting** – Chairman Tsumpti:

- Raymond, Delvis, Bruce Jim, Chairman, Fish and Wildlife Off Reservation Committee and Ronald Suppah, Chairman, Fish and Wildlife On Reservation Committee will attend the meeting at Wild Horse Casino.

**Indian Health Service update** with Hyllis Dauphinais, chief executive officer, Warm Springs IHS, and Dr. Locker

**Covid Team update** with Hyllis Dauphinais, Danny Martinez of Emergency Management, Caroline Cruz, Health and Human Services general manager, Carmen Smith, Public Safety general manager, Louie Pitt, Governmental Affairs directors, and Sue Matters KWSO manager:

- By consensus, Tribal Council accepted the team's recommendation to remain at 50% organizational opening and will review information from the Holiday weekend later this week.

- Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Corri-

dor update with Robert Townsend, area manager, and Abbey Driscoll, project manager:

- Motion by Delvis adopting **Resolution No. 12,719** that the Tribal Council hereby approves Amendment No. 1 to the Highway Safety Corridor Agreement (Attachment A to the Resolution). The Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to execute and sign Amendment No. 1 to the Highway Safety Corridor Agreement on behalf of the Tribes. Second by Captain. Question: 5/1/0, Anita/No, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

- Federal and state legislative update calls with Matthew Hill and Michael Mason.

- Tribal attorney update with Josh Newton, Ellen Grover and Howard Arnett:

- Reviewed ongoing business.
- Motion by Captain approving the Chairman to sign a letter to Lisa Gambee, County Clerk, Wasco County Courthouse requesting a Ballot Drop Box at Simnasho. Second by Jay. Question: 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Tribal attorney update with John Ogan:

- Reviewed ongoing business.
- Motion by Brigitte to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

## IHS data update on Covid-19

Each week the Indian Health Service updates its Covid-19 data for Indian Country.

Most recently, the IHS data shows that 45,598 of its Covid-19 tests among its service population have returned positive.

That represents an increase of 0.88 percent from the 45,198 reported the previous week.

Altogether, 748,137 IHS coronavirus tests have been administered through mid September.

Overall, the most recent IHS covid testing numbers show a low rate of increase, “reflecting a general slowdown of coronavirus activity reported by the IHS, with fewer tests being administered and fewer positive results being reported since late July.”

Overall, almost 6.1 percent of IHS coronavirus tests have returned positive, according to the data. But the rate is far higher in the IHS Phoenix Area, where 14.3 percent are positive.

Next is the Navajo Area, which serves the largest reservation in the United States. But even with 13.5 percent of tests returning positive, the rate

*The Portland Area... has a comparably high rate of 8 percent.*

has fallen steadily over the last couple of months, following a noticeable decline as the region with the highest rate.

The Tucson Area, which covers southern Arizona, shows a high positive rate of 8.6 percent. It recently overtook the Nashville Area as the region with the third highest rate within the IHS system. The Portland Area, though, also has a comparably high rate of 8 percent.

Still, the high rates in the Phoenix, Navajo and Tucson regions indicate a disproportionate toll of the coronavirus among IHS patients in the state of Arizona.

On the other end of the spectrum, aggressive efforts in the Alaska Area are turning up very few cases. Out of 171,429 tests administered in Alaska, only 0.88 percent have returned positive, the data shows.

The Alaska Area also far outnumbers every other area—including Navajo—in terms of tests administered. The Oklahoma City

Area remains in the second spot.

The data, however, is incomplete. While 100 percent of facilities run directly by the IHS are reporting data, only 33 percent of tribally managed facilities and 44 percent of urban Indian organizations are doing the same, the agency has told Indianz.Com.

Based on the most recent data: The IHS service population across Indian Country is 2,562,290. So based on that figure, 29.2 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have been tested for the coronavirus since the IHS began reporting data in March.

The IHS user population, on the other hand, is a much smaller number. As of 2019, 1,662,834 American Indians and Alaska Natives have lived within a service delivery area and have received health care at an IHS or tribal facility during the previous three years. Based on the user population, almost 45 percent of Native Americans have been tested for the coronavirus since the IHS began reporting this data in March.

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