

Fire season on reservation

The 2021 Warm Springs Indian Reservation fire season began early this month. The fire season declaration by the Warm Springs BIA Agency applies to all lands within the reservation. A fire danger level of Moderate was issued earlier this month.

All regulations governing any timber industry or other outside activities will be enforced. As fire dan-

ger and risk rise, more stringent regulations will be implemented. These restrictions will follow the regulations covered by the National Fire Rating System, Industrial Fire Precaution Levels, and Warm Springs' fire mobilization and dispatch plan.

For information on restrictions call Warm Springs Fire Management at 541-553-1146.

Tribes open first 2021 commercial fishery

Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribal fishers are making their way to the Columbia River after the tribes announced that the first commercial gillnet fishery of 2021. The season opens this Wednesday, June 16.

They will harvest summer chinook, sockeye, and a small number of steelhead that will be available for purchase by the general public from now on through the summer and fall.

Fisheries managers currently estimate that 115,600 sockeye and 78,000 summer chinook will return to the Columbia River over the

next few weeks. The peak of these runs will occur around the end of June and the abundance may drop off quickly, so those who want to enjoy a fresh Columbia River Indian-caught salmon this summer are encouraged to take this opportunity, safely.

"The tribal fishery on the Columbia River is a long-honored custom that can be traced back to ancient times when the rivers ran wild," stated Aja DeCoteau, interim executive director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"Whether people come to the river to enjoy fresh Co-

lumbia River-caught fish or engage tribal fishers directly, the commercial fishery allows the public to enjoy a taste of history."

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, a number of guidelines and recommendations have been made both to the tribal fishers as well as those interested in buying salmon directly in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus.

Those planning to visit the river to buy a salmon are encouraged to wear a mask and should expect to see fishers make social distancing accommodations.

Many fishers now ac-

cept credit cards or mobile payment to avoid handling cash.

As a population that is extremely at-risk for developing complications from Covid-19, the tribes have been particularly cautious and they encourage fish buyers to help in this effort to protect not only themselves, but the tribal community, as well.

Both treaty and non-treaty fishery catches have been agreed to as part of the U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement and will be adjusted throughout the season as the run sizes are updated.

Enrollment open at ECE

Warm Springs Head Start and Early Head Start are recruiting children from the school year 2021-22, September through next June.

Early Head Start is for children ages 0 to 3; and Head Start for children 3-5 years.

Children services include health services and screening, nutritious meals and snacks, school readiness,

and early intervention services.

Parent services include community resources, family activities, and parent education, trainings and classes.

Contact Family Services, or stop by the Early Childhood Education building to pick up an application. Early Childhood is located at 1257 Kot-Num Road. The phone is 541-553-3242.

Hundreds of jobs at St. Charles

St. Charles Health System is stepping up its efforts to fill more than 600 open positions. St. Charles is now publicizing the positions through direct mail.

One third of the positions that St. Charles needs to fill are RNs, and the other two-thirds are other positions in the health care system.

In a rare move, St. Charles has sent out 30,000 post cards advertising the vacancies.

St. Charles is also allow-

ing some of the open positions to be performed remotely, and is now accepting applications from 16- and 17-year-olds, lifting the previous requirement that applicants be at least 18.

St. Charles says despite having the greatest number of open positions than ever before, patient care has not been affected:

They've been able to bring in traveling health care workers to fill the needs temporarily.

Summary of Tribal Council

June 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr. Roll call: Raymond (Captain) Moody, Chief Joseph Moses, Lola Sohapp, Chief Alfred Smith Jr., Lincoln Jay Suppah, Vice Chair Brigitte McConville, Glendon Smith, Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Executive session 9-10:25 a.m., regarding finance.

Federal and state legislative update calls.

Bureau of Indian Affairs update with Brenda Bremner, Agency Superintendent

Covid-19 and School District 509-J update with Hyllis Dauphinais, IHS Clinic.

Tribal attorney update with Ellen Grover:

Executive session, 1:30-1:50 p.m.

Oregon Health Sciences University Memorandum of

Understanding with Gordon Scott:

Due to lack of a quorum the MOU will be presented for approval at a later date.

Indian Health Service update with Hyllis and Dr. Locker.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

June 8

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairman Raymond Tsumpti Sr.

Roll call: Raymond (Captain) Moody, Glendon Smith, Vice Chair Brigitte McConville, Lincoln Jay Suppah, Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

December 2020 financials discussion with Secretary-Treasurer Michele Stacona.

American Rescue Plan funding discussion with Michele.

The remaining agenda items for today will be rescheduled. Due to lack of a quorum the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Employment with the Tribes

The following are positions posted by the Confederated Tribes Personnel Department. You can reach the department at 541-553-3262.

Director of Finance. Fire lookouts (four positions, seasonal). Health coordinator.

Prevention - college intern (limited duration). Summer Youth workers (ten positions, limited duration). Prevention coordinator. WIC certifier/Nutrition

technician. Travel accountant. Community Health Nurse.

Summer Youth worker - Prevention (limited duration). Firefighter- Fuels (ten positions, seasonal). Squad boss - Fuels (two positions).

Fisheries Biologist III. Wildlife technician. Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot).

Public Utilities general manager. Medical social worker. Fish Tech I (limited duration).

Assistant engine operator (two positions). Office administrator. CPS specialist.

Budget contract and grant analyst (part time). Hood River fisheries program supervisor. Administrative officer.

Youth program employment (limited duration). Soil scientist/watershed planner. Development director.

US Census field representative. Treasury controller.

Here is a recent list of positions open at Indian

Head Casino. See indianheadcasino.com for information on applying:

Cage cashier. Coffee stations attendant. Guest services operator.

Lounge bartender. Players Club host. Players Club lead host.

Security officer. Server. Slot keyperson. Tule Grill attendant. Tule Grill cook.

The following are recent positions advertised at the Plateau Travel Plaza:

Store cashier. Store shift supervisor. Custodian.

Line cook. Receiving inventory specialist.

IHS updates its covid, vaccine numbers

The national office of the Indian Health Service updated its coronavirus and vaccination data, as of June 7.

According to the latest numbers, IHS had distributed 1,748,665 Covid-19 vaccine doses across 11 areas of Indian Country. Of that amount: 1,387,826 had

been administered, representing nearly 79.4 percent of the total.

The number of vaccines distributed increased by almost 0.7 percent from the week prior, according to the figures. The number of vaccines administered increased by nearly 1.2 percent.

The data shows the Oklahoma City Area has received the largest number of vaccines. The 440,160 doses account for about 25.2 percent of the total. Of that amount, almost 80.4 percent have been administered in the region.

With 249,605 doses distributed, the Navajo Area comes in second, accounting for nearly 14.3 percent of the total across the IHS. Of those, almost 89 percent have been administered in the region.

According to the IHS, vaccination distribution and administration will be updated weekly across the 11 areas that are receiving doses directly from the agency.

Tribal health facilities in Alaska have chosen to receive their COVID-19 vaccine supplies from the state, so their region is not included in the data.

As of June 7: The IHS is distributing vaccine allocations of the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.

Rare proposal to limit chinook fishing to help orcas

For the first time, federal officials propose Chinook salmon fishing limits in order to keep the fish abundant for orcas.

The southern resident killer whales primarily eat Chinook salmon.

Under the proposed rule, Chinook fishing would be delayed or completely prohibited in specific areas in years with low salmon returns. "The last time that happened was in 2007," said Michael Milstein, a spokesperson with NOAA Fisheries.

"It's going to be in those years when the whales are particularly in need of prey to keep their energy and reproduction going."

In those low salmon years, commercial and recreational fishing would be curtailed in areas near Grays Harbor, the Columbia River, Klamath River, and elsewhere on the West Coast.

This would not impact tribal fishing rights.

The proposal is open to public comment until August 2 through NOAA Fisheries.

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