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June - Atixan - Summer - Shatm

On the Fourth

There are only two designated areas where people can light off fireworks on the Fourth of July: The parking lot at the Community Center, and the parking area of the Simnasho Longhouse.

The heat and dry conditions make this the safest way to protect against a potential catastrophic accidental fire. Meanwhile, the official fireworks display is on for Sunday evening, July 4 at the Community Center area.

Ruling for Tribes, Power & Water

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs maintains its sovereign immunity when it comes to lawsuits filed pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act: This was the ruling in June of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Deschutes River Alliance in 2018 filed a lawsuit against the Confederated Tribes and Portland General Electric. The suit alleged that the operation of the selective water intake tower at the Pelton-Round Butte hydro system was violating provisions of the Clean Water Act.

A lower court had ruled in favor of the tribes and PGE, finding the Clean Water Act provisions were flexible enough to accommodate the operation of the intake tower. The Deschutes River Alliance then appealed this decision.

In its ruling the Ninth Circuit Court did not address the issue of the flexibility of the Clean Water Act provisions. Instead, the appeals court found that the Clean Water Act did not abrogate or limit the sovereign immunity of the Confederated Tribes.

The tribes are a necessary party to the lawsuit, as co-owner and operator of the dams. Sovereign immunity applied to the case, so the matter is dismissed, the Ninth Circuit panel ruled. In another recent development at the Pelton-Round Butte and water tower system:

Sixty Chinook were collected this year at the system fish trap, and released above the dam complex. This is the most returning Chinook to the site since the tower was installed a decade ago.

The selective water instake tower creates a downstream current in Lake Billy Chinook, behind the Round Butte dam. This allows the downstream migrating fish to find their way to the dam system, where they are collected and released downstream.

Since the dams were built in the 1960s, fish had been blocked from down- and upstream migration, until the tribes and PGE developed the tower system, as part of the dams relicensing in 2011.

June 25 marked the One-Hundred and Sixty-Sixth Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of 1855. For safety reasons the tribes again had to cancel the Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow.

On the treaty anniversary day this year, Tribal Council and staff, along with Housing held a giveaway with members arriving at the administration building in vehicles and receiving the gift bags.

Here at right, Helping out are among others Tammy Calhoun, Utilities, Norma Heath, Council staff, Jay Handi and Housing staff making the day a success.

There is the great hope the Treaty powwow celebration returns next June.



D.McMechan/Spilyay

'Into the Fray' honoring firefighters at museum

Firefighters of the Confederated Tribes have always been heroes. This is especially true during these days of extreme heat and drought. The Museum at Warm Springs this summer is honoring the heroes with a new exhibit, *Into the Fray: Native American Wildland Firefighters of Warm Springs and Beyond*.

Into the Fray highlights the history and contemporary activities of the brave Native wildland firefighters. The exhibit will be on display through the fire season, until late September. Some of the observations of the exhibit:

Fire has been a tool with significant impact for Indigenous peoples from ancient times to the present day. Tribes used fire in the hunt, for food preservation, ceremonial smoking, and clearing land.

"Native peoples across Indian Country align to the basic elements of the earth. Fire purifies," said museum director Elizabeth A. Woody. "Weather, the stars, water and fire are essential elements of change in



their lives."

From training, operations, the grueling hours of intense physical exertion, Native wildland fighters form bonds, share the rewards and tell stories of their elite corps. The history exhibition includes an array of photographs along with firefighters' boots, uniforms and hats.

"This exhibition examines and



D.McMechan/Spilyay

Some of the display items of *Into the Fray* at the museum.

pays tribute to the lives of our Native brother and sister wildland firefighters of Warm Springs and other Native nations," Ms. Woody says.

"These brave individuals are part of our contemporary culture and contribute to our story—and the safeguarding and preservation of our land and peoples for future generations."

Museum health and safety protocols are in effect: The Council requires all visitors and staff to wear masks while in the museum. Other health and safety procedures

are in place, which include allowing only a certain number of visitors in the museum at a time and temperature checks at the entrance.

All protocols are designed to keep the public and staff safe during the ongoing pandemic. In other news at the museum:

On a Friday and Saturday, August 27-28 the museum will host its Annual Honor Dinner and Celebration in Portland. This year's honorees are U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo (Mvskoke) and author and Warm Springs elder George W. Aguilar Sr. (Wasco).

S-503 fire containment

Firefighters this week were continuing to make progress on the S-503 wildfire burning on the reservation. Early in the week Fire Management reported the containment to 95 percent.

The S-503 blaze was at 6,679 acres. Firefighters and engine crews were working on cooling hot spots, and advancing in the interior of the fire's containment line.

S-503 was the largest a three fires that broke out in late June on the reservation, the other two happening near the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery, and the other off Tenino Road.

The fish hatchery area fire burned across about 45 acres of brush, and was considered

suspicious in origin, according to investigators. The fire off Tenino Road burned two abandoned structures, and the nearby brush.

The S-503 fire broke out the evening of Friday, June 19 on the north end of the reservation. The location was two miles east of Highway 26, and seven miles northeast of Simnasho.

Hot and dry conditions have been important factors in fighting this fire, which burned in timber and brush.

A main priority has been the safety of personnel, as the Pacific Northwest is going through an historic heat wave. Firefighters are well informed with extra guidance for heat-related illnesses, watch-out situation metrics and cooling tents



WS Fire Management

Fire crew member at the S-503 fire.

to care for the firefighters during the record temperatures. As temperatures remain high in coming days and perhaps weeks, with relatively low humidity, there is a high

risk of potential for fire activity.

Firefighting resources remain prepared to respond to new starts on the reservation and surrounding areas.



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