

Year in Review ~ 2021 ~ (from page 1)

The following are some of the memorable news events during 2021 on the reservation, as reported in the Spilyay Tymo.

January

Regarding the **water** infrastructure improvements: Toward this goal Tribal Council approved contracts to assist in the funding of the improvements. The work will be on the Agency drinking water systems. In other news:

Loggers were in the forest in January, working on the **Lionshead timber salvage** operation. This is part of the work that will happen through the year and beyond in the burn area of the September 2020 Lionshead fire.

The Lionshead impact area is large: 96,266 acres burned on the reservation; 108,203 acres burned off-reservation immediately to the west; for a total acreage of 204,469.

February

As February 2021 begins there are a lot of safety and sanitizing practices going on at the **Warm Springs Academy**, though the school really is closer to normal than it has been in nearly a year.

"The staff are so excited, and the kids are happy to be back," Academy Counselor Anna Keifer said in February, as she was helping at the school bus drop-off area on the first day of the return to class.

The whole learning day is now guided by safety, from the bus or car ride to the Academy, until late afternoon when the students return safely home.

Throughout the day the masks are strictly required for teachers and staff and students; as is the social distancing—outside, in the hallways and in the classrooms.

The hand sanitizer is plentiful and used profusely. There is special safety protocol in case any student reports feeling unwell.

The entire building is thoroughly sanitized when the school day is done, with additional cleaning and sanitizing during school hours. All teachers and staff at the Academy who chose to, have now received their first Covid-19 vaccination.

Even with all of these many precautions, the feeling is that of some welcome return to normalcy. In other February 2021 education news of the tribes:



March of 2021 saw the start of the Warm Springs Highway Safety Corridor project.

There currently are very few—apparently only two—members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs who are **attorneys at law**. In the near future Karlen Yallup will join this elite community of professionals.

"I've known Karlen since she was a little girl," says Carol Dick, coordinator of tribal Higher Education. "She's about the same age as my daughter. It is awesome to see her move forward, overcoming any obstacles, and accomplishing her educational goals and dreams."

Karlen is in her second year at the Lewis & Clark Law School, a top law school in the Northwest, and the only law school in Portland.

Karlen serves as president of the Native American Law Students Association at Lewis & Clark. She also serves on the National Native American Law School Association board of directors.



Karlen Yallup

A Ten Year Anniversary: When **Salmon King Fisheries** first opened in February of 2011, the business offered their renowned

smoked salmon, harvested, processed and marketed by the owner-operators Brigette and Sean McConville. Ten years to the month later, Salmon King now sells 28 different Columbia fishery products: Smoked, fresh canned, smoke canned—they have eight kinds of canned fish—the popular wind-dried, the salmon candy, and more. In other February news:

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon, directed by U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams, released its first **Missing and Murdered Indigenous People** annual report.

The overall goal of the initiative is to create a more coordinated effort among law enforcement in dealing with cases of MMIP.

As identified through the research, a key problem is that of jurisdiction: As reservations are sovereign, jurisdictional complications can arise that exist nowhere else in the U.S. This in turn can cause delays, and an inadvertent lack of coordination among law enforcement jurisdictions. Resolving this situation is a key element to the MMIP Initiative.

The purpose of the first annual MMIP report for the District of Oregon "is to provide tribal communities, law enforcement and the public an overview of the currently available data regarding MMIP cases connected to the district," and to introduce the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon 2021 MMIP Action Plan. In wildlife news of the Confederated Tribes:

It is no surprise when a young male **wolf** leaves the home territory where it grew up. They often leave in search of a mate to start

their own pack, said Austin Smith Jr., wildlife biologist with the Confederated Tribes Branch of Natural Resources.

This is what happened with wolf OR-93, who traveled last year from the reservation, where he grew up, to California. OR-93 is three years old: In the wild the North American Gray Wolf can live up to 13 years; so OR-93 is a young adult. He has been wearing a tracking collar since 2019: "So we have all of the data for this wolf," Mr. Smith said.

KWSO 91.9 FM in February is working with tribal member Dr. Shilo Tippet on a new initiative promoting **awareness and prevention of Covid-19**.

The public awareness campaign is designed to empower community members during this phase of the pandemic with: Education, Understanding and Perspective, and Hope.

Dr. Tippet is a licensed Clinical Psychologist who works at St. Charles Health System—Madras.

March

As March begins, contractors with the Oregon Department of Transportation began work on the Warm Springs **Highway 26 Safety Corridor** project.

As the work begins, expect the 20-minute traffic delays through October on the highway, as crews are working on the \$6.5 million Safety Corridor project. Tribal Council and the Oregon Department of Transportation planned this project to address highway hazards for pedestrians and vehicle traffic. In March covid news:

"Our Longhouse is a place of worship, and we haven't been able to use it during covid," said Karen Whitford, tribal elder who lives 12 miles east of The Dalles in **Celilo Village**.

Year in Review 2021 continues on 5

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Pay incentive for school bus drivers, other hires

The Jefferson County School District 509-J continues to face a hardship in finding applicants for select classified positions. In response to better serve our students and their families, the district is increasing pay for some transportation positions. Those positions include bus driver, bus mechanic, driver trainer, type 10/20 driver, transportation coordinator, and bus aide.

In addition, the district is offering for the first time a \$500 retention bonus to any bus driver, bus mechanic, type 10/20 driver, transportation coordinator, bus aide, or SPED educational assistant that was hired between August 1 and December 1 following 90 days of employment with the district.

For information and to apply see the website: jcsd.k12.or.us

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