

Standoff closed hwy. for 6 hours

Highway 26 between Warm Springs and Madras was closed for six hours last Wednesday afternoon, February 2.

The incident began about 8:30 a.m., when Warm Springs Police attempted to make a vehicle stop based on an outstanding warrant.

Rather than pull over, the driver continued south on the highway, before turning off on Pelton Dam Road, where the driver then stopped.

The driver, a 41-year old female from Warm Springs, was taken into custody without incident.

The male passenger, Janson Harrington, 34, refused to exit the vehicle. He brandished a firearm, barricading himself inside the vehicle, according to police. This



Scene of the stand-off on Pelton Dam Road.

prompted the six-hour closure of the highway.

After extensive negotiation, a tactical team used a flash-bang device to get Mr. Harrington from the vehicle, authorities said.

Harrington was wanted for crimes on the reservation, and on a felony probation violation out of Jefferson County. At the scene of

six-hour standoff were Warm Springs and Madras police, sheriffs deputies and other members of the Central Oregon Emergency Response Team. Also on the scene were two Bearcat armored vehicles, a K-9 team, and a drone helping keep watch on the vehicle.

Most fortunatley, the incident ended without injury.

Portland Area IHS reports lower covid cases

The Portland Area of the Indian Health Service reported the tied-for-lowest Covid-19 seven-day incidence rate among the 12 IHS areas. The most recent data is through early February.

The Portland Area and California Area each reported a recent seven-day incidence rate of 20.4 percent, followed narrowly by the Alaska Area at 20.6 percent incidence rate. For comparison, the seven-day incidence rate for the Tucson Area was 46.4 percent.

This number reflects the seven-day incidence rate among those tested during the time frame. The Billings Area was at 46.4 percent; and Albuquerque at 40.1 percent. In other early February IHS covid data from around Indian Country:

The IHS has conducted more than 4 million covid tests for its service membership across Indian Country. Of the total, 426,146 have returned positive since the pandemic began. The data shows an increase in cases from late January to early

February. Warm Springs has cases falling in recent weeks, from the large spike that happened in the weeks following the December holidays.

Two of the IHS regions with the highest overall incidence are in Arizona: The Navajo Area and the Phoenix Area. The Oklahoma City Area has also been among the highest, with Albuquerque. In fact, the Oklahoma City Area is now approaching the top hot-spot long held by the Navajo Area.

New leader for NAGPRA

Federal officials announced the hiring of the first full-time Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act investigator at the Department of the Interior.

The new employee will help ensure that museums and other institutions are complying with the federal law, which requires the return of ancestral remains and cultural property to their rightful American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian caretakers and owners.

“Repatriation is a sacred respon-

sibility for many Native Americans,” said Chuck Sams, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation who serves as director of the National Park Service.

“We hope our efforts to streamline the requirements of NAGPRA and invest in additional staff will lead to more instances of proper repatriation and reburial of Indigenous ancestors and cultural items,” said Sams, who is the first Native person to lead the National Parks.

Driver killed in Jan. wreck

In late January an SUV driver traveling at a high rate of speed, and passing other vehicles on Highway 26 on the reservation, collided head-on with a pickup truck, killing the driver and leaving two other people with minor injuries. The incident happened Friday, January 28.

Warm Springs Police and medics responded to the two-vehicle crash about 6 p.m. near milepost 74.

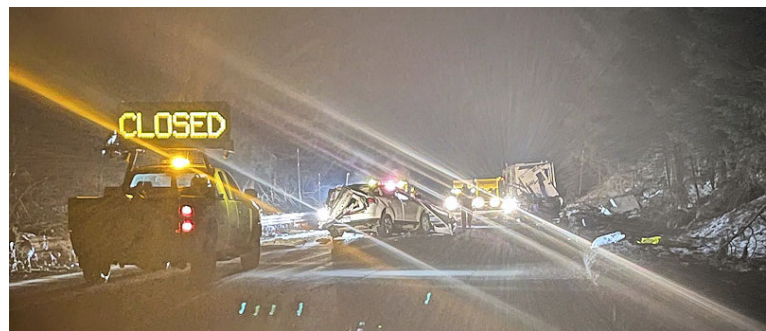
Based on the investigation, the driver of a 2007 Lincoln SUV was heading west at a high rate of speed and attempting to pass other vehicles when he struck an eastbound 2014 Ford

pickup truck towing a small utility trailer. The driver died at the scene.

Oregon State Police responded to assist with the investigation and crash reconstruction. Speed is considered a primary factor in the crash.

The crash and investigation shut down a 25-mile stretch of the highway for several hours.

The highway was closed between mileposts 71 and 96, with drivers urged to use alternate routes, such as highways 35 and 216. The highway didn't reopen until early Saturday.



Tribal police photo at the scene.

Courtesy WSPD

CODE makes inter-state drugs, weapons arrests

The Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Team last week concluded a lengthy surveillance operation with the arrest of a Madras couple on inter-state drug and weapons charges.

Officers with the Drug Enforcement Team received a warrant for the arrest of David Toedtemeier, 31, and his wife Kylee, 38. The officers stopped the couple's vehicle in late January on Highway 97 near LaPine.

At the stop, the Warm Springs Police Department narcotics K9 alerted the officers to the presence of the drugs in the vehicle.

Officers then found a large amount of fentanyl, methamphetamine and heroin, disguised as Oxycodone pills. They also recovered a loaded pistol. Mr. Toedtemeier would then face a



Pills and other drugs seized during arrests.

CODE

felon-in-possession charge. The couple also had their infant child in the vehicle, bringing a charge of endangering the welfare of a child.

After the arrests, officers searched the Toedtemeier residence, recovering more drugs and weapons.

An allegation is that weapons were being exchanged in California for drugs.

Young Life Youth Club meeting in Warm Springs

The Young Life Youth Club meets on Thursdays in Warm Springs from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

The club meets at the modulars by the former elementary school, where Bridges used to be located. There are food and games and more. Feel free to stop by! For more information contact Shontae Thomas at 541-771 9724.

The Warm Springs Community Action Team is offering **Tax Aide** again this year. You can schedule an appointment for February by calling 541-553-3148.



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Help Improve the Columbia River Fishing Access Sites!

Congress has authorized safety and sanitation improvements to be made at the Zone 6 fishing access sites through the federal *Columbia River In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Sites Improvement Act*.

We want to hear from **tribal members who use these sites to exercise their treaty-reserved fishing rights.**

- How do you use the sites?
- How well do the sites fit your needs?
- What problems have you seen or experienced while using the sites?
- What are your suggestions on ways to make the sites better?

In-person interviews will be held on the sites and on the four reservations by Akana or Nch'i Wana Housing staff in February and early March. An online survey option will also be available. Participation is voluntary and participants will get a \$50 gift card for their time.

Scan the QR code for the interview schedule, online survey information, and more details. ▶

