

Help getting ready for fire season

The 2022 fire season has arrived on the reservation, and Fire Management and Fire and Safety are encouraging everyone to be cautious and mindful of practicing safety to avoid human-caused fire.

Recent years have seen very active summer fire seasons on the reservation. The worst recent fire year was 2020, when the Lionshead Fire burned in August and September. Lionshead in time grew to 200,000 acres, on the reservation and off. Last year was also active, with the S-503 fire, among others, burning several thousand acres.

The Warm Springs Fire Management and Fire and Safety crews each year dedicate themselves to fighting fires, protecting the communities and the forest land.

This year the tribes had some assistance in preparing for the season, after Dan Martinez, Warm Springs Emergency Management director, requested assistance from Team Rubicon.

Team Rubicon serves communities by mobilizing veterans, first-responders and civilians by leveraging skills and experience to help people prepare, respond,



D.McMechan/Spilyay

Team Rubicon joins the Honoring Veterans Parade.

and recover from disasters and humanitarian crises. This would obviously include catastrophic wildfire.

“We don’t fight fires, but if we can stop some of the damage that can happen from a fire before it actually happens, that’s why we’re here and we tend to focus on areas that need help,” said Bill Terrill, incident commander for the Warm Springs Team Rubicon operation.

The team focused on areas around the museum, the casino and Highway 26. Dan Martinez said he feels blessed that parts of Warm Springs will be better-posi-

tioned to minimize risk, save homes and possibly save lives.

Team Rubicon was founded following the Haiti earthquake in 2010. Over the years the organization has grown to over 160,000 volunteers across the U.S. The team has launched over 1,000 operations both domestically and internationally. You can see their website at: teamrubiconusa.org

Mr. Terrill for Team Rubicon commented, “We are committed to supporting the Warm Springs community in their efforts to reduce the impact of wild-

land fire that historically sweeps through the reservation every year. We will bring a workforce, skills, and equipment to assist their efforts.

“By improving natural fire-breaks or creating new ones, reducing fuel loads, and building defensible spaces around properties, Team Rubicon and Warm Springs hope to minimize the impact of these fires, save homes, and possibly save lives.”

As a proud partner of the tribes, Team Rubicon was on the reservation this past weekend into Monday of this week.

Longer fire seasons

As is well documented, the American West is burning more quickly than it has in more than a decade. The Southwest, for instance, has already been fighting its two biggest wildfires on record for more than a month. About 3 million acres of U.S. land had already burned as of earlier in June.

And two weeks into summer, a widespread heat wave is already in place; and burning may quite likely get worse.

The changing climate has created a troubling reality, ecologists and foresters are saying: Wildfire seasons have turned into wildfire years, starting earlier in the spring and lasting into winter.

Fair, rodeo in July

The Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo—this year with the theme *Summer Nights and Carnival Lights*—is coming up Wednesday through Saturday, July 20-23 at the county fair complex.

There will be 4-H and FAA exhibits, food booths, live music all four nights; and the Friday and Saturday rodeo action.

This year visitors will see the new show barn—just one of the many improvements around the fair facilities.

The fair kicks off Wednesday morning July 20, with the Veterans Breakfast under the pavilion at 8 a.m. Opening ceremonies follow later in the morning.

4-H and FAA livestock shows—showing off the hard work and dedication of young people who have been raising their animals—also start opening day.

Returning this year will be Antonio Sombrero, a professional balloon twister. You can have him make you one of his balloon creations, known to those who have seen them as “true artistry.” The Paul Maurer Shows—the carnival and traveling amusement company—returns with 35 rides, fun games, and cotton candy food concessions.

Bands are lined up to take the stage every night of the fair. They include Jessie Leigh, Countryfied, and Stone in Love—a Journey tribute band, among others.

There will be the Family Fun Night in the arena; the tri-tip cook-off on Saturday, and the rodeo on Friday and Saturday nights.

For information you can call the Jefferson County Fair Events Coordinator at 541-325-5050.

\$600 to some families

The Oregon Department of Revenue is distributing \$600 checks to qualifying households. The money is a one-time assistance payment aimed to support low-income Oregonians, and help those facing a hardship due to Covid-19.

To qualify households must have received the Earned Income Tax Credit on their 2020 tax filing, and lived in Oregon the last six months of 2020.

Over 235,000 Orego-

nians will soon receive the cash infusion. Payments should arrive through direct deposit or by check on or before this Friday, July 1.

House Bill 4157 directs the Oregon Department of Revenue to address negative economic impacts of the pandemic with one-time financial assistance to low-income households. The payments across the state are expected to amount to nearly \$142 million and paid from federal pandemic aid.

Portland man arrested on drug charges, warrant

Warm Springs tribal police officers arrested a Portland man last week on charges of possession of fentanyl and psilocybin. James Paul Bauer, 41, was also wanted on an outstanding warrant.

The incident happened on Wednesday, June 22, when tribal police conducted a vehicle stop on Highway 26 on the reservation, near the community of Warm Springs.

At the time of the vehicle stop, police officers were notified the registered owner, Bauer, had an outstanding arrest warrant issued from Hood River for driving under the influence of intoxicants and possession of a dangerous drug.

Due to the nature of the underlying charges related to the warrant, a narcotics detective attended the scene with a certified drug detection dog. An initial investigation led to the discovery of

34 suspected fentanyl pills, and approximately six grams of what was purported to be psilocybin mushrooms.

Police took Bauer into custody on the Hood River arrest warrant and transported him to the Jefferson County Jail. Bauer was also civilly cited into the Warm Springs Tribal Court with fines amounting to as much as \$10,000, in addition to being cited by Jefferson County Court for prosecution under Oregon State statutes.

However, as the possession and transportation of narcotics occurred on the reservation, and involved the possible possession of fentanyl—a drug that has been responsible for hospitalizations and deaths everywhere throughout the state—this matter is also being forwarded to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for possible felony prosecution under federal law.

Warm Springs police want

to notify the public that even though there are new laws affecting the State of Oregon regarding the possession of controlled substances, on lands that are under the jurisdiction of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs current tribal and federal drug statutes are in effect.

The protection of the Warm Springs community against the introduction of drugs like fentanyl, heroin and meth are a priority for the Warm Springs Police Department.

The department officers will continue to vigorously enforce all drug laws, which in turn could subject violators to federal criminal prosecution, and civil process within the power of the tribe that could lead to the loss of property, such as vehicles, used in commission of these offenses and stiff fines.

“We hope that the public take these facts into consid-

eration if they intend to be in possession of any amount of controlled substances while coming onto, or transiting through the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, and understand that the lax drug possession provisions contained in SB-110 do not apply to this jurisdiction,” according to a statement from Warm Springs Police.

Even though the Warm Springs community and government embraces prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation as the ultimate means of bringing about a drug safe environment, it also strongly believes in the rule of law as part of its governmental doctrine.

As such, Warm Springs Police continues to work closely with all facets of the drug abuse and mental health agencies operated by this tribe, but will not tolerate drug usage, possession, or trafficking within its jurisdiction no, matter the amount.

Piano concert on Saturday

Hunter Noack and his *In a Landscape* concert will be in Warm Springs this Saturday, July 2 for a 6:30 evening show.

Online ticket sales have ended for the event but free tickets are available for Warm Springs tribal members through In a Landscape’s Good Neighbor Program.

If you are interested in tickets, contact Dustin Seyler at the Warm Springs Community Action Team, 541-553-3148.

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