



Reservation fire season update

There are two active fires on the reservation, both having started early this past weekend. As of Tuesday morning of this week, the Butte Creek fire had grown to about 2,000 acres, and was 5-percent contained, according to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center. No homes had burned.

Residents of Simnasho and Schoolie Flats were under level 2 evacuation warnings over the weekend. The powwow scheduled for the Hehe Longhouse also had to be cancelled due to the Butte Creek. The Huckleberry Feast was moved to the Agency Longhouse rather than Hehe.

Some progress was reported earlier this week on the Butte Creek fire, as winds had died down for a time; and the evacuation order was downgraded to level 1, or 'Be ready,' according to Warm Springs Fire Management.

The Greeley Heights fire started shortly after the Butte Creek fire, sometime early this past weekend. The fire at one point prompted Level 3, Go now evacuation order for areas near Mt. Jefferson Street.

As of earlier this week, the Greeley Heights fire had burned about 385 acres and was 0-percent contained, but fire crews were able to decrease fire activity in key areas, leading evacuation orders to be downgraded to level 1.

The Warm Springs Police Department told people to remain aware of the fires and to prepare supplies and an escape plan in case conditions worsen.

Jefferson County Fair this week

The Jefferson County Fair & Rodeo is this Wednesday through Saturday, July 23–26 at the county fair Event Complex.

The Jefferson County Fair & Rodeo is free to get in.

There are livestock and other exhibits, live music each night, carnival rides, pro rodeo action, circus performers, balloon artists, face painters, Kids Zone, all new attractions and much more.

Carnival passes are priced at \$35 for an unlimited day pass; and \$85 for unlimited week pass. The theme for the 2025 fair is 'Your Gateway to Carnival Lights & Summer Nights!'

Graudates' Banquet

The 2025 Graduation Banquet is Wednesday, July 30 at the Agency Longhouse. Dinner is at 6 p.m. This is for high school and college graduates, and vocational and trade school certification earners. If you would like more information, contact Sandra Danzuka, email: sdanzuka@wstribes.org

Tribes, Council welcome new S-T

The Thirtieth Tribal Council has hired Edward 'Eddie' Henderson as the new Secretary-Treasurer/CEO for the Confederated Tribes. Col. Henderson is from Warm Springs, having grown up here; and in the past had worked for the tribes. Some years ago, for instance, he was the tribes' first chief operations officer, before joining the U.S. Army.

Col. Henderson had a 36-year career with the Army. At the time



Edward Henderson

of his retirement from the service he had achieved the rank of Colonel, and was the highest ranking Native American officer in the United States Army. More recently he had been working as an auditor for the state of Oklahoma, regarding oil and gas company business.

By chance, Col. Henderson and outgoing S-T Robert 'Bobby' Brunoe are fist cousins. They are working together for a few weeks during the S-T transition, as issues

facing the tribes are often complicated and ongoing. The Monday Tribal Council meeting of this week was Col. Henderson's first day on the job, and the session was an introduction to some of the pending matters.

"Edward Henderson brings a wealth of experience and integrity," said Council Chairman Dennis White III. "His background aligns with the values and responsibilities this position requires."

Kayakers complete historic Klamath River journey

Native youth descend a free-flowing Klamath River, after biggest dam removal project in history.

The Klamath River meets the Pacific Ocean near Requa Village, on the Yurok Reservation in northern California. One foggy morning earlier this month, on a sandy beach nearby the village, family and community members gathered to welcome 120 Indigenous youth kayakers who had just finished an historic journey.

For 30 days, the youth had traveled by kayak down the free-flowing Klamath River. They were the first to make

the 310-mile journey since the removal of the up-river Klamath dams, constructed over decades from the 1910s to the 1960s.

Some of the youth representing the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs on the journey were Julia Wolfe, Kiahna Allen, and James Napyer.

"It's been such an experience these past four years, dedicating my summers to training to go down the under and calamities and just being a part of this huge and wild and just awesome experience has been life changing," Julia said.

For more than a century, the four hydroelectric dams blocked the Klamath River, disrupting once-abundant salmon runs and disconnecting Indigenous communities from the river that they have lived along since time immemorial.

The last of those dams was removed in the fall of last year, marking the completion of the largest dam removal project in history.

On June 12, the kayakers ranging in age from 13 to 20 set out to paddle the newly free-flowing river, starting at the headwaters in southern Oregon.

And on July 11, they made the long-awaited dream of Klamath basin tribes a reality when they entered the mouth of the river at the Pacific. With Warm Springs, youth from the Klamath, Yurok, Karuk, Quartz Valley, Hoopa Valley, as well as the Tohono O'odham Nation were represented in the program.

The kayakers had put in some years of traing and preparation specifically for this adventure. As the river had been unpassable



Kiahna Allen for some time now has been an avid kayaker.

for kayakers for decades, this was the 'first descent' since removal of the dams:

Kayakers continues on 7



Jarrette Werk, Underscore Native News

Earlier this month, over 120 youth kayakers representing the Warm Springs tribes, the Klamath, Yurok, Karuk, Quartz Valley, Hoopa Valley, as well as the Tohono O'odham Nation completed their historic 310-mile descent of the free-flowing Klamath River, possible after the largest dam removal project in history.

State officials vote to reconsider Grand Ronde fishing agreement

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted earlier this month to revisit its memorandum of agreement with the Grand Ronde tribe, regarding fishing rights.

The five-year agreement, signed in 2023, attempted to allow the Grand Ronde tribe to issue its own hunting and fishing licenses to tribal members

for subsistence and ceremonial harvest throughout a broad swath of Northwest Oregon, from the Cascade Mountains to the Oregon coast. The four treaty tribes of the Columbia River opposed the agreement, and successfully petitioned the state to revisit the issue.

"The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission directed the

state Department of Fish and Wildlife to fix a mistake that harms our sovereignty," said Dennis White III, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman.

"ODFW must now consult with us on modifications to its agreement with the Grand Ronde Tribe to ensure that the agreement does not interfere with our treaty-pro-

tected fishing, hunting, and gathering rights."

The Confederated Tribes is looking forward to consulting with the state Fish and Wildlife Department about how to better protect the tribes' treaty-protected resources from being infringed upon by the state in the future, Chairman White said.

Fisheries continues on 3



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