

Tribal crews help tame season's first fire

WILLAMINA – Eight Tribal Natural Resources Department employees helped fight the first fire of the 2018 season on Thursday, June 21, in the East Creek area near Willamina.

The approximately 10-acre fire was reported at about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, on Hancock property and then spread to nearby property.

The Oregon Department of Forestry was contacted by Tribal Silviculture & Fire Protection Manager Colby Drake, who was informed about the fire by Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight.

Drake offered Tribal firefighting resources to assist with the fire and the Oregon Department of Forestry requested the aid arrive that evening. Eight Tribal employees helped combat the wildland fire over the night after arriving at about 2 a.m. Thursday, June 21. The employees – Jim Pinder, Andrew Puerini, Jeramy Trammell, Dustin Hawks, Jordan Utti, Kenny Rioux, Max Lynn and Gabe Synegal – were treated to breakfast at Coyote Joe's by the state Department of Forestry.

Personnel from the Department of Forestry, local rural fire districts and the Forest Grove Fire District also helped fight the fire.

The cause is under investigation, West Oregon District Forester Mike Totey said.

"We're used to seeing this type of activity in late July, not late June," Totey said. "We're early this year." ■

Community Fund receives New Day Award on June 18

PORTLAND — Spirit Mountain Community Fund received the inaugural New Day Award from the Volunteers of America Oregon during a program held Monday, June 18, at Northwest Natural's downtown Portland offices.

Community Fund Director Mychal Cherry and Tribal Council member Denise Harvey accepted the award on behalf of the Grand Ronde Tribe's philanthropic entity.

"This award is presented in recognition of their dedicated commitment to our community and for their generous support of domestic violence prevention and family support programs," the event's program stated.

The Community Fund has donated almost \$78 million to nonprofits in 11 western Oregon counties since its founding 21 years ago.

The keynote speaker at the New Day Award event was Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

Also attending from the Community Fund were Program



Coordinator Angela Sears and Administrative Assistant Jesse Knight.

Harvey presented the award to Tribal Council during the Tuesday, June 19, Legislative Action Committee meeting. ■

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'Our ancestors have been here for 500 generations'

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Indians and Coastal Indians. That didn't fit with my people. All Tribes are very unique."

Harrelson said that Tribal people have been in Oregon since "time immemorial."

"We have oral histories about the floods that came through here 18,000 years ago," he said. "Our ancestors have been here for 500 generations."

Harrelson also talked to educators about how they could incorporate Tribal history into different lesson plans by using the example of the Willamette Meteorite, known to Tribal members as Tomanowos. It is currently housed at the American Museum of History in New York City, and has cultural and religious ties to the Tribe.

"It was in West Linn for thousands of years," he said. "People wonder how there is not a gigantic crater in that area, but it's because the meteorite didn't land there initially. It was brought down by the floods. That is something you could work into your lesson plans in more than one context."

Harrelson also discussed the different Tribes and bands that comprise the Grand Ronde confederation, the Termination of the Tribe in 1954 and subsequent Restoration in 1983.

Education Northwest Indian Education and Special Projects Leader Shandiin Garcia and University of Oregon Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies in Education Leilani Sabzalian discussed Senate Bill 13.

Senate Bill 13 calls upon the

Oregon Department of Education to develop curriculum relating to the Native American experience in Oregon. This includes Tribal history, sovereignty, culture, treaty rights, government, socioeconomic experiences and current events. Curriculum will be implemented in school districts for required teaching in the 2019-20 school year.

There is a committee in place to support implementation of Senate Bill 13, and it includes 18 representatives from Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes and is led by Portland-based Education Northwest Consultants, a nonprofit organization working with the Department of Education to support implementation of Senate Bill 13.

"As teachers, you will have students with varying histories and some of what you teach is very personal to us," Sabzalian said.

"While Senate Bill 13 has specific deliverables, it is so much more," Garcia said. "It gives a full, honest complete story of Oregon. It is a huge movement in education."

Garcia and Sabzalian discussed phase I, which is essential understanding that Oregon is Indian Country and how that curriculum can be implemented in various lessons.

"It is important that you see yourselves invested in this implementation," Sabzalian said. "Otherwise the most beautiful curriculum in the world means nothing."

After lunch, participants received a guided tour of Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center, discussed meaningful Native American curriculum and learned about the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as well. ■

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