

Wallowa County native will share Standing Rock experience

Journalist, tribal member, and Wallowa County native Joe Whittle will share his experiences at the Dakota Access Pipeline protests in Standing Rock, North Dakota, at a talk at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at Wallowology Natural History Discovery Center, 508 N. Main St., Joseph.

Whittle's presentation is titled: Standing Rock and the History of Resource Extraction on Native American Lands. The admission is free and the public is invited to attend. Whittle's talk will include examples of damage this and other pipelines and mines have done to Native Americans' health and sacred lands.

Early in November 2016, Whittle joined a group of eastern Oregonians for the 1,100 mile drive to Standing Rock, North Dakota, where thousands of people, including members of more than 300 native tribes, gathered to support the Standing Rock Band of Lakota Sioux and their op-



This photo was taken during a protest by military veterans at Standing Rock, North Dakota, in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline. Joe Whittle will speak about his experiences at Standing Rock at Wallowology Feb. 16 in Joseph.

position to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Dakota Access Pipe-

line is a 1,172-mile-long underground conduit planned and mostly constructed to transport oil from the Bakken shale-oil fields in North Dakota to oil tanks in southern Illinois.

Protests erupted because the unfinished segment of the project crosses burial grounds

and sacred sites on the Standing Rock Reservation. The pipeline also threatens the tribe's water supply where it crosses the Missouri River. Tribal members and their allies call themselves Water Protectors.

The pipeline could carry up

to 570,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

"Pipelines go through pristine landscapes, and they have tremendous potential to pollute the ground, groundwater and water supplies," Whittle said. "They go through Indian Country. It's part of a pattern—a very intentional pattern."

While at Standing Rock, Whittle observed protesters injured by water cannons and hoses, batons, rubber bullets, and physical beatings. His daughter, a 4.0-grade-average Stanford University student, was fired on by police while she kneeled to pray beside a state highway. Other protesters were taken to the Bismark North Dakota Hospital's Emergency Room with serious injuries, Whittle said.

Whittle sees good coming from the protests. Thousands of people have spent time at the encampment to support Native American values, including people from Tibet, Japan, and New Zealand, and more than 300 Native American tribes.

"This gathering of nations is unprecedented in Native American history. There is a sense of history in the making," he said.

Student vaccines required by Feb. 15

Immunizations must be current or child cannot attend school

The Oregon Immunization Program is reminding parents that Wednesday, Feb. 15, is School Exclusion Day, and that children will not be able to attend school or child care starting that day if their records on file show missing immunizations.

Under state law, all children in public and private schools, preschools, Head Start and certified child care facilities must have up-to-date documentation on their immunizations, or have an exemption.

If school and child care vaccination records are not up-to-date on Feb. 15, the child will be sent home.

In 2016, local health departments sent 41,045 letters to parents and guardians informing them that their children needed immunizations to stay in school or child care. A total of 6,995 children were kept out of school or child care until the necessary immunization information was turned in to the schools or child care facilities.

Parents seeking immunizations for their children should contact their health care provider or local health department, or call 211Info — just dial 211 or go to 211info.org.

No one can be turned away from a local health department because of the inability to pay for required vaccines. Many pharmacists can immunize children age 7 and older. Parents should contact their local pharmacy for details.

Student of the Week

Gabby Wells
ENTERPRISE HIGH SCHOOL

Gabby is a senior that carries a 3.79 cumulative GPA and is ranked 7th in her class. She has taken advanced placement classes while attending EHS, as well as many college classes online. She is a leader in our Ag department and is an asset to our school.

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

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BMCC honor roll announced

Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton has announced its fall term 2016-17 honor roll recognition went to the following full-time student from Wallowa County:

Dean's List: 3.40 to 3.84 GPA: Heather Bowers.

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