

School BBQ Sept. 5

The Warm Springs Back to School Barbecue is set for Thursday, Sept. 5. The barbecue and school supply giveaway

starts at 4 p.m. at the Campus. The Back to School Barbecue is sponsored by the Health and Human Services Branch.

Lost Dog - \$200 Reward

Missing from Wolfe Point area. The dog is a sheltie, named Rainy. Please call 541-232-1696.



U.S. gears up for land buyback for tribes

After bungling the management of Indian lands for generations, the federal government wants to make amends by spending nearly \$2 billion to buy 10 million acres of land for 150 tribes across the nation.

That's roughly twice the size of Massachusetts and would mark the largest expansion of the U.S. government's land trust for tribes, which now covers 46 million acres.

To make the plan work, the government wants to find willing sellers to buy back reservation land it first gave to individual tribal members in 1887, often in tracts of 80 to 160 acres.

"We can improve Indian Country if people will go along with this program and sell their interests back to their tribes," Kevin Washburn, the head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, said in an interview.

It won't be easy. With the land changing hands over the decades, many parcels now have hundreds or thousands of owners.

Congress signed off on the land buy in 2010 to settle a lawsuit. The government had pledged to keep track of all royalties generated from the land for such things as grazing or logging, but that money never went back to benefit tribal members as promised.

Now, with so many owners involved, tribes complain that it's nearly impossible to get the permission needed to develop or lease the land.

Yet even though the gov-

ernment doesn't expect to make its first purchase offer until the end of the year, critics already predict the worst. They fear too many tribes will be overlooked in the buying spree and that many private landowners will get bullied into sales.

In California, which has more federally recognized tribes than any other state, only one tribe stands to be among the top 40 beneficiaries.

"There's no love for California Indian Country," said Gabriel Galanda, a Seattle lawyer and a member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes of Mendocino County, Calif. He called the program "a disaster" in the making.

When tribal leaders met with government officials in Seattle, Chief James Allan of Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Tribe complained that 45 percent of the money will go to just seven tribes.

"We're all going to be fighting for scraps," he said.

The plan calls for the U.S. Department of Interior, which oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to buy back more than 92,000 parcels from private landowners. The effort, expected to last until 2022, will begin with pilot projects in Washington state, Montana and South Dakota.

Many property owners, with close ties to the land, are expected to be reluctant sellers.

"This is a modern day re-

taking of the land and, given the historical implications of that, they don't want to re-live it," Les Riding-In, assistant dean and director of graduate studies at the University of Texas-Arlington and a member of the Comanche Tribe, said in an interview. "It's reminiscent of how the government took the land back when colonization was happening."

Riding-In said his family has decided not to sell its land in Oklahoma because the property represents a link to the past and "something that's of value to us as an identity issue."

He predicted that federal authorities will encounter resistance from many tribal members likely to be suspicious of any offers coming from Washington.

"It's just a huge undertaking," Riding-In said. "The trust factor is not high enough for most people to give up what they have."

All of this will complicate the job facing the BIA's Washburn, President Barack Obama's point man on selling the plan.

"This program will be successful on the ground only to the extent that tribal leaders themselves get behind it and evangelize for it," said Washburn, a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. "There's always a trust issue, and the track record hasn't been very good."

But he defended the targeting of the program, saying, "It seems sensible to us to go where the problem is

most severe and where people are suffering the greatest from the problem."

Tribal officials say it's difficult for them to get permission from multiple owners when they propose using land for economic development or anything else.

"We are in an oil boom. . . This is definitely slowing down progress for us," Stoney Ankerell, a councilman with the Fort Peck Tribes in Montana, said at the Seattle gathering. He said that if tribes can make more revenue off their land, they'll need less federal assistance. "That's the hope," he said.

Ron Allen, chairman of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington state, called the buyback program "a great opportunity," both for individuals who want to sell their land and for tribes that will be allowed to acquire more property.

"It is a real win-win opportunity," he said.

Most of the \$1.9 billion will buy land in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions. The biggest expenditure is expected on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, where the government estimates it will cost \$126 million to buy back nearly 1.2 million acres.

Washburn said the program will be entirely voluntary.

"If we don't have a willing seller," he said, "we can't purchase the property."

Nez Perce protest oil sands transport

The national debate over oil development took an unusual turn on an Idaho highway early Tuesday morning.

For nearly three hours, members of the Nez Perce Tribe blocked the passage of a giant water evaporator headed for the oil sands of Alberta, Canada.

More than a hundred tribal members and environmental activists drummed and chanted as they stretched across the highway at the border of the Nez Perce reservation in northern Idaho.

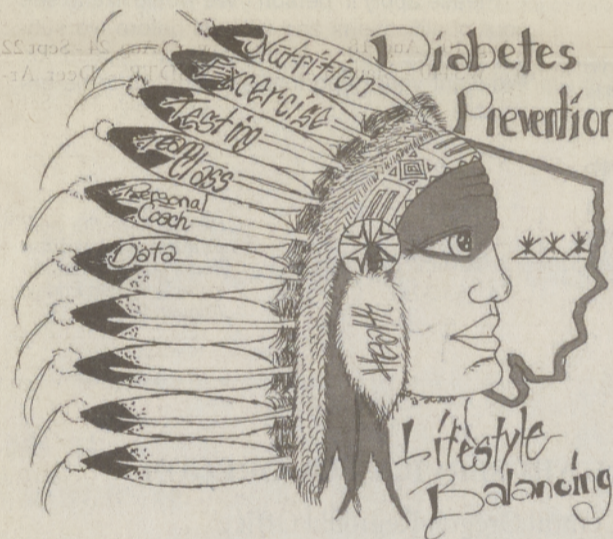
They were there to stop a 255-foot long, two-lane-wide shipment they say is illegal. Oregon-based shipper Omega Morgan decided to move the so-called "megaload" through a pro-

tested area of Idaho over objections from the U.S. Forest Service.

Silas Whitman, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe, was among more than a dozen people arrested.

"I don't look at this as a symbolic issue," Whitman said. "Otherwise, we'd just issue a press statement, put up a few signs and just let it go. No. We've run out of time and initiatives. So that leaves us with disobedience, civil disobedience."

The "megaload" is scheduled to travel across Nez Perce ancestral land and a Wild and Scenic Corridor in the coming days. The Nez Perce Tribe plans to ask for an injunction from a federal judge this week.



Diabetes Prevention Program

Empowering individuals at high risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes.

Focusing on lifestyle changes through education and physical activities.

Partnering with the community.

Our next Diabetes Prevention class is starting **October 2nd**.

Classes will be held at **noon** and will be every **Wednesday** for 10 weeks.

At each class you will be given great information on topics such as healthy eating, being active, stress, motivation and much more.

A snack is always provided as well as a take home bag with healthy food items.

Each participant is assigned a lifestyle coach to be available to them throughout this journey.



For more details and to find out if you are eligible please contact

Joy Ramirez 541-553-0118 or Stefanie Hurtado 541-553-1079

FIRST 20 PEOPLE WHO SIGN A CONSENT FORM FOR CLASS WILL RECEIVE A WATER BOTTLE

