

Tribes oppose Columbia oil project

Tesoro-Savage has proposed to build and operate a crude oil shipping terminal on the banks of the Columbia River.

The terminal would handle an estimated 360,000 barrels of oil per day, coming into the project by rail and leaving by tanker down the river to other ports around the Pacific. This would be the largest oil terminal on the West Coast.

Tribal members have Treaty fishing rights at the river, and the Confederated Tribes are in opposition to the Tesoro Savage proposal.

The terminal would be on the Washington side, at Vancouver. Tribal members spoke against the project at a recent hearing held in Clark County, Wash.

Tribal Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. last week sent a letter, on behalf of the Council and the tribes, to the State of Washington - Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

The letter lists specific reasons—potential damage to cultural resources, and damage to fisheries habitat—why the Confederated Tribes are in opposition.

The Tesoro-Savage pro-



Tribal Councilman Carlos Smith speaks at a public hearing on the Tesoro-Savage shipping proposal.

posal is in the draft Environmental Impact Statement phase. The letter from Chairman Greene says:

“The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concurs that the potential impacts of oil spills, train accidents, increased train and oil tanker ship traffic, toxic air pollution, harm to tribal resources, and vehicle delays at railroad crossings are significant and unavoidable. The

DEIS demonstrates that oil train accidents could result in injuries or fatalities. An oil spill from the project could extend all the way to the mouth of the Columbia River.”

There is a potential for catastrophic damage to fish habitat: “The action of oil sticking to sediments and to the surface of cobbles and pebbles would be very harmful to fisheries habitat. There would be an adverse impact

from oil that migrates downward in the spaces between cobbles, pebbles and grains of sand, accumulating in underlying sediment layers.”

There has been a surge in recent years in U.S. and Canadian oil production, much of it from the Bakken shale and Alberta tar sands, according to an article at riverkeeper.org

“There has been 4,000 percent increase in crude-by-rail shipments in recent years, and trains may include up to 120 tank cars. The result has been oil spills, destructive fires, and explosions when oil trains have derailed.”

In one recent year, there was more oil spilled than in the previous 38 years, the article says.

The DEIS provides ample evidence for the state agency and governor to deny the application. “The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation ask that the state of Washington act swiftly in taking this action,” Chairman Greene’s letter concludes.

The comment period on the Tesoro-Savage DEIS ends this Friday, Jan. 22. You can comment online at: efsec.wa.gov/

St. Charles OB opening

The Family Birthing Center at St. Charles Madras is reopening on Monday, Jan. 25.

In July, St. Charles had to temporarily close the unit to allow the Madras hospital to stabilize its staffing situation and provide a higher level of service to patients.

Since that time, a team of health system leaders, Madras caregivers and physicians has worked to address the underlying issues faced by the unit.

The team hired a new Madras OB nurse manager, Tammy Wilson, whose responsibilities include managing staff and

ensuring the service line meets the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ high clinical standards.

The team secured the services of 11 labor and delivery nurses, ensuring there is sufficient depth in staffing.

They began exploring the possibility of a fellowship program to train St. Charles nurses who are interested in a career in labor and delivery. And they completed a market analysis of Madras nursing wages, finding that their wages are in line with other similar health systems across the state.

Looking ahead to Seniors Day

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Honor Seniors Day will be held May 13 at agency longhouse in Warm Springs.

If you want to volunteer to help out in some way, contact the Senior Program at 553-3313.

Births

Eli Bo Harley-Morris Padilla
Jarren Davis and Julia Simtustus are pleased to announce the birth of their son Eli Bo Harley-Morris Padilla, born on December 19, 2015.

Eli joins sisters Taralynn, 4, and Denyse, 10.

Grandparents on the mother’s side are Vincent simtustus and the late Juanita Blodgett, both of Warm Springs.

Grandparent on the father’s side is Dellah Davis of Denver.

Colin James Walters
Christopher and Christie Walters of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their son Colin James Walters, born on January 7, 2016. Colin joins brothers Shilo and Archer.

Grandparents on the father’s side are Victoria Krausman of Nevada, and Edward Walters of California. Grandparents on the mother’s side are Rick and Mary Smithers of California.

Education: importance of culture, heritage

(Continued from page 1)

“It is the policy of the United States to preserve, protect and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice and develop Native American languages...”

The federal government “encourages all institutions of elementary, secondary and higher education, where appropriate, to include Native American languages in the curriculum in the same manner as foreign languages, and to grant proficiency in Native American languages the same full academic credit as proficiency in foreign languages.”

Deanie and June Smith, both on Education Committee, met with Tribal Council last week for an update on the education agreement. The current agreement—among the tribes, school district 509-J, and the BIA—is set to expire this summer.

The Tribal Council, Edu-

The Education Committee will meet this Thursday, Jan. 21, at 5:30 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, to discuss the education agreement, among other topics.

cation Committee and community have been talking for about a year on what they would like to see in the next agreement. At last week’s meeting, Deanie provided the Tribal Council will copies of the Native American Languages Act.

“There is some powerful wording in this law,” she said. “I think the language is clear, and I think this is something we can implement.”

It will take some time to figure how best to implement the law, “and we’re 26 years behind,” Deanie said. But the time is right—with the tribes and school district negotiating toward the new agreement—to focus on the issue.

The Culture and Heritage

Department teachers do a great job of teaching the tribal languages to young people, at the Early Childhood Education Center, the Eagle Academy, high school and Central Oregon Community College.

A question going forward with the school district negotiation is what more could be done to better bring the language, culture and heritage to the Native students of the district.

The Education Committee

has conducted public input sessions on what the community members would like to see added, or different in school programs.

A consistent response is that the tribal culture should have a greater place in the schools. This could help address absenteeism, and the drop-out rate.

As an example, the Education Committee asked community members what were among their best experiences at school.

Many of the people said the best part was when they finally felt like they belonged at the school, “whether it was through sports, a club, or something else,” Deanie said.

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