

BIA reports on Columbia property matter

Bureau of Indian Affairs regional officials met last week with Tribal Council about a property opportunity at Boardman. The land is along the Columbia River, and includes a Treaty fishing site.

The property is in two parcels. One of the parcels is 126 acres in size, and includes a marina area, RV park and day-use area. The second parcel is 50 acres, undeveloped, adjacent to the marina parcel, with some overlap in the boundaries.

The properties are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Parcel one is being leased to the Boardman Parks and Recreation District.

The Corps of Engineers may convey ownership of the property, at which point the BIA becomes involved in the

process.

BIA regional director Stan Speaks, and deputy regional director Bodie Shaw explained the situation to the Council. The essential point, they said, is that the BIA—with authority through Secretary of the Interior—could exercise a right to acquire the land.

The site is in the ceded lands of the Umatilla tribe, and is a usual and accustomed place of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. So both tribes have an interest in the transaction, the BIA officials said.

To quote the law:

“The Secretary of Interior shall be vested with the right of first refusal, after consultation with the Indian entities... to accept any lands adjacent to the Columbia River within the Bonneville,

Dalles and John Day pools, now owned... by any federal agency and declared to be excess lands or otherwise offered for sale or lease by such federal agency; and upon such acceptance such federal agency shall transfer such lands to the secretary for the purpose of Indian treaty fishing...”

So the tribes and BIA have the first right, before any other interested parties, to acquire the property.

How the land would be managed in the future would be a matter for future discussion, the BIA team said. The agency and tribes could, for instance, have an arrangement with Boardman, or its parks and rec district, for property maintenance and management.

An important point is to

have a successful project, because this could be a precedent for future property transactions at the river, deputy director Shaw said.

The opportunities would come up whenever the Corps of Engineers, or any other federal agency, decides to sell land that is located at the river in tribal fishing areas. In these cases, the BIA would again have the right of first refusal for the purchase.

Mr. Speaks said the agency has already spoken with the Umatilla tribe, and they are interested. He said this could be a good opportunity for the tribes. The property has been a regular tribal fishing area, and has been used by the general public as well. The RV park is very popular, and has room for expansion, Mr. Speaks said.

Setback for state mining, fish habitat bill

A bill to extend and expand a ban on suction-dredge mining in Oregon died in the legislature last week.

The Confederated Tribes were in favor of the proposal, as a fish habitat protection measure.

Tribal Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. sent a letter in support of the bill.

Elmer Warm of the Natural Resources Branch, and the tribal Governmental Affairs Director Louis Pitt helped in drafting the letter.

The bill died because of delay tactics by mining interests, according to one legislator.

Sen. Alan Bates, D-Medford, said he pulled the bill after attempts to add amendments to gain bipartisan support didn't work. Bates' bill would have broadened the moratorium that is in place on wild salmon streams.

The legislature passed a bill in 2013 that placed restrictions on dredging. It was designed to end at the end of 2015, giving lawmakers time to devise permanent rules. They never did.

Bates says he will sponsor a similar bill for the Oregon Legislature's 2017 session.

Warm Springs Community Calendar

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Thursday, March 3

The Warm Springs **VFW Post** meets the first Thursday of each month from noon until 1 p.m. at the Veteran's Hall

Warm Springs **jurors** will need to check-in at 9:30 this morning at Warm Springs Tribal Court.

There is an **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting today at noon at Community Counseling. **Alcohol Education Class** is at 2 p.m., and there is a **Narcotics Anonymous** meeting at 6 tonight at the Shaker Church.

On today's **fitness schedule**: at noon there is Functional Fitness class in the Community Center social hall, Turbo Kick class in the aerobics room, and volleyball in the Community Center Gym. Tonight is IBA from 6 to 8:45.

Guiding Butterflies & Mighty Warriors classes meet today from 1 to 3 in the Prevention Room at Community Counseling. The class is for adults to participate in cultural-based teachings, crafts and activities.

American Sign Language classes are held on Thursdays from 4-4:30 at ECE. All are welcome to participate.

The **Buffalo Skywalkers MVP League** – fourth- through seventh grades – have games today. The Blazers will play the Lakers at 5:15, the Bulls and Spurs at 5:50 and it's the Lakers vs. the Warriors at 6:25.

Friday, March 4

There is **no school** March 4 or 7 for 509-J students.

Fitness Opportunities

today include: Senior Fitness Class at the Senior Center at 10:45. At noon there is basketball in the Community Center gym, and Functional Fitness class in the aerobics room. And at the Health & Wellness Center, Pilates Yoga Class is at noon.

The Jefferson County Library **film center** will show *Ballad of a Soldier* at 7:30. Films are free and shown in the Rodriguez Annex.

Saturday, March 5

There is an **Alcoholics Anonymous** Meeting this morning at 10 at Warm Springs Community Counseling.

Sunday, March 6

The Warm Springs Food Bank is located at the Presbyterian Church. They are open today from 11:30-1:30. All food banks and pantries do take donations of non-perishable food or cash

Monday, March 7

There is **no school** today for 509-J students

Fitness Opportunities today include: Senior Fitness Class at the Senior Center at 10:45. At noon there is basketball in the Community Center gym and Functional Fitness in the aerobics room, at the Health & Wellness Center. Pilates-Yoga Class is at noon and there is Ladies Night Basketball tonight from 6 to 7:45.

The Warm Springs **Vocational Rehabilitation** program has orientation today at 3 p.m. at their office in the industrial park. If you or someone you know has or may have a disability that is a barrier

to employment or employment advancement, they can learn about their options at an orientation or by calling 553-4952.

The Soaring Butterflies - Warrior Spirit class meets today at 3:40 at the Warm Springs K-8 Community Room. This is for third to eighth grade youth and includes culturally based teachings, hands on activities as well as drug and alcohol prevention education.

Community Counseling has their **Aftercare Relapse Support** Group today at 5:30.

A **Women's Prayer Group** meets Mondays from 12:05 to 12:35 at the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday, March 8

On today's **fitness schedule**: at noon there is Functional Fitness Class in the Community Center social hall, Turbo Kick class in the aerobics room and volleyball in the Community Center gym. There is IBA this evening from 6 to 8:45.

There's an **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting today at noon at Community Counseling.

The Jefferson County **Food Bank** is located at 556 SE Seventh Street. They are open for distribution this afternoon. All food banks and pantries do take donations of non-perishable food or cash.

The Warm Springs **Vocational Rehabilitation** program has orientation

today at 3pm at Community Counseling. If you or someone you know has or may have a disability that is a barrier to employment or employment advancement, they can learn about their options at an orientation or by calling 553-4952.

Powwow, hoop dance and drum practice for beginners and anyone who would like to practice is today from 5:30 to 7 at the Community Center aerobics room.

The **Mobile Medical Unit** will be at the Campus. You can call IHS to schedule an appointment.

AGLOW weekly bible study is this evening from 6-7:30 at High Lookie Lodge. It is open to all and a light snack is provided.

The Senior Wellness Program is having its **quarterly breakfast** from 9-11 a.m. at the senior center.

The **American Red Cross** is holding a Volunteer Orientation in Warm Springs from noon to 2 p.m. at the Family Resource Center.

Buffalo Skywalkers Rookies League – Kindergarten and first grades – have games today. The Warriors play the Blazers at 5:15, Spurs vs. Lakers at 5:45 and the Thunder and Bulls play at 6:15.

Wednesday, March 9

Today at Warm Springs Community Counseling **Women's Group** meets at 1. **Anger Management** Group meets today at 3:30

and **Adolescent Aftercare Talking Circle** is at 5:30 in the Prevention Room.

Fitness Opportunities today include: Water Aerobics at 10:15 at the Kah-Nee-ta Village Pool. At 10:45 there is Senior Fitness Class at the Senior Center. At noon there is basketball in the Community Center gym and Functional Fitness in the aerobics room. And at the Health & Wellness Center, Pilates Yoga Class is at noon. Tonight is Ladies Night Basketball from 6 to 7:45.

Little Miss Warm Springs meetings are held Wednesdays from 6-7:30 at the Community Center. All interested girls and parents are welcome.

The **Buffalo Skywalkers All-Stars League** – second and third grades – have games today. At 5:15 the Warriors play the Blazers, 5:45 it's the Spurs vs. the Lakers and the Thunder and Bulls play at 6:15.

Thursday, March 10

Warm Springs **jurors** will need to check-in at 9:30 this morning at Warm Springs Tribal Court.

There is an **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting today at noon at Community Counseling. **Alcohol Education Class** is at 2 p.m. and there is a **Narcotics Anonymous** meeting at 6 tonight at the Shaker Church.

On today's **fitness schedule**: at noon there is

Functional Fitness Class in the Community Center Social Hall, Turbo Kick Class in the Aerobics Room and Volleyball in the Community Center Gym. Tonight is IBA from 6 to 8:45.

Guiding Butterflies & Mighty Warriors classes meet today from 1 to 3 in the Prevention Room at Community Counseling. The class is for adults to participate in cultural-based teachings, crafts and activities.

American Sign Language classes are held on Thursdays from 4-4:30 at ECE. All are welcome to participate.

The **Buffalo Skywalkers MVP League** – fourth and fifth grades – have games today. The Spurs will play the Thunder at 5:15, The Blazers and Warriors at 5:50 and it's the Lakers vs. the Bulls at 6:25.

Friday, March 11

Fitness Opportunities today include: Senior Fitness Class at the Senior Center at 10:45. At noon there is basketball in the Community Center gym and Functional Fitness class in the aerobics room. And at the Health & Wellness Center, Pilates Yoga Class is at noon.

The Jefferson County Library **film center** will show *A Face in the Crowd*, a 1957 classic, this Friday at 7:30. Films are free and shown in the Rodriguez Annex.

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