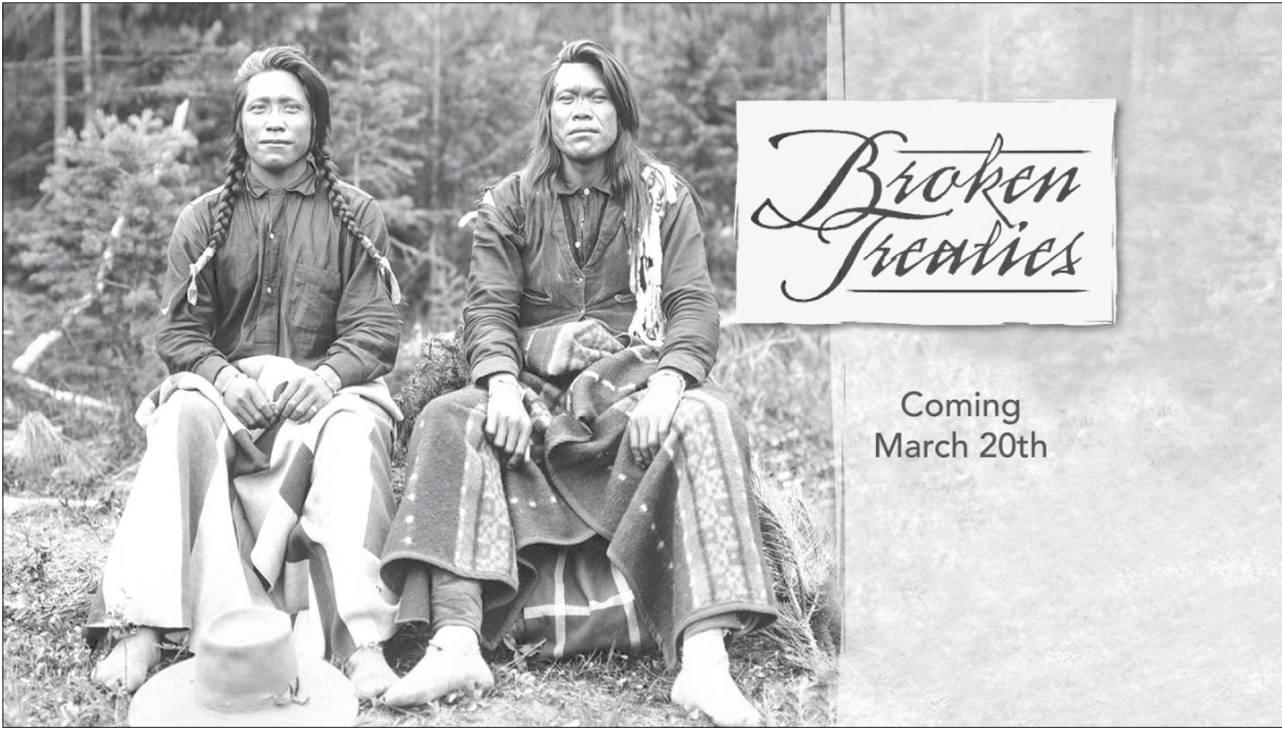


OPB: Documentary gives tribal perspective



Promotional of the upcoming Oregon Experience documentary.

Courtesy OPB

(Continued from page 1)

Frequent conflicts broke out between the newcomers and the Indians.

Ultimately, most tribes, weakened by introduced disease and fearing extermination, signed treaties.

This typically entailed ceding most of the tribes' land to the government and moving the Indians to a reservation.

Sometimes those treaties were not ratified and never became legally binding, yet the government kept the land and kept the Indians away.

Today, the Native people's history remains

punctuated with unfulfilled promises and unfinished business.

Yet most Indian populations, education levels and economic power are on the rise. Most Oregon tribes contribute significantly to their surrounding communities through natural resource improvements, casino jobs and philanthropic giving.

Though many others may still not know much about them, the tribes of Oregon are increasingly making their presence known.

The new Oregon Experience documentary *Broken Treaties* offers an introduc-

tion to the Indian tribes of Oregon, the treaties they signed and the land they lost. It examines the injustice endured by the tribes and illuminates a chapter of Northwest history that is rarely talked about.

With Louie Pitt of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the documentary features interviews with:

Robert J. Miller, law professor, tribal judge and author.

Bobbie Connor, director, Tamastlikt Cultural Institute of the Umatilla Tribe.

Don Ivy, Chief of the Coquille Tribe.

David Harrelson, his-

toric preservation officer with the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Warren Brainard, Chief of the Coos, Siuslaw and Lower Umpqua Tribes.

Don Gentry, chair, Tribal Council, Klamath Tribe.

Charlotte Roderique, former chair, Tribal Council, Burns Paiute Tribe.

David Lewis, independent anthropologist and historian, Grand Ronde Tribe.

Bud Lane, vice chair, Tribal Council, Siletz Tribe.

Options dwindling as DAPL nears operation

With options dwindling, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe this week was mounting a last-minute challenge to prevent oil from flowing through the Dakota Access Pipeline.

As thousands of Native citizens and their allies participated in a historic march and rally in Washington, D.C., the tribe was escalating a lawsuit in federal court.

New papers filed late last week call for an injunction to stop the pipeline while the case makes its way through the appeals process.

"The tribe seeks an injunction pending appeal requesting that this court prevent the flow of oil through the Dakota Access Pipeline, which would result in the ultimate harm to tribal members' free exercise of religion," attorneys wrote in the 18-page document.

The tribe and its citizens contend the presence of the pipeline in the Missouri River renders the water impure for ceremonies like sweat lodges and coming of age rites.

They also believe the controversial project fulfills a prophecy of a "Black Snake" that will destroy the Lakota people and their way of life.

The threat was notably on display at the Native

Nations Rise event last week.

A group of younger participants, dubbing themselves the "Black Snake Killers," set up a teepee in front of the Trump International Hotel, just blocks from the White House, to show their opposition to a pipeline that is all but certain to become operational unless the courts take action.

While Judge James E. Boasberg has shown sympathy toward the spiritual beliefs of the tribe, he too has refused to stop the project.

In a decision issued on March 7, he said Cheyenne River leaders waited too long to seek an injunction based on religious grounds.

The tribe is now taking the matter to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, according to a notice that was filed on Friday.

The escalation marks the case's second journey to the higher court, whose judges once imposed an injunction that halted construction activities near the Missouri in North Dakota.

But the situation has changed dramatically in the last few months. After being delayed by the Obama administration, Dakota Access now has permission, in the form of an easement, to drill under the river and place the pipeline underneath.

Court dismisses Union Pacific suit

The Federal District Court of Oregon last week dismissed a lawsuit brought by Union Pacific Railroad, involving the railroad's proposal to build more than four miles of new railroad tracks through the town of Mosier.

The site is adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Mosier was the site of a fiery oil train derailment in June 2016.

In its lawsuit, Union Pacific sought to exempt its proposed rail expansion project from federal Gorge protection laws and tribal treaties.

In a written order issued last week, District Court Judge Ann Aiken dismissed the lawsuit because the railroad had failed to include three Northwest Indian Treaty Tribes as defendants in the case.

In January 2015, Union Pacific filed a land use application with Wasco County pursuant to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, seeking to build a second mainline track in the Mosier area.

In November 2016, the Wasco County Board of County Commissioners denied the rail expansion project because it would infringe on tribal treaty rights and violate federal Gorge protection

The judge dismissed the lawsuit because the railroad failed to name the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Yakama Nation and the Umatilla as defendants in the case.

laws.

The Wasco County Commissioners' decision is currently on appeal to the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

But rather than allow that appeals process to proceed, in January 2017 Union Pacific sued the Wasco County Commissioners, the Wasco County planning director, and six of the thirteen Gorge Commissioners in federal court, arguing that the Gorge Commission's appeal process should be halted and the railroad should be allowed to proceed with the project without any National Scenic Area permits.

In her ruling of March 8, Judge Aiken dismissed Union Pacific's lawsuit because the railroad had failed to name the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Yakama Indian Nation, and the Con-

federated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation as defendants in the case.

Because the Tribes' treaty rights were at the heart of the case, the railroad's failure to name them as defendants required dismissal of the case pursuant to federal court rules.

In the lawsuit, Union Pacific had sought to enjoin the Columbia River Gorge Commission's appeals process from proceeding.

Now that the railroad's lawsuit has been dismissed, the Gorge Commission's appeal process will continue. An appeal hearing before the Gorge Commission is scheduled for June 13, 2017.

"The Gorge Commission is extremely pleased with the outcome of this case and grateful for the Columbia River Treaty Tribes' assistance in getting this case dismissed early in the litigation," said Jeff Litwak, counsel for the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

"The pending appeals of Wasco County's decision are again solidly back before the Gorge Commission. We are looking forward to receiving the parties' briefing, reviewing the record, and considering the parties' oral arguments."



Courtesy photo.

Sen. Merkley with tribal leaders last week in Washington, D.C.

At the National Mall in Washington, D.C. last week, Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley met with tribal leaders and activists protesting the planned Dakota Access Pipeline.

This was during the Native Nations Rise March on Washington.

Merkley met with the leaders at a tribal encampment set up by the Washington Monument. The Senator made the following statement:

For too long, the rights of native nations have been ignored and pushed aside in favor of powerful special interests.

This injustice has persisted throughout our history, and nowhere do we see this dynamic more clearly than in the fight to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline.

When a predominantly white community said that they didn't want this pipeline running through their backyards because of the high

risk of water contamination, it was instead rerouted through Indian Country—where it will not only pose an equal threat to drinking water, but also will disturb sacred sites.

This is unacceptable, and I applaud the courageous activists who have led the fight to right this wrong, both at Standing Rock and now here on the National Mall.

Kah-Nee-Ta plans cultural events

Kah-Nee-Ta will be holding a meeting in April to discuss the schedule for its 2017 cultural events.

The resort is looking for tribal members who are interested in participating. Areas include the salmon bake and cooks, dancers and drum, storytelling, and

cultural crafts.

The upcoming meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 8 at 10 a.m. in the Kah-Nee-Ta Council Room.

In order to be on the 2017 Cultural Roster at Kah-Nee-Ta, you must attend the meeting, or schedule an appointment with the catering

department. Some necessary paperwork is required.

All paperwork must be done by May 1. For more information call Marie Kay Williams or Jainaya Rowe at 541-553-1112 ext. 3436.

From the Honor Seniors Committee

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Honor Senior Day is coming up in May.

The idea for this day originated nearly three decades ago, with a small group of local tribal elders who wanted an event especially for the elders.

Through the years this has grown into a major community event, with average attendance from

700 to 1,200 elders and locals who attend the daylong activities and meals.

The event showcases the local area, such as Kah-Nee-Ta, the Museum at Warm Springs, Indian Head Casino, and enterprises like Composite Products, the Telecom, Ventures and Power & Water.

The Seniors program provides a shuttle service to all points of interest, as a courtesy during the day.

The Honor Senior Day Committee is requesting door prizes and gift items, or any type of donation.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated. For additional information contact the Senior Program at 541-553-3313, or 553-3520.

Sincerely,
The Honor Senior Day Committee.