

# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

Ju14, 2021 - Vol. 46, No. 14  
July - Pat'ak-Pt'akni - Summer - Shatm

PO Box 489  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

ECR WSS  
Postal Patron

U.S. Postage  
PRSRT STD  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

## Roadway progress on highways 26 and 3

The tribes, ODOT and contractors are five months into the Highway 26 Safety Project. Some of the new safety features—the pedestrian path along the highway and rock-fall work, for instance—are taking shape.

The work began in early March after a few years of tribal planning and funding work with state lawmakers and the Oregon Department of Transportation. The \$6.5 million project is scheduled for completion in late October.

Meanwhile, Warm Springs Construction is working on their pedestrian safety project along Route 3, the Kah-Nee-Ta Highway.

This overall work is from Upper Dry Creek to the Highway 3 intersection with Highway 26.

The project, using BIA 638 dollars, will feature a sidewalk along the roadway, street lights, road paving and a storm runoff system.

Route 3 is popular with people walking to and from the Upper Dry Creek-Industrial Park area and Warm Springs. The project has been in the tribes' roadway improvement plan for some time. With the 26 Safety Corridor work now going on, this is a good time



ODOT contract Highway 26 safety corridor work (above); and Warm Springs Construction Highway 3 pedestrian sidewalk work (right).

There has been a long-standing need for a sidewalk and bicycle lane within the Warm Springs corridor. A four-year survey showed 50 reported crashes along the corridor, a matter to be addressed with the current project.

Highway 26 is a major east-west connection for the local community, and also serves high volumes of through traffic as a major connection between Central Oregon and the Portland area. The traffic volume on Highway 26 through Warm Springs is about 6,700 vehicles per day. The state officials allocated the funding for work to begin in 2020. The pandemic caused a one-year delay. Roadway repaving will be from the Highway 26-Kah-Nee-Ta junction—milepost 103.2—for eight miles toward Madsras to milepost 111.2.

to go ahead with the Route 3 work, said Ben Bisland, of Warm Springs Construction. The project will go on through the summer, finishing up later this year. Regarding the Highway 26 work:

Expect the traffic delays as the construction continues between the

museum area and the Hollywood Boulevard-Highway 26 intersection.

Tribal Council and the Oregon Department of Transportation initiated this project in 2018 to address highway hazards for pedestrians and vehicle traffic.



## Community update

The Warm Springs community Covid-19 update on Tuesday of this week reported no new covid cases from 14 tests conducted late last week.

There was just one person with active Covid-19 on the reservation, receiving daily monitoring by Warm Springs Tribal and Indian Health Service staff, and no close contacts being monitored.

If you need a Covid-19 vaccination, you can call to schedule at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center at 541-553-2131.

Anyone 12 and older who is Indian Health Service eligible, or who lives or works in Warm Springs and their family members can be vaccinated.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs facilities are open; however, there remain some Covid-19 precautions.

Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask indoors in public places where vaccination statuses are checked. Your card or a picture of your card will need to be shown to enter tribal buildings.

If proof cannot be provided, a mask needs to be worn. Masks will be required in areas where people are not asked about their vaccination status. Masks are no longer required for people who are outdoors, though masking is still encouraged, especially in crowded places and for people who are unvaccinated.

## Land exchange helps tribes' wildlife management

The Confederated Tribes and the Bureau of Land Management this week completed a land exchange, helping the tribes improve management of the Pine Creek wildlife conservation area. The Bonneville Power Administration supported the project.

In the land exchange, the tribes receive 4,200 acres of land, consolidating the Pine Creek wildlife conservation and mitigation area near the John Day River. The tribes' Pine Creek property is now adjacent to the newly designated Spring Basin Wilderness Area.

The transaction brings the tribes Pine Creek Conservation Area ownership to 34,012 acres. As shown on the maps, the tribes' acreage before the exchange was broken up with areas of BLM land with public access. Having the tribes' land as a solid piece allows for better management of fish, wildlife and watershed mitigation, said Brian Cochran, Branch of Natural Resources conservation lands program supervisor.

In the exchange the BLM receives 4,500 acres, adding over 2,700 acres to federal ownership within the Spring Basin Wilderness Area and over 2.25 miles of federally managed river frontage along the John Day River.

The Pine Creek-Spring Basin Land Exchange was authorized in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, to

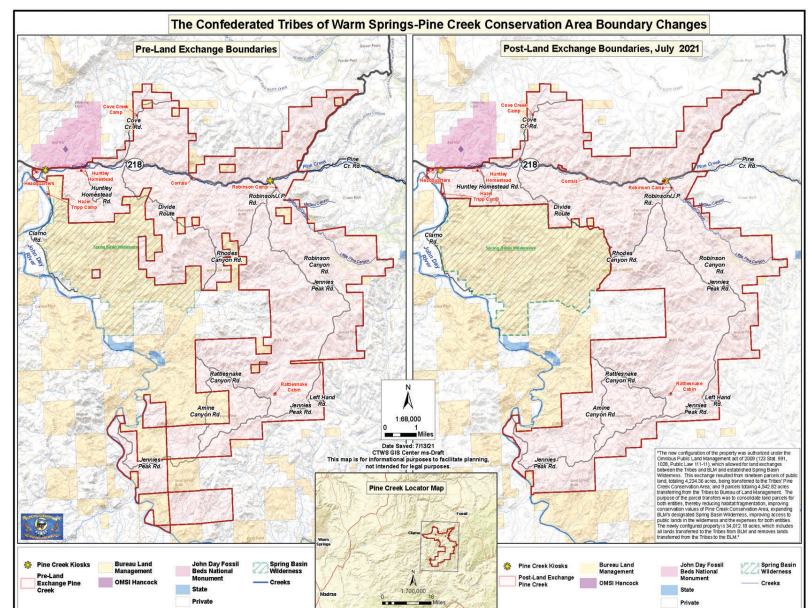


The tribes' Pine Creek Conservation Area (above), more than 34,000 acres managed for fish and wildlife. And the before and after land exchange comparison maps (right).

consolidate both tribal and federal lands.

The federal lands conveyed to the tribes are within the 10 million acres of the tribes' Ceded Lands.

The exchange shows the coordinated effort by the tribes, BLM and BPA to work together toward the common goal of providing for more efficient land management for all agencies and the public.



Today could be YOUR Lucky Day!

**SPIN IT TO WIN IT WEEKENDS**  
**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | 7PM - 11PM**  
You could win the Top Prize of **\$1,000 CASH!**

IndianHeadCasino.com • 541-460-7777 • US-26, Warm Springs, OR 97761

See Players' Club for details.

