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D91 Plans Groundbreaking For Tiger Athletic Complex

Please join D91 Supt. Dr. Jim Shank, members of the Idaho Falls Board of Trustees and the Tiger Club and IFHS athletes at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Tiger Athletic Complex at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25.

The Tiger Athletic Complex is being developed through a public-private partnership on district-owned property on E. 49th Street. IFHS currently has no home fields and most of the athletic teams practice and play on city fields scattered throughout Idaho Falls. The Tiger football team practices in a retention pond behind the school that is often filled with storm debris. They play their games at Ravsten Stadium, but that is a district facility shared with Skyline High School.

The groundbreaking has been a long time coming. The Idaho Falls Board of Trustees in April 2021 set aside \$2 million in reserve funds to start work on TAC, but progress has been slow due to rising construction costs and supply chain delays.

“We are so excited to finally be breaking ground on this project, which will give our student athletes something they deserve: home fields where they can practice and play and strive to be champions,” said Dr. Supt. Shank. “We look forward to working with the Tiger Club to create an athletic complex that will truly be an asset to our community.”

“We are grateful to D91 and the school board for their support in creating a safe, competitive home for Tiger athletics. This project is a result of immense teamwork by parents, coaches, volunteers, community members and alumni,” said Heather Thompson, director of the Tiger Club, who will oversee private fundraising to raise additional money to develop the complex.

TAC’s first phase includes practice fields for baseball, softball, football and possibly soccer. The final project, which will take many years to complete, would include additional baseball field, softball fields, soccer fields and tennis courts.

The complex is being developed on near the corner of Holmes and E. 49th Street, which might one day be the site of a new Idaho Falls High School. However, this project is separate from the facility projects proposed in the bond proposal that will be on the ballot in November.

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