

## Election includes swimming pool proposal

By **Dave McMechan**  
Spilyay Tymoo

Voters in the 509-J school district, including Warm Springs and surrounding areas, will vote in November on the Madras aquatic center proposal.

The \$8 million center would be located on four acres near the Jefferson County Middle School.

The center would be an enclosed facility, open year-round, and would include a multi-lane lap/competition pool, a leisure pool with water features, sup-

port offices, locker rooms, and a commons area.

"This is going to be a real benefit for youth," said Dr. Carlos Kemper, an advocate of the aquatic center. "There are going to be swimming lessons starting in the third grade, and through high school."

There would be competitive swim teams, and safety lessons. There would be job opportunities, such as lifeguarding, as the center would create between 30 and 40 part- and full-time jobs.

Kemper said the Madras Aquatic Center would have no

negative impact on use of the Kah-Nee-Ta pool. "We're confident there would be no affect on Kah-Nee-Ta, which is mainly a tourism destination."

The land for the aquatic center would be donated by the Bean Foundation of Madras. The foundation is also committing \$50,000 toward swim lessons for Jefferson County youth.

Funding for construction of the pool would come from property taxes within the 509-J district.

"It is expected that the aquatic center will be the single

most positive-impacting project in the Madras area for the next ten years, because it will directly and indirectly affect more people than any other," according to the Madras Aquatic Center. "The list of activities and their ancillary benefits is a long one - water babies safety for toddlers, youth swimming skill development, lifeguard opportunities, high school swim teams, lap swimming, open swim times, leisure pool activities, structured instructional classes such as scuba or kayak, water aerobics, etc."

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## Ike on ballot for county commission

Leona Ike of Warm Springs is the Democratic candidate for position 3 on the Jefferson County Board of Commissioner. The three-member county board of commissioners sets governmental policies and laws of Jefferson County. Ike would be the first Native American to serve on the county board.



Leona Ike

In describing her political philosophy toward county government, Ike has said that protection of water and other natural resources is a priority.

Ike has said she feels that the Confederated Tribes need a more direct voice in county government because the tribal and the county governments often

work closely together on issues of great importance to both jurisdictions. Education and law enforcement are examples of

areas where the two entities are vitally connected.

As a county commissioner, Ike said she would work toward a better and more cooperative relationship between law enforcement of the county jurisdiction and that of the reservation.

Ike is the Parole and Probation Supervisor of the Confederated Tribes Public Safety Branch. She has done this job for 11 years. She has also worked as a police officer, legal and administrative secretary, and in the Education Branch.

She is the proud mother of three sons, Jonathan, Mario and Julius.

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## Law proposes to improve Indian jails

(AP) - The U.S. Senate will consider legislation aimed at helping American Indian tribes repair, run and even replace jails on reservations.

The proposal is intended to address concerns regarding Indian jail funding, and often dangerous conditions at many facilities.

Recent reports and a video produced by a former BIA law enforcement official have documented problems such as overcrowding, lousy plumbing and decrepit buildings. Federal legislation intended to address the problems was introduced by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

Baucus' plan would allow tribes to issue tax-credit bonds and give tribes a way to begin addressing jail problems immediately, Baucus said.

"This bill isn't meant to fix all the problems we have with Indian jails but it should really help," he said. Because the Senate was scheduled to adjourn, the bill will not likely be passed until next year.

The bill would allow a tribe to issue bonds for proposed jail work, with an investor paying the tribe for the bonds and getting tax credits in amounts set by the Treasury Department.

The tribe would put the

money it received into interest-bearing treasury bonds. The interest would be put toward the work, Baucus' office said.

The interest would provide tribes a "steady stream of income" for keeping up and staffing jails, Baucus said.

A report released last month by the Interior Department's Inspector General found there were at least 11 fatalities, 236 attempted suicides and 631 escapes over the past three years in Indian reservation jails. The report, which followed a year-long assessment, noted the condition of the majority of jails visited as "abysmal" because of extended neglect and failure to do timely maintenance. The report also raised concerns with staffing levels and training.

Officials visited 27 jails, reviewed records and held over 150 interviews with BIA and tribal officials and others, the report said.

Baucus said he consulted with Montana tribes before introducing the proposal, which he said would not affect how BIA operates the facilities.

Caleb Shields, chief of staff with the Fort Peck Tribes, said that while tribal officials haven't seen the bill, they support the concept.

"If the tribes had to wait for federal funding through Congress to build new facilities, replace old ones, renovate, we'll be waiting another 50 years," he said.

"So, rather than waiting, and these conditions getting worse and worse, bonds would be a more efficient way to get these much needed facilities."

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