

## Letters to the editor

### First quarter

The first quarter of the 2020-21 school year ends this Thursday, November 5.

At the high school this is the last day to have your work submitted for grading—and the grades will go on your transcript.

Material pickup and year-book-student ID pictures at the Madras High School commons are from 3 to 7 p.m. this Wednesday, November 4. Thursday, November 5 from noon to 3 p.m. is also material pickup at the high school.

The first day of the second quarter is Monday, November 9.

Regarding the 2020-21 MHS Yearbook: All pictures are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, January 8. Photos must be in color, in focus and include the student only (no friends, pets, props, etc.). Pictures should be vertical, or portrait, not landscape format.

Email to Ms PH on or before January 8.

Some other school notes: The Madras Future Farmers of America is rolling out the 2020 Turkey Raffle Fundraiser. “We have a locally raised, bronze turkey ready for your freezer and just in time for Thanksgiving,” says the Madras High School FFA.

For information on buying a ticket see: 22webbba@whitebuffalos.net

Or visit the Madras FFA Facebook or Instagram pages; or the chapter website. Teen Hangout at the Jefferson County Library is Mondays and Thursday, 4-5:30 p.m. through December 6.

### In-person student support

Small student groups began returning this week to Madras High School for in-person curriculum support from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. each weekday. Transportation for returning students is provided.

This week and next week the small groups will include approximately 30 students from various grade levels that have been identified by support teams based on the highest need.

Every two weeks, more students will be invited to return to the campus based on highest need for support, said Brian Crook, Madras High School principal.

The idea is to provide the student support while preventing unnecessary risk to Covid 19, Principal Crook said. This is a district-wide

effort, and a first step toward getting students back in the classroom.

### At WEDD

Wayne Miller is the new director of the Warm Springs office of Workforce and Economic Development, WEDD. Wayne is now overseeing all programs, projects and businesses falling under and within WEDD. Former director Ms. Melinda Poitra retired from the position earlier this fall.

Currently, Wayne will be at 541-553-3328. The fax number is 541-553-2203, located at Warm Springs Higher Education. His email is: wayne.miller@wstribes.org

Don't hesitate to welcome Wayne, or contact him with any questions. Thank you.

### SNAP waiver

A waiver approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service allows SNAP—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—and Disaster SNAP recipients to purchase hot or prepared foods from authorized SNAP retailers until November 20.

Approved counties include Jefferson, Wasco and Deschutes counties. Normally, SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase “hot food products prepared for immediate consumption.”

This restriction is being waived following conditions such as the wildfires, leaving some without access to a kitchen to prepare meals.

### Madtown offer

The Confederated Tribes Human Resources Department has set up an exclusive deal for tribal employees to sign up for a no-contract membership to Madtown Fitness in Madras. This incredible offer is a way to start working toward a healthier you.

The cost is \$40 for the first month and \$30 each month after. You will have 24-7 access to the largest sets of gym equipment in Madras, and free fitness classes.

You must agree to a payroll deduction for your monthly membership to receive this rate. Just show your employee badge at Madtown Fitness, 15 SE B St., to get started. Phone 541-475-6474. If you have

## Native American Heritage Month with COCC

Jefferson Greene and Joie Simtustus-Chavez of the Confederated Tribes will add to the Native American Heritage Month events with Central Oregon Community College.

Mr. Greene works with the Columbia River Institute for Indigenous Development Foundation. With COCC he will present *Keeping Customs Thriving* from 6 to 7:30 p.m. this Wednesday evening, November 4.

Mr. Greene will discuss the means of sustaining culture through language, cultural harvesting, song, dance and story.

Joie Simtustus-Chavez will give a fry bread cooking demonstration from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18.

Ms. Simtustus-Chavez learned how to make the customary fry bread from her grandmother and mother, with the recipe



Courtesy COCC Native American program

With the COCC First Nations Student Union

handed down in the oral tradition.

Please have the following ingredients assembled prior to the event: flour, salt, baking powder and warm water. Also during COCC Native American Heritage

Month:

*Responding to a Pandemic: An Indigenous Perspective* is the focus of a talk from 5-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 12.

As indigenous populations are being disproportionately

impacted by the health crisis, hear firsthand stories from presenters Emily Washines and Chuck Sams on how some tribes have responded to the pandemic.

Ms. Washines is of the Yakama Nation, with Cree and Skokmish heritage.

Mr. Sams is of Cayuse, Walla Walla, Cocopah and Yankton Sioux heritage.

All sessions are free and open to the public.

Go to this site for information:

bit.ly/COCCNativeAmericanMonth

For information on these events, contact Michelle Cary, Native American program coordinator, at 541-318-3782.

Or you can email her at: mcary@cocc.edu



questions you can also call Kasheena Stevens at Human Resources, 541-553-3262.

### School notes

In a letter to families the Jefferson County 509-J school district reported encouraging news from the state about updated Covid-19 metrics, and guidance for re-opening Oregon schools. Key changes include:

Incrementally increased access to in-person instruction at the elementary grades level; and a two-week ‘look back’ at the metrics data rather than one week at a time over a three week period. Other measures the state guidelines:

Remove state positivity rate in favor of county positivity rates.

509-J remains committed to a return to in-person learning but also supports families in making their own decisions for what is in the best interest of their students.

### Preschool promise

Preschool Promise—a state-wide initiative to increase the number of quality, affordable spaces for children ages 3- or 4-years-old—has expanded to Central Oregon, and recruitment is open.

Preschool Promise is a model for a publicly-funded, high-quality preschool system that leverages high-quality, local and culturally-rel-

evant early child care and education programs and makes them available to children living at 200 percent of the poverty level.

Access to quality preschool programming ensures critical childcare needs are met and provides young children with development opportunities that directly connect to success in kindergarten and beyond.

The Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education, through a grant process, awarded Preschool Promise contracts to eight local providers, including 509-J.

### Burn permit

The Confederated Tribes burn ban for the reservation has been rescinded.

Although extreme fire danger currently doesn't exist, the reservation continues to have dry fuel conditions, gusty winds and persistent drought and potential lack of water for fire suppression.

Everyone is encouraged to continue to take all precautions to protect people, property and resources from fire.

Remember, You do need a burn permit to burn any yard debris, which you can get from the Fire Management dispatch office; and you do need to call the Warm Springs Police Department if you are going to do any burning.

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*Revival Services*

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6:30pm each night  
Sunday, November 8  
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with Pastor Roger Napier

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