



Spilyay Tymo

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School sports are back at high school

Madras High School athletics are back in full swing, after a year of teams not being able to compete. The current sports include volleyball, boys and girls soccer, cross country and football. Traditionally, these are fall sports, now in play because school was closed last fall.

School sports activities are possible because the Jefferson County Covid-19 risk level in March improved from 'extreme' to 'high,' and then last week to 'medium.'

Improvement in the county covid risk level also means that fall sports can bring back a handful of spectators, including at home Friday night football games.

As of last week, boys and girls soccer, volleyball and football—both junior varsity and varsity—were able to have two spectators per athlete, or a maximum of two spectators per family, join them in the stands. Visiting teams are still prohibited from having spectators.

Spectators will not be charged admission into games; however, they will have to produce a ticket to get in.

Each athlete is provided his or her tickets in advance of each game. For contact tracing purposes, these tickets will require each spectator's name and phone number, and will be collected at the gate. Lost tickets cannot be reprinted or replaced.

It's imperative that spectators



Edward Heath Photography

Cross Country runner Dylan Heath for Madras in a meet with Mountain View; and below, Buffalos football home game.



maintain 6-foot social distancing at all times, and wear masks—regardless of whether the sport is happening inside or outside.

Spectators may also be asked a series of health screening questions in advance of entering the sporting event. For events taking place inside a school facility, temperature checks are also required.

During all sporting competitions, spectators can expect covid monitors on-site; those that are unwilling to follow the social distancing and mask guidelines will be asked to leave the event.

"This is the only way we can ensure that our athletes are protected," said Mark Stewart, Madras High School interim athletic director. "We're excited to bring our supporters back to the bleachers for our athletes."

All Madras High School home games, both JV and varsity, will be live streamed going forward. The link will be provided via the Madras High School Facebook page, and the school homepage the day of the event.

"We've never had to configure live streaming before, but with covid it's yet another learning curve for us," Mr. Stewart said. "We appreciate the community's patience as we fine-tune our technology."

New WSHA rental help now available

The Warm Springs Housing Authority this week is starting the 2021 Covid-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program.

This new program can assist individuals and families who have experienced covid-related financial hardship resulting in past, present or future arrears in rental and utility payments. Some of the terms:

The WSHA Emergency Rental Assistance program is open to all members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, regardless of where they live in the U.S.

The program is also open to all federally recognized tribal members residing in Jefferson, Wasco, Gilliam, Hood River, Clackamas and Marion counties. In addition:

All community members who reside within the boundaries of the Warm Springs Reservation are eligible, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Rental Emergency Assistance is available to households with income not more than 80 percent of the Area Median Income. For example: In the Jefferson County area of the reservation, a household of three with an annual income of \$44,240 or less could qualify.

The applicant must attest in writing to being financially impacted by the pandemic. Impacts may include:

Loss of employment or reduced hours; having to stay home from work because of no day-care for children; increased utility bills because of more people staying home all day, and so forth.

The program can assist with past bills going back to April of last year, said Danielle Wood, executive director of the Warm Springs Housing Authority. The bills may be rent, power, water, sewer, garbage, and any source of heating. Payments are made directly to the party owed, be it the landlord, the power company, etc.

The program is open only to renters, and runs through September. Ms. Woods encourages all qualifying tribal and community members to apply:

Applications are available at the Housing Authority office, 1238 Veterans Way. For more information call 541-553-3250. You may also request an application via email by writing to:

era@wsaha.us

A downloadable copy of the application is available through the Housing Authority.

Tribal Ski Day at Meadows

Mt. Hood Meadows hosted the Tribal Ski Day in March.

This year the event saw turnout of about 30 tribal members. Meadows provided the ski and snowboard gear, lessons, lift tickets and lunch. Attendance was down a little this year, as the bus space was limited for safety.

Sue Matters photos/KWSO



Senior Center closed for a time

The Warm Springs Senior Wellness Center will remain closed until further notice due to water damage from vandalism. The flooring needs to be replaced, so Senior program staff this week have focused on removing everything from the building; and beginning to remove the damaged flooring tiles.

All programming, including the Seniors Meal program, are on hold. The cooks are planning to use the

Agency Longhouse kitchen, in order to resume the Meals program, which many Elders rely upon.

The Senior Meals are provided weekly to hundreds of people in the Warm Springs community.

The water damaged happened when someone turned on an outside faucet of the Seniors building. The water apparently ran during the weekend of March 12-14, until staff arrived and turned it off.

By then, however, the damage was done, as water had seeped under and into the building. Anyone with

information about who may be involved, please call the Warm Springs Police, 541-553-3272.



D.McMechan/Spilyay

Berlyn Yazzie Jr., Seniors food product manager, and program director Councilman Wilson Wewa Sr. at the center, where furniture and other items are drying out, as the flooring is being replaced.

Easter this year will be on Sunday, April 4. As happened last Easter, safety precautions on the reservation prevent the Warm Springs youth Easter Egg hunt. This year for families and young people, the Confederated Tribes and Health and Human Services will host an Easter Bags Giveaway. For safety, this will be done in a drive-by fashion. Listen to KWSO for time and place details, as Easter weekend approaches.



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