



Community photo/Courtesy KWSO

The Madras High School varsity girls basketball team is going to the 2022 State tournament early in March. The girls won the Tri-Valley League with the outstanding record of 9-1. The Lady Buffs won the League

Championship last week, beating Corbett 58-55. It was senior night, and the seniors were honored with a song from War Face. Seniors on the team this year are Kales Holliday, Shantelle Henry, Lily Libokmeto, and ChaCha Rodriguez.

## New schedule this semester at high school

Madras High School has changed the school schedule for the second semester, which started last week and runs through the end of the school year.

The primary goal of this change is to offer students more support or enrichment, whichever is necessary for each student. This time is called, 'Support Seminar.'

This is when students can get extra time and support from their teachers, like a test review or a writing conference. It can also provide targeted instruction for struggling students and enrichment for students who excel.

Students will have access to Support Seminar twice a week, on Mondays and Tuesdays. The school will hold two 40-minute sessions on

those days and offer a wide arrangement of intervention, enrichment, or study time.

"It is providing opportunities for students to get help, get better, and get ahead. They either had to do it after school or at another time, now this time is built into their school day," said assistant principal Mark Stewart.

"Everyone is excited about this, our staff is excited about it, our students are excited about it."

This extra time is another layer to the tiers of support Madras High School offers to students and families.

Tier one support is the time students spend inside their classrooms in front of their teachers. Support Semi-

nar will be Tier 2 time, which was non-existent in the continuum of support offered by the high school before this change. Tier 3 time is SPED, Alternative Ed, after school support, etc.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've seen there is a need to include this extra support time during the school day," said Madras High School teacher Jodi Galyen.

"We took parts of our old system and improved it to make it better for all students. Teachers want to help their students get better every day, and are ready to move forward with this schedule change now."

The school will use the system, FlexiSched, to implement the schedules needed for Support Seminar.

This is a way teachers and students can schedule what they do during the two 40-minute periods a week.

Teachers will have the opportunity to request students prior to the schedule opening up to students. If a student is not requested by a teacher, then they will see all kinds of offerings in FlexiSched to schedule for themselves.

This system allows the high school to schedule and monitor students and their progress towards graduation.

"The great thing about this is that it is going to put more focus and emphasis on data and student performance," Stewart said.

## School district moves forward with new bond

The Jefferson County School District is making progress with the new bond program voters approved in November of last year. The bond work includes adding classrooms at the Warm Springs Academy.

In January of this year, the district was informed that an additional \$2.5 million was garnered from the sale of the bonds. This premium is an extra amount investors paid for the district's bonds, because they offer an interest rate higher than the prevailing rate.

While the district will receive \$2.5 million more than anticipated, the premium will not increase the tax rate. It will, however, allow the district to support bond projects and prepare for cost escalations and contingencies that many construction projects face in the current economy.

In addition to this news, the Jefferson County School District board of directors is pleased to announce that Central Oregon-based Mike Tiller, of Tiller Schoolhouse Consulting, has been selected as the owner's representative to manage the projects funded by the bond. This comes as a result of a three-month selection process the district implemented from December 2021 through February 2022. Mike Tiller most recently worked for Bend-LaPine School District as executive director of Facilities, and led the completion of the new Caldera High School.

Tiller has a proven track record of successful implementation of more than \$350 million in K-12 construction projects throughout his career. In 2013, he managed a \$96 million bond measure with 140 projects ranging from new schools, facility upgrades, and asset preservation projects. In 2017, he managed a \$268 million bond measure with more than 159 projects. This included projects ranging from new school construction building, renovating and additions to existing school buildings. The bond also included projects to improve health, safety and security and upgrade and repair facilities.

"We are excited to partner with Tiller Schoolhouse Consulting to make our bond projects a reality," shared Jay Mathisen, Jefferson County School District Superintendent. "Tiller brings decades of Central Oregon school bond project management experience to the table and is committed to the success of our bond program. We look forward to sharing updates about our bond projects very soon."

## Jail: project funding through U.S. Interior

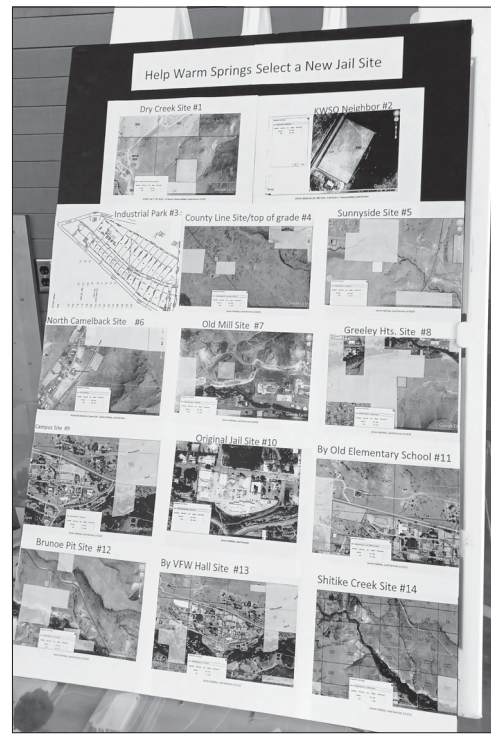
(from page 1)

Access to infrastructure is a big factor, as is the physical location, not too far from the courthouse yet not in a prominent or very visible place.

This is a preliminary recommendation from Utilities and Public Safety, based on their review so far of the options.

The suggested site is where the former cannabis project was to be located, off Highway 3 toward the water treatment plant. The siting process requires a preferred site, and two alternatives, based on feasibility and public comment.

Community input will weigh significantly in the decision. Toward this end, James Halliday, Land Services Officer, has a summary of the site locations on display at administration, with a suggestion box. The display and suggestion box will be stationed around the



You can review the various potential jail sites, and give your comment, at the Land Services Display Board (left), currently at administration. The board and suggestion box will be around the community, including at Simnasho, this month and early March.

play at administration, with a suggestion box. The display and suggestion box will be stationed around the

community and at Simnasho in the coming weeks.

The tribes have been without a full-time operating jail facility for five years now. Problems with the previous facility included deficient ventilation, lack of plumbing and heating, leaky ceilings, unstable walls and floors, etc.

As the current jail building is not available for incarceration, tribal Public Safety has been contracting with NorCor in The Dalles for detention services.

A decade ago the Warm Springs Police Department-Corrections and Tribal Council were initially in contact with the BIA about the need for a proper Corrections facility. Achieving a funding priority was the obstacle.

Based on Lt. Greene's assessment, the Department of the Interior last year made a commitment to the tribes that the funding is available.

## Updated tribal covid policies, protocols

Tribal Council and management have finalized updated policies and protocol for addressing Covid-19 on the reservation and among the tribal community.

The new policies, based on discussion with health officials and the Covid-19 Response Team, took effect earlier this month and are in place until Council decides otherwise.

Some changes are significant, including the vaccine mandate for employees of the tribes, for instance.

Here is the 905-C Mandatory Covid-19 Vaccination policy statement of the tribes:

**Policy:** Covid-19 is an infectious illness caused by the corona virus, Covid-19. Due to the high risk to employees, all current employees, regardless of status—limited duration, part-time, or probationary status—and newly hired employees shall be fully vaccinated. Volunteers will have to follow the same policy.

1. Vaccinated employees shall provide a copy of his or her vaccination record to the Human Resources Department, who will keep a copy on file. If the employee is not fully vaccinated, the employee needs to provide a copy to the Human Resources Department for each stage of the vaccination until the employee is fully vaccinated.

2. If new employees are not fully vaccinated at the time of hire, he or she shall be fully vaccinated within the first six months of employment. The employee needs to provide a copy to the Human Resources Department for each stage of the vaccination until the new hire is fully vaccinated.

3. The Human Resources Department will grant a medical or religious exemption to this vaccine requirement, so long as the exemption does not pose an undue hardship or direct threat to health or safety. Additional safety precautions or job modifications may be required in the event an exemption is granted. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs being a sovereign nation is not required to follow the ADA and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which includes the medical and religious exemption. The tribes find this to be reasonable at this time and reserves the inherent right to change this at any time.

a. A medical exemption is to include a letter from your physician to be on file with the Human Resources Department. This is normally defined as being allergic to any of the ingredients used to manufacture the vaccine, and/or other underlying medical conditions.

b. A religious exemption must be submitted to the Human Resources Department to be on file, if getting vaccinated goes against your religious beliefs.

4. Exemption unvaccinated employees must test weekly. Self-administered home testing kits may be used. They may be purchased on your own or may be available at designated locations as long as supplies last.

5. If you are symptomatic for Covid-19 and test at one of the designated locations—home test, or rapid covid test site—or if directed by a medical provider, or exposure to a per-

son known to be positive, please do not report to work until you are tested and receive your results. You must isolate yourself from any contact until you receive a Covid-19 test result.

6. All employees who enter a tribal public building must show proof of vaccination or have a negative test result within seven days prior to entering the building, and wear a mask.

7. If an employee declines to take a Covid-19 test when required, he or she will be sent home for violation of PER 801 Employee Safety. Failure to test after three days will be construed as a refusal to work. Appropriate action will occur up to an including termination under the Personal Policy, PER 801 Personal Appearance and Conduct of Employees.

a. An employee will be allowed three days to comply with the request.

b. Those three days will be recorded as Leave Without Pay.

### PER 905-D—Administrative Covid-19 Leave:

**Policy:** All employees regarding of status—limited duration, part-time, probationary—may receive Covid-19 administrative leave for up to 25 days total for the three following scenarios:

1. If you are positive with the covid virus;

2. If you have been exposed and place in quarantine; or

3. Need to care for members of your household, or for your immediate family members.

All three scenarios shall be backed up with a documented leave notice provided by a medical provider. stat-

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