

Letters to the editor

59th All Indian tournament

The Fifty-Ninth Annual Warm Springs All Indian Men's Holiday Tournament is coming up Thursday through Sunday, January 23-26 at the Community Center gymnasium.

The tournament is an all-Indian competition meaning players are asked to bring their proof of Native American descent. The proof can be an official CIB, or a tribal enrollment card (only if questioned). Players who can't prove certificate of Indian blood, or official tribal affiliation, will not play, if protested. High school age players are not eligible to participate in this tournament.

The tournament is open to the first eight visiting teams to submit an entry fee and roster form in full to the tournament director by Monday, January 13. The fee is \$375 per team.

The game will be a double-elimination 12 team-18 game bracket. If you have any questions about hotels for travelling teams, getting a roster packet, or about any rules, you can contact the tournament director **Austin Green** at 541-553-3243.

Winter fishery

The four Columbia River Treaty Tribes and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission have set a commercial sturgeon setline fishery, from the present time through Friday, January 31. The area is zone 6, Bonneville, the Dalles and John Day reservoirs. Allowable sales: Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool; and from 43 to 54 inches fork length

in The Dalles and John Day pools may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon within the legal-size limit, and caught in the platform and hook-and-line fishery, may only be sold if caught during the open period and open area of the set-line fishery. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period con-

cludes. Check tribal regulations for specific regulations for gears and start-end times. If you have any fishing enforcement problems, or need assistance or information, day or night, contact the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement Office, 4270 Westcliff Dr., Hood River. Phone 541-386-6363.

Movin' Mountains

The new year brings the annual Movin' Mountains Slimdown Challenge 2025. Registration is coming up in Warm Springs and Madras. The cost is \$25 per person. Registration at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center will be this Thursday, January 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Friday, January 10 starting at 10:30 and going until 6.

Registration at the Jefferson County Public Health will be from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. this Thursday and Friday, January 9-10; and 10 to 3 on Saturday, January 11. The challenge is open to adults 18 and older. Everyone who registers will get a t-shirt, plus a choice of a swim pass, yoga mat, sweat towel, water bottle or drawstring gym bag.

One man's ongoing quest to raise awareness of MMIP

Ryan Vasquez has run from the Yakama Reservation to three other reservations, including Warm Springs, since late October. He arrived at another reservation this New Year's Eve. Mr. Vasquez started running from the boundary of the Yakama Reservation, at Mabton, early the Sunday before New Year's morning for the boundary of the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon; and arrived early last week, according to his social media post.

He ran from Mabton to Prosser, then State Route 221 to Paterson before planning to get on State Route 14 and heading toward Umatilla. He had reached Paterson around 2 p.m. Monday of last week. At Umatilla, he planned to get on State Route 37 for his final stretch to the Umatilla Reservation boundary. "I was giving myself three days to finish the run, just in case weather is garbage, or I get slightly injured," he said media. "So I plan to be at the finish line on the 31st at about 5 p.m."

In a Facebook live video later Wednesday afternoon, Vasquez noted he had arrived in Pendleton. He mentioned in the video on his personal Facebook page that due to time issues, he got a ride the last couple miles. Vasquez had been running along Interstate 84, which drew the attention of two Oregon State Police officers. Both were polite, asked



Ryan Vasquez of Wapato at an outbuilding at Yakamart, Toppenish. Featured is a mural by artists Trevor Braden Garret Mesplie. The murals were painted in 2020 to honor missing and murdered indigenous women and people.

if he needed help and offered water, Vasquez said in his video. He told them why he was running. He hadn't reached a historical marker on the reservation boundary near Tum-A-Lum but planned to be there at 5 p.m. "I hope to see a few new friends at 5 to run the last couple miles to the Longhouse," Vasquez had posted in a run update he shared Monday evening.

Other runs

His run to Umatilla follows runs from the Yakama Nation boundary to the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho first week of December, the Muckle-shoot Reservation boundary in Washington in mid-November; and his first boundary-to-boundary run to the Warm Springs Reservation in late October. "All in hopes of uniting Northwest tribes and rais-

ing awareness" for missing and murdered Indigenous women, Vasquez posted. He wears a red handprint over his mouth, which represents Indigenous people who have been silenced by violence. Vasquez also carries and wears items given to him by relatives and friends of those who are missing and those who have been murdered. He grew up and lives in Wapato, graduating from Wapato High School in 2007, and is of Yakama and Colville descent. He was a preschool teacher for seven years at the Yakama Nation Head Start and more recently worked for AT&T. Vasquez is studying finance at Yakima Valley College. His ultimate goal is to run from Washington state to Arizona, where he lived for awhile. He runs as much as he can during the day and

stays at hotels along the way. He knows his limits; after knee issues caused by a steep decline on his run to Warm Springs, Vasquez will stop running early if his knee is bothering him. People support him through Cash App, sharing and commenting on his social media posts or just honking their horn when they drive by. Tribes have honored him with dinners, traditional foods and special gifts. In turn, Vasquez has offered to speak to tribal youth and organizations. He also speaks to community organizations, and regional media have shared his story. A friend, Ryan Craig, has been videotaping his journeys for a documentary. "One foot in front of the other," Vasquez posted. "We're building our way toward healing."

Notes...

From Housing

The Warm Springs Housing Authority reminds tenants that for after hours and weekend emergencies, please call Warm Springs Police Department Dispatch at 541-553-1171. Call and request Housing's on-call service. Emergencies include a broken water line, sewer backing up, any electrical issues and kicked-in exterior doors. All other non-emergency work orders can be taken care of the next business day.

Meanwhile, the South Wasco County School District Theatre Department will present *A Wrinkle in Time* Friday, January 24 at 3 p.m., Saturday, January 25 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, January 26 at 3 p.m. at the Southern Wasco County Library in Maupin.



CELEBRATING
VOLUNTEERS & BOARD MEMBERS
PAST AND PRESENT

Opening Reception January 9th
5:30-7:00pm

Since this gallery opened its doors in 1986 it has survived and thrived thanks to the generosity of all the many volunteers who have made it possible. Everyone, from board members to those who greet our visitors, do so solely because they share the belief that art enriches our lives by helping us understand ourselves and the world around us on a deeper level. Not all hero's wear capes, and not all volunteers make art, but this exhibit features those who do. Please join us for the reception, or stop by the gallery in January and February to celebrate all the local talent here in Madras.

ART ADVENTURE GALLERY
185 SE 5th STREET, MADRAS, OR
541-475-7701
Gallery hours Wednesday-Saturday
Noon-4:00

Tribal Council Nominations

RESCHEDULED to Thursday – January 9, 2024

6:00PM – Dinner

7:00PM-Meeting

Agency District – Agency Longhouse

Seekseequa District – Seekseequa Fire Hall

Simnasho District – Simnasho Longhouse

SWCSD THEATRE DEPT. PRESENTS...

A WRINKLE IN TIME

Adapted from Madeleine L'Engle's novel by **Morgan Gould | StagePartners**

RESCHEDULED FOR JANUARY!

FRIDAY THE 24TH @ 3PM
SATURDAY THE 25TH @ 6PM
SUNDAY THE 26TH @ 3PM

Southern Wasco County Library
507 Grant Ave. | Maupin, OR

\$15 ADULTS | \$5 STUDENTS
\$10 HONORED GUESTS*

* Veterans & Active Military Personnel, First Responders, Educators, Theatre Parents, & Thespians with ID Card.

An invitation: Minnie Yahtin-Cloud, granddaughter of Minnie from the Tribal Council office, is on the stage crew of this production. She is inviting the Warm Springs community to the play. *Everyone is invited to attend and show your encouragement!*

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