

Letters to the editor and opion

Member day at Kah-Nee-Ta

The last Sundays of each month are Warm Springs Tribal Appreciation Day, starting this month through May. The first Appreciation Day this year will be on Sunday, January 26: There will be free day use for all Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs tribal members from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Warm Springs tribal members also receive 50-percent off cabana rentals, and 25-percent off food purchases. For other tribal members there is 25-percent off the cabana rentals.

Homeless count

The Confederated Tribes’ Health and Human Services branch is hosting the annual Point in Time Count on Tuesday, January 28. This will be an assessment of the tribal homeless situation.

The Health and Human Services team and partners will host the Point in Time from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. January 28 at the old Warm Springs elementary school gymnasium.

Participants can register at 9 a.m This event is for the homeless population. The screening questions and answers will be taken at regis-

tration.

The Point-in-Time counts unsheltered community members who are living in tents, camps, vehicles, RVs with no electrical or water hookups; as well as sheltered members who are in the shelter/transitional homes.

Residents residing in the new Permanent Supportive houses are not considered homeless, as they are now permanently housed.

On the county day, Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m and is sponsored by Health and Human Services. Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. and is sponsored by Indian Head Casino. The Homeless Shelter will not serve breakfast and lunch on this day.

All homeless community members are welcome to share these meals with us throughout the day.

Booths at the Point in Time Count this year include Warm Springs Fire and Safety, Dental and the Pharmacy, Prevention, the Jefferson County Health Department, Neighbor-Impact, Indian Health Services contact representatives, Nursing, Thrive of Central Oregon, and the Oregon Department of Human Services. Limited medical exams will also be available in the Mobile Medical Unit.

Resources provided will be Narcan education and distri-

bution, blood pressure and sugar checks, flu shots and covid boosters, Oregon Health Plan assistance, plus additional information.

The Commodities program will also provide non-perishable foods for participants to choose from.

Incentives will be given to participants who complete their passport and the survey.

Thank you to all of our sponsors: Indian Head Casino for providing the meal and serving, as well as donating incentives; Thrive of Central Oregon for their donations and time. All Indian Health Service programs that attend the event and provide services and information. The Prevention staff for Narcan distribution and education; NeighborImpact for resource information and assistance; Fire and Safety for providing blood pressure checks and incentives. The Jefferson County Health Department for providing STD screenings; and the Oregon Department of Human Services for SNAP assistance. This is a drug and alcohol-free event.

Community notes...

The Warm Springs Housing Authority reminds its tenants that for after hours and weekend emergencies,

please call Warm Springs Police Department dispatch at 541-553-1171, and request Housing’s on-call service.

Emergencies include a broken water line, sewer backing up, any electrical is-

ssues and kicked-in exterior doors. All other non-emergency work orders can be taken care of the next business day.

Free **drinking water** is available every Monday to

Warm Springs community members at the Hydro Panel Facility, located next to the old vehicle pool building in the industrial park.

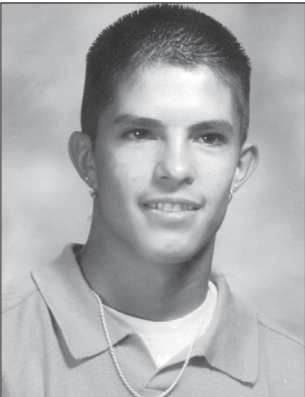
Stop by Mondays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

~ Howlak Tichum ~

Robbie DeWayne Bennett, 38, of Sulphur, Oklahoma, tragically passed away on January 6, 2025. Born on December 3, 1986, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Ronald DeWayne Bennett and Trudy Jane (Lumpmouth) Bennett, Robbie lived a life full of love, passion, and adventure.

He was a proud member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in Oregon and was one-quarter Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe from Oklahoma, honoring his rich cultural heritage throughout his life.

Robbie graduated in 2003 from Madres High School, where he excelled on the basketball court and created cherished memories playing games with his siblings and cousins. Over the years, he built a diverse career, beginning as a bellhop at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort in Warm Springs, Oregon, working as an order filler at Walmart Distribution Center in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, and later hon-



ing his skills as a machinist at Kerr Pump in Marietta, Oklahoma.

Robbie’s passions were as wide-ranging as his travels, which took him across the United States and to places like Tijuana, Mexico and the Bahamas. He loved building custom firearms, working on cars, and playing disc golf. A self-proclaimed foodie, he enjoyed eating out and sharing meals with loved ones, including teaching his sister the art of making gravy—a memory she treasures deeply.

A devoted family man and friend, Robbie’s positive spirit and selfless nature left a profound impact on everyone he

met. He was fiercely dedicated to his family, friends, and community, often going out of his way to help anyone in need.

He was a passionate advocate for a life free from drugs and always stood as a beacon of encouragement and support to others. “In life, Robbie built not just things, but relationships, memories, and legacies that will stand the test of time.”

Robbie’s memory will forever be cherished by his parents, Ronald and Trudy (Lumpmouth) Bennett of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; Brother, Wade Bennett of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; Sister, Felicia Bennett of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; Grandmother, Linda Williams of Byars, Oklahoma; and nephews, Delmar Whitefoot, Mitchell Whitefoot Jr., Brayden Bennett, and a host of other family and friends.

Robbie was preceded in death by his grandparents; Truman and Agnes Lumpmouth, and Ronnie Bennett.

Aquatic Center funding measure on May ballot

As my primary focus is helping the Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District become financially stable, I did some research about how much we support some of our public amenities with our tax dollars.

The Aquatic Center revenue from property taxes is \$750,000 with other revenues from user fees, grants and donations, bringing our total revenue to \$1,261,844.

Operational costs for the district to meet community expectations with hours and programs is \$2,113,000. This would put the Aquatic Center at a deficit of \$851,000 at the end of the year.

There is currently another \$675,000 in property taxes that go to debt service and can only be used to pay off the original building bond, which will be paid off completely in June 2025.

The district is hoping that, with two measures on the May ballot, those funds can be turned into operational funds to help support more hours and long-term maintenance needs at the Aquatic Center.



The pool at the Aquatic Center.

For a comparison, the library has existed since 1916 and serves most of Jefferson County and some of Wasco, which means they have a larger tax base than the other services.

Their property tax revenue is listed as \$854,000 for 2025, (2024 was less because of the PGE thing) with additional revenues from grants and donations bringing their total revenues to \$2,134,165.

The total expenses for the year are \$1,870,013, which means they end the year with an excess of \$264,152 that they can use in the following year. Their

budget is balanced.

The golf course receives \$1,075,000 from the city of Madras general fund and raises and an additional \$255,350 from membership fees, rental, and food and drink sales.

The parks bureau handles 30 acres of parks, 290 acres of open space within the city limits and 195 acres of open space with public buildings. The proposed budget for 2025 is \$593,000.

If I looked hard enough, I could calculate the cost per person usage, but that is not the idea behind this post.

We all support things we do not use, for the general benefit of the community. How many times do you hear people over 50 say “I don’t have any kids in school. Why should I pay?”

Well, that is not how the system works. Public resources spread the cost of schools, police, fire, courts, parks, libraries, golf courses, swimming pools and bike paths over the lifetime of the taxpayer.

They also create economic prosperity by educating and engaging our future local workforce (and attracting new folks and businesses to the area who will also contribute to our communities).

To understand, just check the per year cost of private schools or private clubs and compare that to your tax bill.

Please consider funding the Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District to the same sustainable level as our other public provided amenities. Vote yes/yes on your May ballot.

Frank Maynard, Madras Aquatic Center board member

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KAH-NEE-TA
TRIBAL APPRECIATION DAY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025
11AM-7PM

- Day Use free for all Tribal Members
- Cabana Rentals: 50% discount Warm Springs Tribal Members
- Cabana Rentals: 25% discount other Tribal Member
- Food: 25% discount Warm Springs Tribal Members



ADDITIONAL TRIBAL MEMBER RATES
TWILIGHT PASS: 3P-8P 50% OFF TRIBAL MEMBERS
REGULAR DAY PASSES: 50% OFF TRIBAL MEMBERS
CLOSED TUESDAY & WEDNESDAYS

Summary of Tribal Council

The following is a summary of a Tribal Council meeting from earlier this month.

January 6, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Raymond ‘Captain’ Moody. Roll call: James ‘Jim’ Manion, Lincoln Jay Suppah, Alvis Smith III, Carlos Calica, Chief Jefferson Greene, Chairman Jonathan W. Smith Sr., Chief Joseph Moses, Wilson

Wewa Jr., Rosa Graybael. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Invocation given by Carlos.

- Charlotte Herkshan expressed her appreciation to the Tribal Council for the special dividend in December.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs update with Bodie Shaw, acting BIA Agency Superintendent.
- 6. Bureau of Trust Funds Administration update with Kevin Moore.

- Federal legislative update with Matthew Hill.
- State legislative update with Michael Mason.
- Tribal attorney updates with Josh Newton, Ellen Grover and Howard Arnett: Executive session, 1:36-2:59 p.m.
- Proposed rules – Regarding IRS regulation 113628-21: Entities wholly-owned by Indian tribal governments, 26 C.F.R Parts 1 and 301, Comments of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs: Motion by Captain authorizing the Chairman to sign

the letter addressed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service, with amendments. Second by Wilson. Question: Jim/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Carlos/yes, 7/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

- Tribal attorney update with Brent Hall.
- District meetings are rescheduled for January 9, 2025.
- Executive session, 3:25-4:30 p.m.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.

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