

Letters to the editor and opion

Aquatic Center Recreation

As a local school board member and a proud member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, I am strongly urging everyone to support the Madras Aquatic Center and Recreation District, the MACRD, ballot measure in the upcoming election on May 20.

This measure is essential to maintaining and improving the facilities and programs that serve all our families, both on and off the reservation.

Water safety is a critical life skill, and the Madras Aquatic Center plays a key role in ensuring our children learn to swim. This year, as in the past seven years, every second-grade student in our district, including those from the Warm Springs Academy, received swimming lessons at the MAC. There were 190 second-graders participating this year alone. These lessons are not just about recreation—they save lives. In our region with so many rivers, lakes and streams, ensuring our youth know how to swim is vital to preventing accidents and provides members with the tools to ensure water safety.

Warm Springs is a part of Jefferson County and needs to be included in this important matter. Our kids matter so we must place our vote so they can continue to be included in this conversation. My kids and myself have benefited from the swim lessons, water classes, and the community programs that are provided year round.

I have family members who have participated in soccer, flag football, and many other events throughout the year that are sponsored by the Madras Aquatic Center.

Beyond water safety, MACRD provides a place for our youth, elders, and families to stay active and connected. Over spring break, 155 people from

Warm Springs were at the MAC for a day of fun and celebration. The lifeguards at Kah-Nee-Ta were trained and certified at the MAC and this partnership is beneficial to both our communities.

Investing in this facility means investing in the well-being of our Tribal members and the greater community. I encourage my fellow Tribal members, and the entire community to vote Yes to dissolve the current district, and also Yes to form a new district. These Yes/Yes votes will allow for the MACRD to increase staffing, hours of operation, take care of its maintenance needs, and increase sports and recreation programs that benefit us all. Sincerely,

Laurie Danzuka, 509-J School Board Member Position 1. Tribal member, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Vote yes, more recreation hours

The Madras Aquatic Center and Recreation District (MACRD) is a phenomenal community resource—one of the few places that truly serves all ages. Toddlers attend swim lessons, school-age kids from across Central Oregon participate in field trips and sports, and adults of all abilities enjoy independent workouts or fitness classes led by certified instructors and master trainers.

MACRD is more than a fitness facility—it’s a safety asset. In a region filled with canals and water recreation, water safety is essential. The pool staff stay current on training and offer CPR classes to the public. Former MAC lifeguards and athletes have gone on to become doctors, nurses, Nurses, paramedics, and EMTs—many now serving our local community. These are life-changing opportunities for youth that are worth preserving.

We cannot afford to lose this amenity. We need the MACRD for community health, wellness, and safety.

Personally, I have benefited from the MACRD. As a high school student, I played water polo. Most of my teammates didn’t know how to swim when we started, as many families were unable to access lessons out of town before the pool opened.

Our coach reviewed the basics with the whole team, and we went on to compete at the state level against teams triple our size and experience. As an adult, I still enjoy going to the MAC for lap swims, Amanda’s ‘MisFit the Beast’ land and water HITT classes, and family recreation. The friendships and connections I’ve made at the pool are priceless.

Our pool is struggling, and may not make it if we just standby. I understand the community’s frustration with the current limited hours. Most of us are at work while the pool is open. We want the recreation district to be open during recreation hours! The are three simple steps to make that happen:

- 1. Vote ‘Yes’ to dissolve the current district.
- 2. Vote ‘Yes’ to create a new district.
- 3. Elect committed board members.

Want to do more? Come to the board meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.!

Two poems

The following are two poems Emma Smith has submitted for publication:

River People

And the thunder words brought with it; Treaty of days when nature echoed beauty, when the ripples of the Columbia River floated of Native Tracks, and whispered war-dance survival. An unheard reflection struggle, mirrored melody prayers that drifted to nothings; history to be another unknown of path of closed sunsets.

The new growth strides in to bring back River Life - that once matched Creation’s love.

Did the thunder bring a roaring Treaty, or a Treaty that needs to roar!

Past Shadow

The big dumb Indian sang his pity song to others. He told of the healing needed for killing his wife; he didn’t mean to shoot her in the heart—

The heart that knew his hues, ugly childhood pain—the heart that always forgave his tantrums—the heart that outlined ‘till death do us part’.

His unspeakable tears rolled down the red carpet; tired, worn out feet, traveling the Rez that turned

Into other worlds – Finally realizing - it’s not plush or filled with cheer; but traced the unreached dreams, unlearned morals, that pounded a memory of a closed rose.

His path rounding another bewilderment of scars.

Emma Smith

I’ve been impressed with the transparency, creativity, and diligence of the board to keep the budget balanced and the pool open. I have also been shocked by the lack of community attendance, especially considering all those vocal on social media. Let’s stop talking and start doing! Let’s vote to keep the pool open and restore recreation hours!

Jessica Stinson, teacher.

For MACRD

The MACRD is a ‘Service District,’ plain and simple. It provides organized sports and recreation opportunities for the community. Service districts are formed by the vote of the people to address a community need. The State of Oregon, under Measure 50 property tax laws, states that a Service district shall establish a Permanent Rate Levy for the operations and maintenance of the district. The Permanent Rate Levy cannot change once a district is formed. The MACRD board reached a decision over two years ago that the current district **as it was formed** with a Permanent rate levy of .25 per thousand is not sustainable. The option of going to the voters for .60 per thousand every four years in the form of a Local option levy is an added expense, inadequate, and does not allow for long term planning. The aquatic center in 2025 will now be paid for. A Yes vote will dissolve the current district.

The question now is does the community want to form a new Sports and Recreation district that includes a paid for Aquatic facility?

A yes vote does not Increase the current combined tax rates the old district has levied.

The current bond rate of .54 per thousand amounts to about \$20 per month to the averaged tax account. Take a look at yours. The itemized levies and bonds are located in the top right hand area of your tax statement.

That .54 will allow the new district to increase operational hours and staffing to

Community Wellness Center, Recreation Department Presents:

Annual Spring Sale

Food sales
Start @
7:15am

Yard Sale

Breakfast
Huckleberry
pancakes
Rez Dogs
Burgers
NDN Tacos

Friday, May 16th 2025 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Community Wellness Center Front Lawn

Spring cleaning
earn some extra
cash & clean out
those closets \$\$\$

Bring your own Comfy Chair

Call today
One table
per person

To reserve a table or for information call Recreation @ 541-533-3243

adequate levels, address much needed deferred maintenance of the facility, set aside funds for future maintenance and repairs, and allow the MACRD to stand on its own without the need of tax anticipation loans from Jefferson County.

Your MACRD board has put a lot of time and research into this decision. The ongoing mechanical and structural failures have made the funding issue urgent. Visit the MACRD website and review the documents that are all available to the public. Meeting Minutes, Financial reports, Audits, Master Plan, Policies, Budget documents, complete transparency and accountability for our tax dollars. macrecdistrict.com

We have lived and worked in this community for years, and see a great value in such a district for the health and well-being of all. Now is the time to restructure this district. Please join us in voting **Yes, Yes** on the ballot measures. **John and Jean McCloskey.**

Change with Social Security

There are new and important rules regarding the Social Security Administration direct deposit with

banks and direct express.

All banking transactions must now be done in person only, no longer over the phone nor on video with the General Assistance department; only at the Bend office.

This ruling started in April nation-wide.

Or you can change online with proper ID and old bank information: Bank routing number, checking or savings account, and the new information.

You can go to the Bend office. You do not need an appointment.

This is only for changes with Direct Deposits.

All other SSA transactions business will require an appointment either by phone, office visit or by video with Ramona Baez, Veronica, Nicole or Toby.

Thank you. **Rose Alarcon**, 541-777-2785.

Recent pet clinic

The most recent First Nations Vet spay and neuter clinic in Warm Springs was another success. The clinic team and partners provided health services 123 animals, the most we have ever done during one clinic.

We are looking forward to coming back next year.

Ali Peterson, First Nations Vet.

For museum, please comment on House Bill 3962



largest economic engine, and all of our partners by allowing for the reallocation of Transient Room Tax dollars away from destination marketing and management initiatives.

How You Can Help:

Visit Central Oregon is requesting that partners and stakeholders submit written testimony.

To help make it easier, you can find a copy of a testimony template here from Mackenzie Ballard and the Oregon Destination Association, as well as a copy of the letter Visit Central Oregon’s chief executive officer Scott Larson.

Why: The majority of the lodging tax generated in

Visit Central Oregon is requesting that stakeholders provide written testimony opposing Oregon House Bill 3962.

With its proposed amendment, this bill would divert funding from Destination Management Organization-prioritized tourism programs to non-tourism services.

Here’s some background information on HB 3962, and why we at Visit Central Oregon feel it’s imperative that the industry comes together with a unified voice against it.

What: House Bill 3962 requires the Legislative Revenue Office to study local taxation.

With its proposed amendment, this bill will seek to expand the use of local Transient Room Tax revenue to fund public safety and certain costs related to community infrastructure.

While we fully understand the need for additional funding, this bill, as written, presents major risks to the tourism industry, Central Oregon’s

Thank you for kind deeds

I want to take this time to thank a kind-hearted and loving young lady. My sister and I attended the Senior-Elder Health Fair held recently at the former Warm Springs elementary school gymnasium. We then enjoyed the barbecue ribs lunch at the old cafeteria. On our way back to my sister’s vehicle, I was carrying BBQ ribs and some salad in a bowl and somehow tripped when I got to the blacktop and fell pretty hard, with my sister right behind me. She too almost landed on me, but caught herself. This happened so fast and the food scattered all over the road and my sunglasses flew the other way. Then out of nowhere a young lady was right there to help me get up and asked me if I was okay.

She was picking up my things for me and asked if she could get me some more lunch. By then my sister went to get her vehicle to come back and pick me up. At this point, I just wanted to go home, but the young lady was genuinely concerned and showed compassion that day. I reached over and touched her arm and asked her, “I would like to know the name of the person helping me?” And then she said, “I’m Heaven.” I was so moved in this moment, God had once again shown me and reminded that He would never leave me nor forsake me. Many blessings to Heaven and may God continue to grow you and prosper your way. Thank you again. **Kim L. Wheeler.**

This is a long time coming. I would like to thank Andrea Cook for being there for my grandson, Julius Anderson, when my car went on the blink and I couldn’t get Julius to the Warm Springs Academy on Sundays to ride the van back to Salem to attend the OSD. And Andrea being the good parent that she is, went the extra mile picking up Lupah on Fridays when the students come home for the weekends and bringing him home, right to the front porch. God Bless you and keep you Ms. Andrea Cook. Remember, You are appreciated. **Kim L. Wheeler.**