

Several questions in May 20 special election

Ballots for the county Special District Election are due by May 20. In the election, there is one position up for election for the Jefferson County School District 509-J, with Laurie Danzuka running unopposed. Other items:

The future of the Madras Aquatic Center and Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District are on the ballot (see letters on page 5); and a bond measure proposal for improvements to the Jefferson County Library District services.

Madras Aquatic Center

There are two questions regarding the Aquatic Center. One of the questions asks whether the existing MAC recreation district should be dissolved.

The current level of funding for the existing district is insuffi-

cient to sustain the operations, while state law does not permit the district electors to increase the current permanent tax rate. However, if the existing district is dissolved, a new district could be formed with a new funding structure.

And the second question regarding the MAC and recreation district is whether a new district should be formed, replacing the current one, if it is dissolved in the election. The ballot also includes positions on the Madras Aquatic Center Board of Districts. Other special district positions up for election: Central Oregon Community College, and the Jefferson County Education Service District.

Meanwhile, the Library District Measure asks whether the district

shall issue \$20.4 million in general obligation bonds. If the library bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property in the district. Tribal trust property is not subject to the property.

If approved, the library bonds would finance capital costs for construction, expansion, renovating, furnishing and equipping library facilities. Improvements and additions would be a new multipurpose room, meeting room, study spaces, spaces for children, teens and adults, work areas for staff, and an outdoor courtyard.

Two positions on the library district board are also on the ballot.

In the Warm Springs precinct, no. 14, there are 1,508 registered voters, clearly enough to make a difference in the outcome of some questions.

MMIR Day in May



The MMIR walk for Awareness and Action.

(from page 4)

People raised their signs high in the air with phrases such as ‘No more stolen sisters,’ ‘Gone missing but still in our hearts,’ and ‘Search the landfills.’ Cars honked their horns in support all along the way.

Angela Polk, of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and a Yakama Nation descendent, spent the walk to the river reflecting on her sister, Tina Spino, who went missing two years ago. “My daughter has never been the same

since,” Polk said.

Two weeks after Tina went missing, she was found dismembered, Ms. Polk said. She has lost other loved ones as well to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, including her nephew Casey Lillie.

“The importance for me is to release the pain we carry,” Angela said, reflecting on MMIR Day of Awareness and Action. “I pray for the children and I pray for my family.”

Around Indian Country

Judge to decide Willamette Falls access dispute in coming months

Sometime in the next few months a federal judge will decide whether Portland General Electric, Oregon’s largest utility provider, is allowed to condemn 5 acres of land surrounding Willamette Falls that Indigenous people have treasured for centuries.

The motion for condemnation came after PGE and four regional tribes attempt to fight the state’s granting permission for the Grand Ronde to build a fishing platform

at the base of the falls.

The four tribes—the Confederated Tribes Warm Springs, the Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians—have all supported PGE throughout the case, with the Siletz joining the case as an amicus party in December.

Community notes...

Cannabis referendum

Tribal members will decide the Cannabis referendum on Monday, June 16. There is a voter turnout requirement for the referendum vote to be valid: One-third of eli-

gible voters must cast ballots. With 3,696 voters, a minimum turnout of 1,232 is needed for the referendum to count one way or the other.

The questions are whether to allow the Warm Springs Cannabis En-

terprise to open a cannabis retail store on the reservation, or on trust land; and whether or not to allow the legalization of marijuana on the reservation. Voting will take place at the Warm Springs Community Center from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on June 16.

Head Start recruiting

Warm Springs Head Start is now recruiting children who will be ages 3 or 4 on September 1 for next school year. Head Start helps families with child development, nutrition and health, education and more. The Warm Springs Early Head Start program is also recruiting for children ages 0-3. Early Head Start offers child development, family support and pre-natal care. Learn more about signing up your child for Early Head Start or Head Start by calling the Warm Springs Early Childhood Education Center at 541-553-3241

Health and Wellness

Community Health and Wellness classes, facilitated by Frank Smith, are held weekly and open to all community members. Mondays is a Health Activities class from 1-2:30 p.m. They discuss issues that seniors and people with disabilities live with. Plus, there are library visits and social outings. Tuesdays the Tribal Best Practices class teaches traditional and cultural practices as an alternative to substance abuse. It’s at 11 a.m. in the old cafeteria. Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. is Pencil Art Drawing at the Prevention office. Thursday is Fitness for Seniors from 10-11:30 a.m. at High Lookie Lodge. And Fridays mornings at 9 is a gang prevention meeting at the Warm Springs Academy.

FAMILY FUN ZONE
Community Prevention Fair

We hope you have an amazing time filled with lots of laughter and fun. We have a wide range of activities to choose from:

- Inflatable carnival games -541 Bounce
- Face Painting & Balloon Making - Delightful Family Entertainment

Saturday, May 17th, 2025, at 11a.m-4pm
Behavioral Health Front Lawn
Warm Springs Prevention

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

The Central Oregon Community College First Nations Student Union Welcomes You to the

2025 SALMON BAKE

SATURDAY, MAY 17
11 A.M. – 3 P.M.
COCC Bend campus, Athletic Field

Join us for a FREE, traditionally prepared salmon lunch and a Native American celebration!

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CENTRAL OREGON community college
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

For more information, contact Jeremiah Rector 541.318.3782 | jrector@cocc.edu

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASCOCC

♿ In advance of College events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability should contact Caitlyn Gardner at 541-383-7237. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact Disability Services at 541-383-7583.

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3RD ANNUAL PAPALAXSIMISHA NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT UNION

NASU POWWOW

HOSTED AT MADRAS HIGH SCHOOL

Friday May 23

Host Drum
Invited Drum **WILD ROSE**

Dinner – 5:00
Grand Entry – 5:30
Welcome Invitation

- Intertribals
- Social dances
- “Honoring Our Elders” Song
- “Honoring our Seniors” song

Specials sponsored by: WSCAT & Miss Warm Springs

- * **Boys Grass Dance** (all ages)
Winner: grass dance outfit (youth size)
- * **Girls Jingle Dress** (all ages)
Winner: Jingle dress (youth size)
- * **“Plain clothes”**

Youth MCs

Mentor MC
CARLOS CALICA
Arena Director: **GARY VILLA**

KIAHNA ALLEN
EJ DENNY

Papalaxsimisha
“Unity”

For more info contact Jillisa Suppah jillisa@papalaxsimisha.org