

Letters to the editor

Please vote on June 30

To the Tribal Members of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation,

On June 30, 2025 you have the chance to vote for us, who do not have the privilege of being an automatic tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. We have to be voted in, in an Adoption Referendum.

I know there are some members who do not believe in the adoption and feel that they can make a statement by not voting.

Not just to them, but I want to say to all the tribal members that, we did not ask to be partial Native, we did not ask to not live here or live here when we were younger, we had to live and be where our parents or grandparents or whatever the case, made us live.

We have been punished all our lives for the choices that our parents made and that is not right. We have been persecuted for not being all white or not being all Native, but we keep on moving forward and we learn the ways of our Native ancestors and carry on the traditions.

The last legal adoption was in 1996, that was almost 30 years ago. Look at how our Reservation has changed in 29 years. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs used to be the richest tribe in the Northwest. The Con-

federated Tribes of Warm Springs used to have the most members; and used to have the best resort in Kah-Nee-Tah.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs used to have the best mill; so I think the 29 years of the not voting statement has not worked out. It is time to do the right thing and give us our chance, that is all we are asking.

Show up and vote, even if the answer is No, at least give us a chance to be voted in and show that we truly belong here with our tribe. Give us the opportunity to belong to something that we should have belonged to all our lives, go and vote.

We would love for you all to vote Yes to everyone and make our tribe the strongest it can possibly be, but if you must vote no, do that, but just please, get out and vote. We will go and pick you up and take you to vote and take you back home if you need.

Sincerely, **Leroy Archer.**

From Aquatic Center board

We share this news with heavy hearts: the Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District will temporarily close its doors on June 15.

The failure of the restructuring ballot measures means there are no funds to continue operations at

our current level. While we have explored every possible option, there isn't a sustainable way to keep the facility open through the summer.

We know this is more than just a facility closure. This loss affects children who are learning to swim, seniors who find health and connection in fitness classes, families who have made memories here, and every person who has ever found joy, relief, or belonging within our walls. We share in your sadness—we feel it deeply.

But this is not the end. We are using the summer closure as an opportunity to focus on the district's original mission by elevating our aquatics programs and be-

coming compliant with new state aquatics facility rules.

When we reopen on September 29, it will be to afternoon or early evening aquatics programming that will include swim lessons and junior swim team, aquatics fitness classes, independent lap swim and work outs, splash downs and family swims.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to bring back sports or enrichment programs at this time.

As a board, our commitment to the communities we serve and the mission of the MACRD has not wavered.

We are working hard to reimagine what's possible—both now and into the future.

We'll keep exploring new solutions, partnerships, and funding strategies that can one day bring back the full scope of programs our communities deserve.

In the meantime, we need you.

We need your voices, your memories, and your continued belief that the MACRD matters. Stay connected with us. Share your story.

From all of us on the MACRD board of directors, thank you for trusting us.

We remain committed to the health, wellness, and spirit of Jefferson County and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Deanna Seibold, board chair. **Jinnell Lewis**, board vice chair. **Jean McCloskey**, board secretary-treasurer. **Ervey Dominguez**, board member. **Frank Maynard**, board member. **Becky Blaho**, board member-elect.

Fish on Thursday

Tribal Natural Resources-Fisheries is planning a salmon giveaway for members this Thursday, May 29. The fish are from the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery.

Fisheries staff will arrive at the Community Center parking lot around 2 to 2:30 p.m. There is a limit of four fish per family. Please bring your own cooler or bag.

Youth: WSCAT opening new youth business training center

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They will assist local MMIR advocates with creation of plans, forms and resources around Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and Relatives issues and research issues around the MMIR epidemic.

Sewing interns will make wing dresses and ribbon shirts. Jewelry interns will create hand-crafted beaded jewelry.

"This summer I am looking forward to providing more unique opportunities for youth particularly in film and business," Reina said about the program. "I'm also looking forward to providing a place for youth to hang out and be safe."

Interns will shoot short films with Brutis Baez. Writ-

ing scripts, acting, and designing sets, those interns will be busy this summer. Brutis hopes the youth learn skills during their time in this internship that lead them to new passions.

An avid film consumer and producer, Brutis is looking forward to hearing some new ideas and seeing them play out in front of the camera.

"The youth could open up my eyes to show me some new aspects of cinematography and filming," Brutis said. "I feel like these youth in Warm Springs are the perfect people for this project, and I hope that they learn and move on to be the next Scorsese or the next Spielberg."

Having multiple skills was something he learned growing

up, and he has made money off this idea.

"I want to give them extra options that the tribe doesn't necessarily have for them," he said. "So we're trying to build a different set of skills that they can develop before they go off to college or trade school or whatever they choose to do."

He hopes the youth develop autonomy and creative independence as well. "I feel like they could create their own channels. They can highlight Warm Springs in a different way than I see it. This is youth independence, which is what we want to teach," he said.

Interns will shoot photography and run the Wyam Youth Center with Emily. She wants kids to get used

to structure during their time in the program.

Emily is also looking forward to working with some new youth. It's about creating a safe environment, and building kids' trust and confidence, she said. Having an open space is important for professional and personal growth, and she wants them to develop a skillset that they will be able to use when they are out there on their own.

Any and all youth between the ages of 14 to 24 are encouraged to contact the Warm Springs Community Action Team at 541-553-3148; or stop by the WSCAT office on the campus at 1136 Paiute Avenue.

— **Nehemiah Jackson**

Domestic Violence is NOT a Native American Tradition

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