



District pre-budget meetings

The Simnasho District will hold their 2026 pre-budget meeting on Tuesday, August 26 at the Simnasho Longhouse. The Seekseequa District will hold their 2026 pre-budget meeting on Wednesday, August 27 at the Seekseequa Fire Hall. For both meetings, dinner is at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7. The Agency District earlier this month held their pre-budget district meeting.

For the 2025-26 school year

The first day of the 2025-26 school year is coming up soon at the Warm Springs Academy, Madras High School, and the other schools of the Jefferson County 509-J district. The first days of school are:

Grades 1-8 at the Warm Springs Academy: Wednesday, September 3. Ninth-grade at Madras High School: Wednesday, September 3. Grades 10 through 12 at the high school: Thursday, September 4.

The Warm Springs Back-to-School Barbecue and Family Resource Fair will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 28 at the Academy.

Warm Springs Recreation will host the Back to School Yard Sale this Friday, August 22. Set-up starts at 8:30 a.m., and sales are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tables are limited, so sign-up up soon. For information or to sign up call the office at 541-553-3243. The sale will be at the Community Wellness Center Court Yard.

This year the district is again providing basic school supplies for all students. Families do not need to purchase basic items for their students. The district will purchase the necessary items, ensuring that supplies will be ready for your child on the first day of school.

The district is requesting that students come to school with a backpack for any materials that need to be brought home, as well as a water bottle. Additionally, for the kindergarten families, the district is asking that the family provide the student with a box of tissues and a package of baby wipes for your student's classroom.

District schools later this month and early September are also hosting open house events. The Warm Springs Academy open house will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 28.

The Madras High School open house will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2. The school district 509-J kindergarten open house day is Wednesday, August 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. The Bridges and Roots open house for Warm Springs students will be at the Warm Springs Back-to-School Barbecue, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Academy.

Adoption election ballots due by August 27

The election is vote by mail and ballots are due soon

The Warm Springs adoption election ballots are due on or before Wednesday, August 27. The ballots were mailed earlier this summer to all eligible voting tribal members, on and off the reservation.

The referendum is vote by mail only, with all ballots needing to be received in the mail at the address on the ballot envelope by August 27.

There will be no ballot drop box or in-person voting; so to be sure your vote counts, ballots should be in the mail no later than mid this week.

Ballots must have your name on the back of the return envelope, and you need to sign by your name. Postage is already paid.

If you already sent in your ballot without a signature, your ballot will still be counted.

Make sure you use ink to mark the ballot and fill in all the bubbles to indicate your vote.

There is a 50-percent voter turnout requirement for the adoption election to be valid; so please participate and talk with your family and friends and let them know to send their ballots in the mail today.

There are many candidates on the ballot, and each is voted on separately from the others.



\$1.5 million for museum Permanent Exhibit renewal

The Museum at Warm Springs has been awarded \$1.5 million in state funding for the renewal of its popular, though aging, Permanent Exhibit. The funding officially kicks off the museum's capital campaign for the project to update technical equipment and provide more information on the progress of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The Museum at Warm Springs was one of 13 Oregon arts and cultural organizations awarded state funding. The appropriation will be distributed through the Cultural Resources Economic Fund.

During the legislative and award application process, museum staff worked closely in cooperation with the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon, the only statewide nonprofit dedicated to advocating for public support of the arts, culture, heritage, and humanities.

Elizabeth Woody, museum executive director, said, "This was an amazing effort by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon, our staff and consult-



Harvesting display exhibit at the Museum at Warm Springs.

ants, our Board of Directors and Board of Regents, the Permanent Exhibit Steering Committee, which

includes Warm Springs tribal members, and others who advised and advocated, testified on our behalf, wrote letters of support, and met personally with our legislators in Salem.

"We're immensely grateful to our champions in the legislature," Ms. Woody said, "including Arts and Culture caucus co-chair Rep. Rob Nosse, and caucus co-chair Sen. Dick Anderson, Rep. Greg Smith, and Sen. Todd Nash—and to everyone who listened to us and helped get us here.

"We also know representatives in other districts supported our effort," she said, "including Rep. Kate Lieber and Rep. Tawna Sanchez."

The 7,500 square-foot Perma-

nent Exhibit is the museum's central visitor attraction, representing the soul and voice of the people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. In 2023, a \$90,000 grant from Visit Central Oregon made possible initial project scoping and planning work.

"The estimated budget for Permanent Exhibit renewal is more than \$3 million, so the funding from the Cultural Resources Economic Fund is an excellent head start for the project," Ms. Woody said.

"Fundraising to reach our goal is now one of our primary objectives. We are reaching out to our Oregon foundation and corporate partners and our Board of Directors and Board of Regents as well as our generous private funders.

"We also are seeking major funding from national foundations and asking our members, loyal visitors and public supporters to contribute to this historic project.

"With everyone's support we are confident that we will be successful in renewing our Permanent Exhibit."

The need for renewal is great. In 1993, the Permanent Exhibit included state-of-the-art technology, based on what was then a thriving tribal economic program.

Over the past three decades, museum technology has advanced significantly with the enriched presentation of art and cultures with new insights, and the Permanent Exhibit has suffered in its impact and maintainability. During this time as well, the history, culture, experiences and stories of the Warm Springs tribes have deepened and expanded. Much, if not most of the exhibit is in disrepair or doesn't work.

MUSEUM continues on 10



MAWS

Wedding event exhibit at the Museum at Warm Springs.



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*Total cash & prizes in August. See Players' Club for details.