

# Buzz: Ready to give back to family

# Pool: Rates to go up starting July 1

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He added that district leadership and employees have worked hard to get on the same page.

"I think we're real close," Brazeau said. "I'm the athlete. I'm the one looking for perfection. You're never there. If you make it 'there,' you exhale and slide backward."

Another thing Brazeau is pleased with is the efforts at increasing the amount of specific, targeted professional development for teachers.

"If you look at research, the single most important thing that impacts student performance is a good teacher and good instruction," Brazeau said. "With that in mind, we've targeted very much to help our teachers become better at their craft."

State test results have never held as much importance to Brazeau as what is happening in classrooms.

"What I care about is that our standards are aligned to what our students need," he said. "That we're teaching to our standards, and we're holding ourselves accountable. I believe if we do those three things, the state and federal governments will



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

**Buzz Brazeau is ready to give back to his family.**

catch up to us eventually."

Brazeau struggled with making the decision to retire.

"I never quit anything in my life, so the hardest thing for me was to come to the realization that in the job of superintendent, there's only two ways to leave it," he said.

Aside from getting fired, you can either die at your desk, or you can retire, Brazeau said.

"If you're going to wait until you're done — this job is never done. There's always something to do," he said.

A great influence on him

and on his decision to retire was his older brother, who died a few years ago.

"I loved him to death," Brazeau said. "He basically died at his desk. The accident that ended up taking his life was he fell down the stairs as he was going up to go to work, carrying a bunch of plans. He literally, for all intents and purposes, died at his desk, not able to give it up."

Brazeau said education as a career is very taxing on families — emotionally and time-wise — and he is ready to give back to them.

Brazeau and his wife have

five children, 12 grandchildren, and seven nieces and nephews, who Brazeau said he inherited as his own children when his siblings died.

The road trip around the nation will be to visit everyone, Brazeau said.

Before he leaves, he said if he had three wishes for Central School District, he would wish for technology in the hand of every student; for each school to be on a larger footprint so they had more common areas to go out and play; and that whenever any job in the district opened, the best, most qualified person in Oregon applied for it.

He will always miss students, but what he'll miss most about Central is the community passion for the district.

"I can be almost anywhere in the Willamette Valley and run into somebody who either goes to Central, has a relative that goes to Central or something, and they're passionate about the Central School District."

A reception for Brazeau will be held Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. at Henry Hill Education Center, in Hawk Hall, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence. All are welcome to attend.

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Committee chairwoman Kelly Gabliks said the committee should make the rate change recommendation, but give a final report to the full council on the findings on other possibilities, such as creating a "Friends of the Dallas Aquatic Center" group that could raise money, recruiting partners or sponsors, and adding other programs and amenities.

"I don't think we are ever going to get the subsidy to zero. I think that is unrealistic," Gabliks said. "But trying to think outside of the box ... there are a whole bunch of things we've considered, and in my mind, we haven't crossed any of those off the list yet."

## Proposed Aquatic Center rates:

### General Admission

Adult — \$6  
Youth — \$5  
Senior — \$5  
Family — \$18

**Annual memberships** (the 10 percent rate discount to city residents will remain)

Adult — \$275  
Youth — \$225  
Senior — \$225  
Two-person — \$425  
Family — \$500  
Three-month water aerobics class — \$100

### 20 passes

(no expiration)  
Adult — \$105  
Youth — \$80  
Senior — \$80

### Facility Rental

\$40 per hour  
\$70 per hour  
Rates for the entire facility increases by \$50 for each party size and to \$100 for each additional hour.

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