

CASINO • GOLF • LODGE • SPA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BUNNY MONEY CASH DRAWINGS

WEDS, THURS AND FRIS 8PM-11PM
\$1,500 CASH DRAWINGS FRIDAYS AT MIDNIGHT.

EASTER

EASTER BRUNCH 9AM-3PM
IN THE CHINOOK DINING ROOM.

EASTER EGG HUNT
12PM IN THE VILLAGE.

BLUES NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
MUSIC BEGINS AT 7:30 PM.

CHUCK WICKS

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

Tickets available at kahneeta.com or call 541.553.1112.

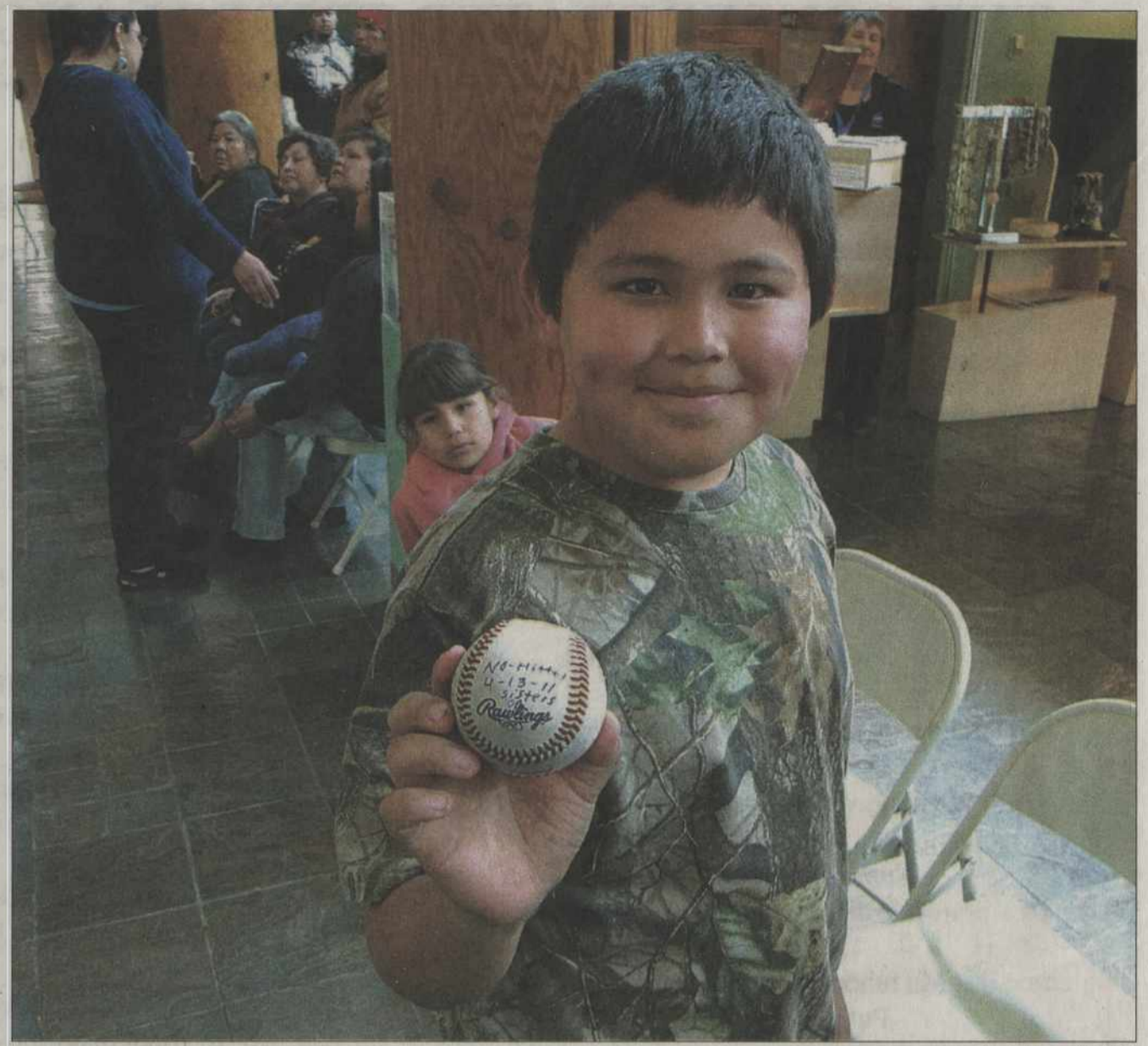
KAH-NEETA
HIGH DESERT RESORT & CASINO

541.553.1112 • kahneeta.com • 800.554.4786 • Join us on Facebook

Shows 21 and over.

POOLS • DINING • RV PARK • STABLES

First No-Hitter



Congratulations to Kahne Katchia, age 10. Kahne last week pitched the first-ever no hitter game at a Sisters Little League field. He has the baseball to remember the occasion.

Fisheries news

Groups threaten suit over hatchery

SANDY (AP) – A 59-year-old hatchery 20 miles from downtown Portland has jumped to the center of the Northwest’s salmon debate, with fish advocates saying the hatchery threatens the Sandy River’s thin runs of wild fish.

The Sandy Hatchery is part of a sprawling Northwest hatchery system that aims to compensate for damage to fish runs from dams in the Columbia River basin, where taxpayers and fishing license holders pay upward of \$80 million a year to support hatcheries.

In Oregon alone, 32 hatcheries released nearly 39 million juvenile salmon and steelhead last year, a torrent of fish that supplies commercial fishermen and sports anglers when adults return from the ocean.

After more than three decades of hatchery debate, Pacific Rivers Council and the Native Fish Society upped the ante this week by singling out the Sandy Hatchery.

The groups filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration over the hatchery’s impacts on wild fish and delays in reviewing those impacts.

NOAA already says it will accelerate review of the hatchery at Oregon’s request, making it the first to get full scrutiny under updated standards.

The Sandy River is a prime spot to recover wild runs listed under the Endangered Species Act and to make sure the latest science on hatcheries gets applied, said John Kober, Pacific Rivers Council’s executive director.

Since 2007, two dams have come down in the Sandy basin, including the Marmot Dam on the Sandy’s main stem, giving fish free passage to some 100 miles of streams.

Ratepayers in the city of Portland, which dammed a Sandy tributary, the Bull Run River, to create the city’s drinking water reservoirs, are helping pay for \$100 million of ongoing Sandy River restoration.

“We’ve addressed a lot of issues on the Sandy,” Kober says. “If we address hatcheries we can recover wild fish and get them off the endangered species list.”

By using eggs from wild fish,

hatcheries helped keep wild Snake River sockeye and chinook populations in northeast Oregon going when their numbers dipped dangerously low.

But without proper safeguards, returning hatchery fish can “stray” to wild spawning grounds and breed with wild fish, weakening productivity, numerous studies indicate. They also compete with wild fish for food and space.

In 2009, a scientific review group for NOAA concluded that hatchery fish have lower survival rates and are less successful reproducing than wild fish. Natural spawning of hatchery fish “clearly poses genetic risk to natural populations,” the group said, as fish fed by humans and raised absent predators bypass the rigors of natural selection.

Fish and Wildlife officials have improved Sandy Hatchery to reduce those impacts. The hatchery produced 1 million smolts in 2010, including coho, spring chinook and steelhead.

They now mix wild fish into much of the hatchery stock, in part to reduce genetic harm if the fish do stray. They reduced releases of spring chinook, the species most likely to stray.

They built an “acclimation pond” to try to better attune hatchery fish to their home base. This spring they’re putting traps at strategic points in the Sandy River to keep hatchery fish away from wild spawning grounds.

Oregon has moved aggressively on hatchery reforms, said Liz Hamilton, executive director of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association.

“Some people really do know how to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory,” Hamilton said. “Is this really the best place for us all to have a battle?”

The Sandy River’s fishing guides see the hatchery’s results firsthand. They also help frame the debate.

Jack Glass, 55, has guided on the Sandy for 28 years, catching spring chinook but mostly focusing on hard-fighting winter steelhead.

Glass’ fear: Pressure on the hatchery, combined with tighter budgets, will further reduce releases and cut fishing even more. Given limited habitat, he

says, the wild fish “won’t return in sustainable numbers that would allow any kind of harvest fishery.”

“We’re OK with catch and release of wild fish, but we want to have the opportunity to retain a few hatchery fish – that drives the industry,” Glass says.

Anglers are required to release wild fish. Within limits, they can keep hatchery fish – distinguished by a clipped adipose fin.

Fish and Wildlife reports about 2,100 hatchery steelhead caught on the Sandy in 2009. The spring chinook catch dropped to 324 that year, down from numbers in the thousands up to 2005, in part because of the cuts to spring chinook hatchery releases.

Jeff Hickman, 29, has guided on the Sandy for a decade, after years of fishing on the river before classes at Sandy High School. His clients are fly fishermen, who favor catching and releasing more aggressive wild fish.

Hickman’s fear: Hatchery fish will depress or eliminate the wild population.

In Puget Sound this February, Washington abruptly shut down all steelhead fishing – including catch-and-release – on four key rivers because of low returns of wild steelhead covered under the Endangered Species Act.

“Hatchery fish are kind of a dead end street,” Hickman says. “I think we need to give the river a chance to prove itself.”

Fish and Wildlife estimates about 1,300 wild spring chinook and 1,400 wild winter steelhead – both listed under the Endangered Species Act – returned to the Sandy last year. Steelhead numbers dipped into the 600s in 2005 and 2006, when counts at the Marmot Dam allowed more accuracy. Both counts are far below historic run sizes.

In its latest review, Oregon classed the Sandy’s spring chinook at “moderate” risk for extinction; winter steelhead ranked “high.”

But wild fish numbers appear to be trending up, in the Sandy and basinwide, says Todd Alsbury, a Fish and Wildlife fish biologist. And more nests in the Sandy’s spawning beds in 2010 indicate habitat improvements and dam removal are beginning to pay off.

MADRAS STORE

APRIL SPECIAL

3 FAVORITES FOR \$5

Only at Your Locally Owned Madras Blockbuster Store.

Not Redeemable for Cash
Limit 1 coupon per week per Membership Account.

Not valid with any other discounts or offers, membership rules apply,
excludes video game rentals.

Expires 4/30/11