

FLOOR,

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to make it part of the annual floor refinishing that would be happening anyway.”

The project is expected to take about six to eight weeks to complete after the work begins.

The dinner and auction, which is celebrating the golden anniversary of McNary athletics, will include a “raise-the-paddle” session to fundraise specifically for the gym project.

Other highlights this year are “Golden Tickets” that will

be sold only at the auction. Fifty tickets will be sold for \$50 each and the winner will get to choose any of the oral auction packages to take home before it goes on the block.

Bethell said the gym renovation and planned dugouts for the varsity softball field are the last large projects on the horizon for the group. Once those are in the rearview, Bethell wants to see the ABC's fundraising efforts set to work on wish lists for individual programs.

“We don't hear a lot from wrestling or tennis and those are programs we'd like to be

able to support,” Bethell said.

In the past year, Bethell said the ABC saw the boys golf program engage in a big way. It resulted in new rainsuits, golf balls, and a driving range tracker for the team.

The ABC also chipped in to help cover the costs of a substitute teacher for Rick Ward, the team's head coach. While golf is an OSAA-sanctioned sport, the associated costs are not covered by the school, meaning the program must come up with the money to cover the cost of a substitute when Ward isn't in the classroom.

WILSON,

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and Wildlife explains. “Sea lions have either killed, or chased, them out.”

Around the year 2000, sea lions below Bonneville Dam begin to discover they could kill broodstock females for the roe. Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls prevent sturgeon from traveling upstream. Flow conditions in these areas are ideal for white sturgeon spawning. Large numbers of spawning size fish concentrate in the areas, making them vulnerable to predation by sea lions.

Traditionally, when water temperature in the Columbia becomes a few degrees colder than the Willamette, sturgeon move into the Willamette. Now, even more have been chased into the Willamette. Sea lions have followed. The area below the falls is much smaller than the Columbia. Sturgeon become much easier prey. The slaughter continues.

“It won't be long before sturgeon will be wiped out in the Willamette,” Watts adds.

“I had two regular clients from Germany, fishing for oversized sturgeon in the Willamette,” Donald Koskela, of Pastime Fishing Adventures explains. “A massive lion surfaces, a few feet from us, with a seven-footer in his jaws. He thrashed it back and forth, ripping it to shreds. We see it happen again and again.”

The U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE) observation program at Bonneville Dam documented a steady increase in total predation – by sea lions – of all sizes of white sturgeon through 2011. Only one kill was recorded in 2005, but jumped to 3,003 in 2011, and an estimated 2,498 in 2012.

Predation on smaller whites throughout the river appears to be increasing in frequency, based on observations by staff and reports from anglers and commercial fishers. In 2009 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) estimates a total annual predation on white sturgeon, in the entire lower Columbia and

Willamette Rivers, to be from 6,700 fish in 2009, to 10,600 in 2014.

Each attempt ODFW has made to reduce the number of killer sea lions has been met with injunctions and lawsuits filed by well-funded animal rights groups.

If the number of mature sturgeon is rapidly declining now, what hope is there for the future of these living fossils? Will history repeat itself? Will sea lions reduce the number of broodstock like over harvesting did in the 1800s?

Powerful indicators are there. Thousands of broodstock are being killed. Num-

bers of juveniles and “keeper” size fish are down. Recovery from the low of the 1800s was long and slow. Over harvesting by man was stopped through consciousness and regulations to protect the species. Predators lack those capabilities.

Will man be able to regulate predation, or will the predictions of the historic fishery “never reopening” be accurate?

For more information on Columbia Sturgeon contact: Jimmy Watts, Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northwest District, 971-673-6000, or visit www.dfw.state.or.us.

Frosh b-ball camp begins May 31

The McNary High School boys basketball program is now signing up participants for its summer camps.

The Freshman Training Camp is slated to meet May 31 through June 19. The cost is \$105 and includes a camp T-shirt and entry to the summer youth camp June 20 through

June 23. The camp consists of seven 90-minute training sessions and five tournaments. Players will be selected – based on skill and availability – to participate in tournament games.

The summer youth camp, \$55, will be held at Whiteaker Middle School. Grades three

through five will meet from 9 a.m. to noon. Grades six through eight will meet from 1 to 4 p.m. The camp focuses on developing fundamental skills to help athletes improve their game.

Registration forms for both camps are available at McNary, 595 Chemawa Road N.

Watershed winner



Submitted Jackie Ramos, a McKay High School student won the grand prize in the “Discover Your Watershed” photo contest. The contest was judged by members of the Keizer Art Association.

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