SMART program volunteers honored

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — On May 18, certificates of appreciation were presented to the volunteers of the Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) Program. The awards and social event, held by the Veterans Speaker Bureau (VSB), took place at the Warrenton Christian Church.

SMART volunteers work with first, second and third grade

students at Warrenton Grade School during the school year to help enhance the students' learning and reading abilities and provide encouragement.

Speakers at the event were the vice principal of the school, Robbie Porter, and SMART Northeast Area Program Manager Paula Seid. Volunteers who received an award and a personal gift were local SMART coordinator Jeanne Moha, along with M'Liz Crawford, Linda Cox, Helen Dessen, Mel Jasmin, Carol Snell, Karen Ruscheinsky, Karen Layton, Majorie Landburg and Lydora Clark. Refreshments were served and a photo session held.

In addition to the volunteer event, VSB provided "Awesome" award certificates for each of the 40 students enlisted in the program.



Certificates of appreciation were given to Start Making A Reader Today volunteers by the Veterans Speaker Bureau. Pictured, back row, from left, Bill Logsdon, Marjorie Landburg, Helen Dessen, Jeanne Moha, Carol Snell, and Mel Jasmin. Seated, M'Liz Crawford.

Submitted Photo

Feds reject request to lift Snake River fall Chinook listing

By KEITH RIDLER

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The first attempt to delist one of the 13 species of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead protected under the Endangered Species Act has been denied by federal authorities.

The decision made public Thursday by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries cites concerns Snake River fall Chinook wouldn't remain viable without continued protections.

Scott Rumsey, NOAA's branch chief for the protected resources division, said the agency wasn't surprised that the first petition to delist came for what he called one of the healthiest of the listed stocks in the basin

"We're encouraged that we're getting close, but in this determination we're saying we're not quite there yet," he

An Alaska commercial fishing advocacy group called Chinook Futures Coalition requested the delisting in January 2015.

The group is concerned that protected Snake River fall Chinook limit quotas of king salmon because of incidental catching of the protected Snake River fish that travel to waters

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off Alaska. The group was hoping to get the species delisted ahead of Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations between the U.S. and Canada. The current treaty runs through 2018.

The coalition, in a statement emailed to The Associated Press, said it was disappointed in the decision and believes that the best available science supports a decision to delist.

"The Coalition continues to be committed to promoting sustainable, responsibly-managed salmon fisheries in southeast Alaska and will be discussing how to proceed in coming weeks," the group

Researchers estimate 500 000 Snake River fall Chinook returned in the late 1800s but that fell to 350 by 1992 when the salmon were listed as threatened.

Biologists say the species is limited to about 20 percent of its former range, spawning in a 100-mile section of the Snake River above Lower Granite Dam up to the Hells Canyon Complex of dams in the Snake River Canyon. The fish also spawn in the Clearwater River.

Officials say the five-year average of fish spawning for 2010 to 2014 is about 38,000 fish, with about 70 percent of those of hatchery origin.

Mushroom hunting heating up in wake of **Northwest wildfires**

By KEITH RIDLER Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — From flames come fungi.

That means mushroom hunters are checking maps outlining last year's many Northwest wildfires before heading into forests this month searching for the easily identifiable and woodsy-tasting morels.

"It's going to be a good season for finding morel mushrooms, there's no doubt about that," said Brian Harris, spokesman for the Payette National For-

The spongey-looking delicacies have defied commercial cultivation and can retail for \$20 a

"They've got a kind of cult following," Boise Co-op North End produce manager Tommy West said. "When they do come into season they usually move pretty good."

Nearly a million acres of U.S. Forest Service land burned last year in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, the National Interagency Fire Center said. Maps of specific wildfire perimeters are available online at the Forest Service's InciWeb.

On the Payette National Forest, harvesters who want the mushrooms for personal use can gather up to 5 gallons a day without a permit. A 21-day commercial permit from the U.S Forest

Service allowing more than 5 gallons costs \$200.

While the tastiness of morels is well understood, the difficulty of studying them in the wild makes them something of a mystery and pinpointing where they might appear difficult.

Mushroom spores by the millions can spread over an area. The spores germinate and create delicate underground growths that look like spider webs. The growths eventually include nutrient storage areas. Experts say these formations, called sclerotia, can exist for years, but the fruiting bodies desired by mushroom pickers only appear when conditions are right, and that might not be for decades.

"After a moderate fire moves through an area these 'ready to go' sclerotia form fruiting bodies referred to as post-fire morels," said Merlin White, a Boise State University assistant professor, in an email to The Associated Press. "Post-fire morels commonly start fruiting a few weeks after a fire and continue to fruit for about two years before seemingly disappearing from the landscape."

Prime picking areas can be hard to identify even with a good understanding of morel reproduction. Some scouting could pay off, especially if a small flower called the western white trillium is spotted, an early indicator morels might pop up, Har-

Former Oregon first lady must cover newspaper's legal costs

Associated Press

PORTLAND — A judge has ordered former Oregon first lady Cylvia Hayes to pay The Oregonian/OregonLive \$127,760 to cover the news organization's legal costs in her failed public-records lawsuit.

Hayes had tried to block the paper from obtaining her emails in the wake of an influence-peddling scandal that lead to Gov. John Kitzhaber's resignation.

Marion County Judge Tracy Prall notified attorneys about her decision Wednesday. It came nearly 18 months after the paper first requested Haves' emails.

Federal agents are still investigating the governor.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum ordered Hayes to turn over messages from her private account that concerned public business. Hayes refused and filed a lawsuit in February 2015 to block the email release

She contended she wasn't a public official and not subject to the Oregon Public Records Law. Judge Prall ruled in news organization's favor in August. A different judge then reviewed more than 72,000 emails and decided nearly two-thirds of the messages should be released.



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