

Chinook to get ride up Umatilla River

PENDLETON — Spring chinook are getting an early lift up the low-flowing Umatilla River.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife will begin trucking salmon on Saturday — about a month earlier than usual — from Three Mile Falls near Hermiston to spawning areas along the upper watershed.

Water levels in the river are already dipping to summertime lows, with virtually no mountain snow-pack left to replenish flows.

Bill Duke, ODFW fish

biologist in Pendleton, said the next month’s weather forecast doesn’t call for much relief.

“Usually we’re transporting these fish in early June, near the end of the run,” Duke said. “Low water levels and high water temperature can have tragic consequences for spring chinook migrating to their natal waters. To ensure these chinook reach critical holding and spawning areas, we will begin trucking them from the dam beginning this week.”

The move will detour fish around the popular upper Umatilla fishery, though fishing will remain open from the dam to the lower reservation boundary just upstream from the Highway 11 bridge in Pendleton. The area downstream of the dam will remain open through June 8 or until the harvest quota is reached.

As of Thursday, 98 adult salmon have been counted at Three Mile Falls.

For more information, contact Duke at 541-276-2344.

BRIEFLY

Refinance saves Hermiston \$2 million on school bonds

HERMISTON — The Hermiston School District saved taxpayers an estimated \$2 million Thursday when the district refinanced its general obligation bonds used to finance construction of new school buildings.

According to a district news release, nearly all of the \$18 million bonds sold in less than 20 minutes in a “feverous climate as investors clamored to compete over the secure, credit-backed securities.”

The securities were considered a strong investment thanks to the district’s recently reaffirmed AA- credit rating by Standard & Poor’s.

The refinance lowered the interest rate from 4.75 percent to 2.72 percent and shaved two years off of the repayment term.

“We are very excited to be able to share these savings with taxpayers who are likely to see reduced rates in about five years as the refinanced debt begins to mature,” deputy superintendent Wade Smith said.

Wreckage of small plane, body found in Cascades

PORTLAND (AP) — The Linn County sheriff’s office says searchers looking for a missing small plane have found wreckage and a body in the foothills of the Cascade Range.

The sheriff’s office says in a statement that it hasn’t been able yet to make positive identifications at the site in the Coburg Hills just east of Interstate 5 in southern Linn

County.

The site is on Mount Tom, a 3,170-foot peak.

The wreckage was pinpointed Friday morning by an Oregon Army National Guard helicopter.

The missing pilot is 41-year-old Lee Leslie of Vancouver, Washington. He took off from Hobby Field south of Eugene in a single-engine plane Tuesday evening.

It disappeared from radar about 15 minutes later.

The air field is at Creswell. The crash site is about 20 miles northeast.

Oregon U.S. Attorney Marshall resigns from office

PORTLAND (AP) — U.S. Attorney Amanda Marshall has resigned six weeks after temporarily stepping away from her duties for health reasons.

Gerri Badden, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, said the top federal prosecutor in Oregon resigned on Friday.

Badden declined to give Marshall’s reasons.

The 45-year-old Marshall said last month she was taking an indefinite leave of absence because of health problems.

Marshall was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in September 2011. Her office has placed special emphasis on protection of children, including prosecutions for child sex trafficking. She supervised more than 100 lawyers in Portland, Eugene and Medford.

Badden said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Billy Williams continues to be acting U.S. attorney.

Judge proposes Oregon bakery pay \$135,000 to lesbian couple

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — An administrative law judge proposed Friday that the owners of a suburban Portland bakery pay \$135,000 to a lesbian couple who were refused service more than two years ago.

The judge, Alan McCullough, ruled in January that Sweet Cakes by Melissa discriminated against Laurel and Rachel Bowman-Cryer by refusing to bake them a wedding cake. The bakers cited their religious beliefs in a case that has been cited in the national debate over religious freedom and discrimination against gays.

Friday’s proposed order, which runs 110 pages, dealt with the award for emotional suffering. The judge awarded \$75,000 to Rachel Bowman-Cryer and \$60,000 to her wife.

The sides will review the proposal and have the opportunity to file exceptions before Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian issues a final order.

A 2007 Oregon law protects the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people in employment, housing and public accommodations. It provides an exemption for religious organizations but does not allow private businesses to discriminate based on sexual orientation.

Avakian’s office said in a statement Friday that the facts “clearly demonstrate” that the Kleins unlawfully discriminated against the women.

Bakery owners Aaron and Melissa Klein closed their Gresham store in 2013 and operate their business from home. One of their attorneys, Anna Harmon, criticized the order, noting that same-sex marriage was not legal in Oregon at the time of the cake request.



This photo taken Feb. 2013 shows Melissa Klein, co-owner of Sweet Cakes by Melissa in Gresham, telling a customer that the bakery has sold out of baked goods for the day.

“This is a shocking result which shows the state’s relentless campaign to punish Oregonians who live and work according to their faith,” Harmon said.

“Aaron and Melissa have worked hard for what they have,” she added. “They are living on the fruits of American entrepreneurship. Now the State of Oregon, through an administrative agency, has ordered that all they worked for should be taken away simply because they declined to participate in an event which violated their religious beliefs.”

The case began when Rachel Bowman-Cryer went to the suburban Portland bakery with her mother in January 2013. They met with Aaron Klein, who asked for the date of the ceremony and the names of the bride and groom.

When told there was no groom, Klein said he was sorry but the bakery did not make cakes for same-sex weddings. According to documents from the case, Rachel and her mother left the shop, but returned a short time later. As Rachel remained in the car, in tears, her mother went in to speak with Klein.

The mother told Klein she had once thought like

“Allowing businesses to deny goods and services to people ... because of whom they love is wrong.”

— Jeana Frazzini,
Co-director of Basic Rights Oregon

him, but her “truth had changed” when she had two gay children. Klein responded by quoting Leviticus: “You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.”

Jeana Frazzini, co-director of the gay-rights group Basic Rights Oregon, praised the proposed order: “This case struck a chord with many Oregonians because allowing businesses to deny goods and services to people because of who they are and whom they love is hurtful and wrong.”



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