

Powwow support is appreciated

We would like to say thank you to all family, friends and the community for the great support shown to our daughter Soraya Mendez (Yah-x-la).

She ran for the 2008 Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Court.

Soraya is very honored and proud of all her hard work, and to now carry the title of the queen for this great powwow.

The family would like to express our great appreciation to those people who repeatedly purchased raffle tickets from Soraya.

Thank you very much to those of you who never turned her away or crushed her spirits.

We would also like to thank the current Miss Warm Springs, Cyrille Mitchell, for her guidance and kind words she showed to our daughter during the powwow.

She is truly thankful for everyone and will do her best to represent the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Joy and Jose. Ramirez



Sea lions versus salmon

Restore balance and common sense

By **Fidelia Andy**
Chairwoman, Columbia River
Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

"The one that got away" is a bittersweet fisherman's story.

The one that "got away with it" is the bitter end—if we fail to deal with an exploding California sea lion population that is threatening endangered Columbia River salmon.

Our tribes strongly support the recent recommendation by NOAA Fisheries to allow limited lethal removal of problem California sea lions.

The recommendation takes a significant step toward reconciling two conservation laws—the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act—that are increasingly at odds with one another.

Thirty-six years of unencumbered federal protection of California sealions has produced profound success yet unanticipated consequences.

The sea lions are at optimal sustainable population, according to NOAA estimates, but have gotten there at the direct expense of some endangered species.

Marine-mammal experts have warned that a particularly aggressive subpopulation of California sea lions will continue to exploit unnatural conditions—in this case, the fish ladder and its entrance at Bonneville Dam. They also warn that these behaviors will only get worse if left unmanaged.

We, as river people, remember a time when balance existed among all beings in a healthy and functioning ecosystem.

Dams have upset that balance. Tribal people were promised that while society reaped the benefits of dams, there would be a parallel acceptance of responsibility to mitigate and manage their impacts.

Survival, balance, integrity and dignity are cultural mandates for our tribes as we work to bring the wolf back to Idaho, eagles and other raptors to the Yakima Basin, and lamprey and freshwater mussels to the Columbia River.

To that end, our tribes insist that all impacts to threatened and endangered salmon runs, throughout their life cycle, be addressed in their recovery.

A comprehensive recovery plan includes hydropower and habitat improvements, hatchery reforms, predator management and the most closely regulated fishery in the world.

On the Columbia River, tribal, state and federal biologists have done everything allowable under current law to give the salmon a chance. However, between 2002 and 2007, there has been a 382-percent increase in salmon being eaten by sea lions.

A joint request by Oregon, Washington and Idaho to lethally remove sea lions led to a legally required convening of diverse interests—independent scientists, conservationists, nonprofit leaders, and tribal, state and federal officials—to weigh evidence and make recommendations.

They concluded that California sea lions are having a "significant negative impact" on endangered fish and, by an overwhelming majority, recommended approval of the states' application and developed two lethal removal scenarios as part of their package.

According to NOAA Fisheries' environmental assessment, the most-aggressive 2008 management option could take 48,000 salmon out of the jaws of sea lions and pass them safely above Bonneville Dam. A total of only 66,646 chinook made it safely above Bonneville during the 2007 run.

Northwest salmon lovers can be pardoned for any sense of déjà vu. Last decade's tragedy at Ballard Locks began with similar circumstances. Regrettably in that case, myopic inter-

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ests impeded desperately needed management, resulting in the functional extinction of the Lake Washington winter steelhead.

It's a heart-wrenching scene at Bonneville Dam for those who are devoting their lives to building sustainable fish populations.

River watchers have reported schools of ancient sturgeon huddling in shallow water, looking for refuge from marauding sea lions.

Sea lions patrol the entrance to, and even inside, the Bonneville fish ladder, thereby eliminating any normative predator-prey relationship.

In our view, this situation puts the integrity of both species in jeopardy.

Quasi-domesticated sea lions may be acceptable to the Pier 39 tourists in San Francisco, but not on the Columbia River. There is no nobility in one species squatting in a fish ladder and eating another into extinction.

Our Creator gave us the responsibility to protect the balance among all creatures in the ecosystem. Traditionally, we accept responsibility for the survival and prosperity of the resources that surround us.

Failure to accept this responsibility threatens a tragic loss of a cultural resource that is the symbol of the Northwest.

Fidelia Andy is chairwoman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and vice chairwoman of the Yakama Nation's Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Happy Valentines Day belatedly...

Happy Valentines Day to my husband, Willie Danzuka. I love you with all my heart. You are a good husband to me and a wonderful father to our kids, Keesb, Datty and baby Masami. Thank you for giving me our beautiful baby girl Masami. She is truly our gift from God. My mother and father would have gladly accepted you as their son-in-law. Thank you for treating me like a queen and waiting on me hand and foot. No man has ever treated

me with all the love and respect for me than you have. Now that we are husband and wife, you need to plan on raising a big family and growing old together. You are the love of my life, Willie. Romelle R. Danzuka.

Happy Valentines Day to my wife Romelle Danzuka. I love you with all my heart. No one has ever made me as happy as you do. I have never loved anybody as much as I love

you. I feel like a very lucky man to have you as my wife. I'm glad we have our own little family, you and the kids make me very happy. And I hope our family grows bigger as time goes on. I plan on growing old with you till death do us part. I will always love you forever and ever, Romelle. Love, Willie Danzuka.

Letters of apology

I am sorry I broke tribal law in Nov. of 2006. I want to apologize to my dad and mom, for causing hardship on them. Further I want apologize to Arlissa R. And I will make every effort to follow our laws in the future. Lyda E. Rhoan.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Jan. 15, 2008 by driving under the influence of intoxicants. Further I apologize to J.A.S., and D.M. I also want to say that I am sorry to the community of Warm Springs. Reuben A. Henry Jr.

influence of alcohol and recklessly endangering. Further I apologize to Eldred F. and Rachel F. I also want to say that I will not make this mistake again. Patricia Kalama.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on January 1, 2008 by driving while under the influence of intoxicants at or near Walsey Lane turnoff, Highway 26. Further I apologize to my better half, my baby and all family. I will not commit to the above stated crime again and apologize. I want to thank the Warm Springs Police Department and the tribal court. Jerome R. Lewis.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Feb. 1, 2008 by being in possession of illegal paraphernalia, being charged with NDDHD, and also being intoxicated. I apologize to the entire community of Warm Springs for my actions. I also want to say I never meant to break the law and it will not happen again. Thomas D. Cochran.

I am sorry I broke tribal law in 04/07 by driving under the

Voc Rehab hosting tech training for visually impaired

Warm Springs Vocational Rehabilitation invites you to attend "Visual Impairment and Assisive Tech Training."

The training will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, March 3 at High Lookkee

Lodge. Presenter will be Wendy Seiden, plus the Commission of the Blind representatives.

Please call Voc Rehab at 553-4952 to sign up.

Powwow Calendars For Sale

Dancing & Portraits, \$15 each

Call Val Squiemphen to get yours.

Engaged to be Married

Merlin D. Tom and Susan C. Wommack

June 7, 2008
Invitations Only

Parents (Merlin), Marie Tom, the late Fudd Tom

Parents (Susan) The late Donald L. Wommack, Michelle R. Dow.

Maid of Honor Stacy Marcum; Best Man, Ray Caldera; Officiated by Ronald Palmer.



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