

'Mink River' author in Warm Springs

Award-winning author Brian Doyle will be at the Warm Springs Library on Friday evening, March 16.

Doyle, author of *Mink River*, will be at the Warm Springs Library at 7 p.m., as part of the Ninth Annual Jefferson County Community Read.

The presentation, sponsored by the Jefferson County Library District, is free to the public.

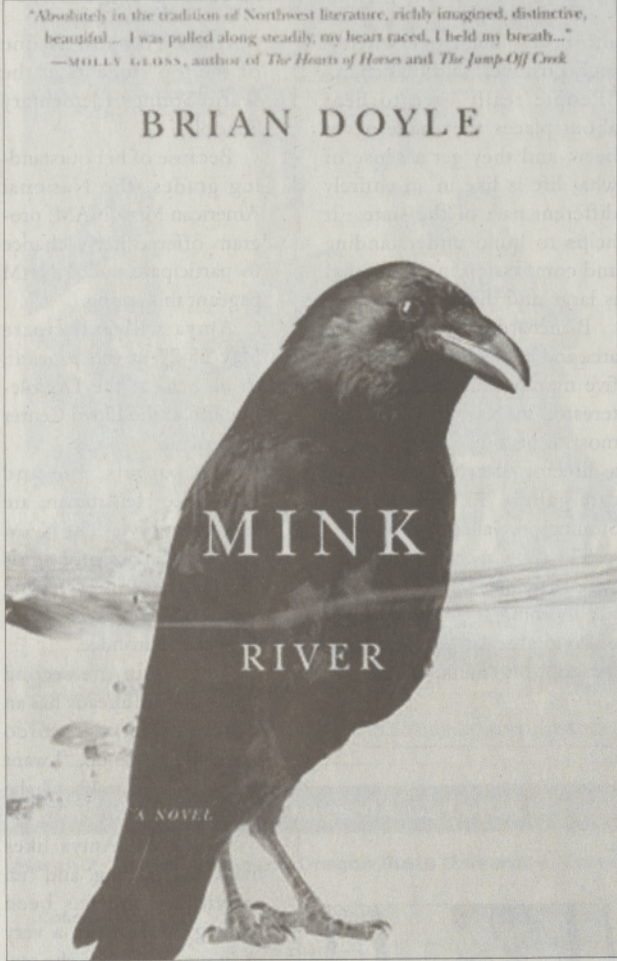
Doyle will expand on the Native American themes in *Mink River* and any other topic that surfaces from dialogue with the audience.

Doyle is a frequent speaker and author of ethical and spiritual essays. His sense of humor can be seen in his presentation title: "An evening of burbling storytelling & snickering & etc. in that vein with Oregon author Brian Doyle."

His appearance in Warm Springs is part of his visit to Central Oregon, which will also include events at the Madras library, and Great Earth Natural Foods.

Also in March, the Art Adventure Gallery is hosting an exhibit of photographs and paintings created for a project called "Lake Oswego Reads Mink River."

The photographers "set out to capture the essence of Brian Doyle's Oregon coast," and the 18 professional artists reveled in the "rich visual possibilities" of



Book cover of *Mink River*.

the book.

A Saturday morning, March 17, writers' workshop, limited to just 18 individuals, will be held in the basement of the Rodriguez Annex of the

Jefferson County Library from 10 a.m.-noon. Call the library at 541-475-3351 to sign up for: "A not-workshop with Brian Doyle during which we will play with starts and seeds of stories for

sheer entertainment."

The Doyle book of essays, *The Grail: A year ambling & shambling through an Oregon vineyard in pursuit of the best pinot noir wine in the whole wild world*, about the Lange Winery in Dundee, inspired a wine-tasting event with Great Earth Natural Foods from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, March 17.

And finally, at 7 p.m. Saturday night, March 17, at the Rodriguez Annex, Doyle will make a presentation with the same title as the previous evening in Warm Springs, "but we can guarantee that it won't be the same presentation at all."

Come hear a gifted speaker and author of 11 books talk about *Mink River* with its fictional small town on the Oregon coast in all its humanness and oddity and beauty, and a philosophizing crow.

Brian Doyle is thrilled to be coming to Warm Springs and Madras, because he's a fervent fan of our local icon Jacoby Ellsbury.

For more information contact the Jefferson County Library: 541-475-3351. Event sponsors: Sumner and Adele Rodriguez Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation; the Jefferson County Library District; Great Earth Natural Foods; Mail Copies and More; Don and Ruth Ann Hopps; and Mountain Photo and Graphics.

Chinook showing progress on Snake

From the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Continued high numbers of Snake River fall chinook redds throughout the Snake and Clearwater river basins demonstrate the success of tribal restoration projects.

Data released last week in the 2011 Cooperative Fall Chinook Salmon Spawning Summary written by tribal, federal, state and utility biologists shows approximately 4,600 redds, or gravel nests, were built by returning adults in the Snake River and its tributaries between Lower Granite and Hells Canyon dams.

Distributed widely throughout the basin, the increase in redds and their distribution are the result of higher adult returns. Over 27,000 adult fall chinook passed Lower Granite Dam in 2011, the second highest return since completion of the four lower Snake River dams.

The high redd counts are the result of tribal efforts to supplement existing Snake River fall chinook with biologically appropriate hatchery-reared fish to assist naturally spawning runs.

The Nez Perce Tribe, in coordination with co-managers from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are implementing the Snake River Fall Chinook Program in an effort to restore fall chinook salmon above Lower Granite Dam.

"The Snake River Fall Chinook Program is returning fish to the Nez Perce Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing areas and allowing our tribal members to exercise their treaty reserved fishing rights," said Joel Moffett, commissioner for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and treasurer of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee.

"This success is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication, both of which must continue if we are going to maintain salmon runs into the Snake River Basin."

The Snake River Fall Chinook Program was initiated in 1994 as a result of legal actions by the tribes under *US v. Oregon*.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Donkey basketball at MHS

The Madras High School gymnasium was the scene on Sunday of a Donkey Basketball tournament.

Teams included the tribes' Range and Ag summer youth, MHS teachers, Madras FFA, and Jefferson County Fire and Safety. The event was sponsored by the Madras FFA alumni.

Before the games, Mary Olney of Warm Springs (at left) sang the National Anthem.



Oregon condors on track for exceptional year

California condors at the Oregon Zoo are laying the groundwork for species recovery one egg at a time.

Six eggs have been laid so far during this year's condor-breeding season, with perhaps a couple more still to come. The two most recent eggs arrived on Feb. 16, laid by Ojai, and Feb. 18, laid by Squapuni.

The condors and their mates will sit on them for up to two weeks before keepers remove the eggs to determine whether they are fertile.

"We're proud to be making a contribution to the California condor's comeback," said keeper Kelli Walker. "Each new egg is critical to the survival of this species."

The fourth egg of the season arrived on Feb. 8 with a bit of drama. The parents, Mali (male) and No. 174, squabbled over the new egg as soon as it had been laid. Keepers quickly pulled the egg from the nest room to prevent any damage, replacing it with a dummy egg.

According to Walker, Mali

had been harassing No. 174 before she laid the egg and continues to be somewhat aggressive toward her in the nest room. She said the birds will probably not be given a chick to rear this season, and they will likely be split as a breeding pair due to ongoing problems dating back to 2006.

Earlier the same day, Walker had pulled the season's second egg to test its fertility and noticed what appeared to be a small hole in the egg's shell. After treating the area with sterile water and a diluted antiseptic, Walker used a thin layer of white glue to cover it.

Despite the defect, the egg did prove to be fertile and Walker is hopeful her repair will ensure a normal hatching. The parents, Timocho and Willie, are doing extremely well with incubation and egg-sitting duties, Walker noted. Through a process called candling—which uses a bright light source behind the egg to show details through the shell—Walker has already determined the first four eggs of the

season are fertile.

These eggs are now in an incubator. The condor parents are sitting on dummy eggs. When hatching begins, usually in 54 to 58 days, Walker switches the real eggs back, so that the chicks can hatch under their parents. The conservation center should see its first chick of the season toward the end of March.

The California condor is classified as a critically endangered species. In 1982, only 22 individuals remained in the wild.

With the help of breeding programs like the Oregon Zoo's, for which the Confederated Tribes have expressed their support, condor numbers now total around 390, counting those in programs and in the wild.

Thirty healthy chicks have hatched at the Jonsson Center since the program began in 2003. Around 20 Oregon Zoo-reared birds have gone out to field pens, with most released to the wild. Last year, three eggs laid by Oregon Zoo condors were placed in wild nests to hatch.

Ore., Calif. rivers may get big chinook returns

(AP) — Federal biologists are forecasting a big increase in salmon returns to two Northern California rivers that have been stingy in turning out catches for Oregon and California fishermen in recent years.

While a lot of work has been done to provide more water for fish in the Klamath and Sacramento rivers, experts say an upturn in the cyclical supply of food in the Pacific Ocean is largely responsible.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council forecasts 1.65 million adult Chinook salmon for the Klamath, and 819,000 for the Sacramento. The two rivers drive the process for setting ocean fishing seasons off much of California and Oregon, and recent downturns in returns have proved disastrous for the commercial fleet.

The Klamath expectations are more than four times higher

than last year, and 15 times higher than 2006.

But forecasts don't always prove correct.

On the Sacramento River, last year's predictions were for 729,900 returning chinook, but the actual returns were only 200,000. Council salmon staff

Chuck Tracy said the computer model has been revised in hopes of getting better results.

In 2005, before a spate of closures or sharp reductions in commercial salmon fishing, Oregon fishermen landed \$8.46 million worth of salmon. Landings were down to \$2 million last year.

Dams adviser claims firing unjustified

(AP) — A scientist who advised a federal agency on ethical issues that included removing Klamath River dams filed a whistleblower complaint over his firing.

Paul Houser, an associate professor of hydrology at George Mason University, says he was fired by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation after questioning the positive spin U.S. Department of Interior officials were putting

on scientific studies that supported dam removal.

PacificCorp wants to remove its four aging hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River rather than pay to upgrade them to meet modern salmon protections.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced this week he can't make the decision on dam removal until Congress gives him the authority.

Wild chinook protection plan would create fishery

(AP) — An effort to reduce the number of hatchery salmon spawning in the McKenzie River will spur the release of more than 200,000 Chinook smolts into the Coast Fork Willamette River.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife plan would attempt to create a recreational fishery between Cottage Grove

and Springfield for the first time in more than 30 years while protecting the genetic stock of the wild Chinook.

ODFW plans to release the smolts on March 12, and expects a return of between 1,000 and 2,000 Chinook in 2014.

"We hope to create a little more intimate and dispersed salmon fishery," said Jeff

Ziller, fish biologist for ODFW's South Willamette Watershed District, in a press release. "The Coast Fork is not a giant river, but it runs enough water in the springtime to provide the structure for a good spring Chinook fishery."

Last year more than 6,000 hatchery spring Chinook returned to the McKenzie River.