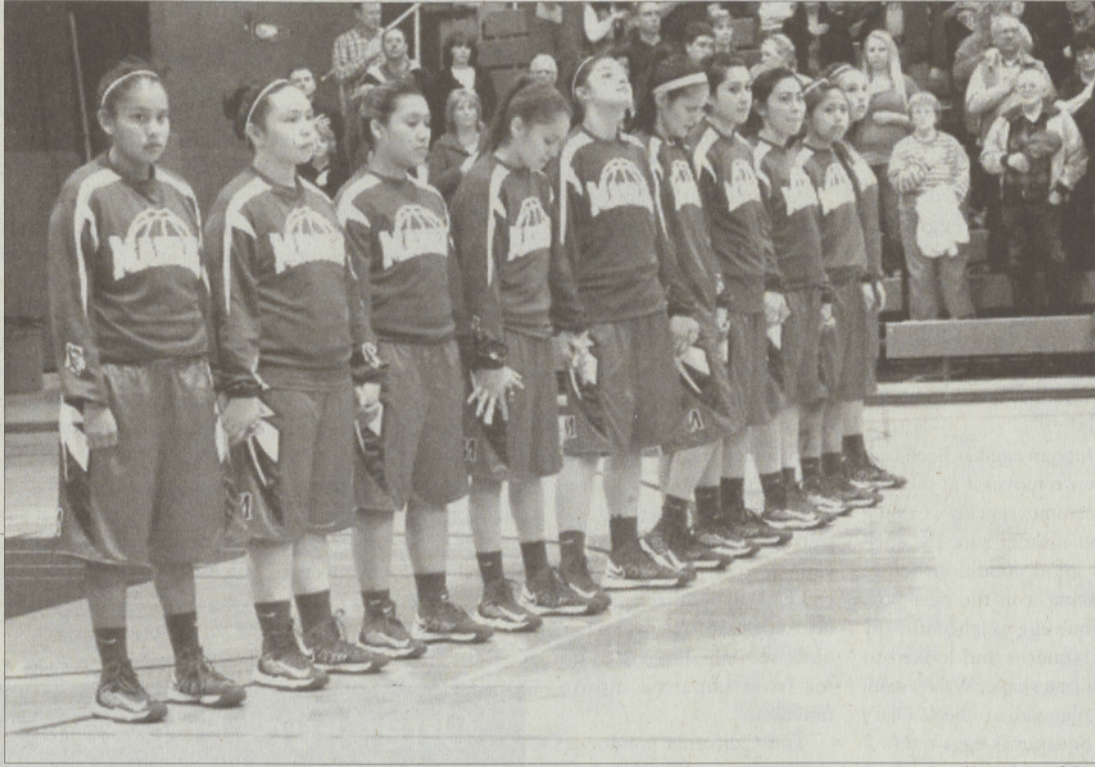


Lady Buffs at LaGrande



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

The Madras High School Lady Buffs take the LaGrande High School court for the OSAA Playoff game. At halftime of the game, LaGrande was up by 4 points (36-32), but the Buffs were outscored 15-2 in the third quarter, and had players in foul trouble. The final score was 43-65 and the LaGrande Lady Tigers advanced to the State Tournament.

Klamath withdraws from water deal

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) – The Klamath County Board of Commissioners has voted to withdraw from an agreement that lays out how to share scarce water between fish and farms, control power costs for irrigators, and restore broken down ecosystems.

The board voted 3-0 to have the county's lawyer draw up an order to drop out of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, with plans to vote on it again next week.

The agreement is a companion to an historic deal to remove four small hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in Oregon and Northern California to help restore struggling wild salmon runs.

Two other signatories of the agreement – the Karuk Tribe and the Klamath Water Users Association – say the county can't pull out, because the agreement is a binding contract that was just renewed for two more years.

"The Klamath County Commissioners are trying to put their own community on a disaster course," said Craig Tucker, Klamath coordinator for the Karuk Tribe. "If the KBRA fails, there's no way to address the dramatic increases to irrigators' power rates or create a soft landing for farmers when tribes use their senior water rights to fill the lake and river."

The FWC's Maj. Curtis Brown said those arrested were the "main dealers and looters." The youngest defendant is 25; the oldest is 74.

"This network is a very tight-knit group of folks," Brown said. "They had collectors they dealt with and they'd sell around the state and around the country."

Brown confirmed that the investigation is ongoing.

Tucker added that there is a good chance the four dams will be removed anyway if the owner, PacifiCorp, seeks a new operating license from federal regulators.

Greg Addington, executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association, added that the county should bring its complaints about the restoration agreement to the table, where the 41 other groups – tribes, salmon fishermen, conservationists, local governments, and irrigators – that have signed it will give them serious consideration.

Members of the previous commission signed the agreement and voted to renew it before leaving office last year. Newly elected members of the commission campaigned on a platform of getting the county out of the agreements, expressing reservations about removing the dams, the impacts on the county's economy and water storage.

The county has been locked in a battle for decades over sharing water between farms and endangered salmon and sucker fish. Irrigation was shut down in 2001 to give the fish enough water to survive. When irrigation was restored in 2002, tens of thousands of adult salmon died in the river before they could swim upstream to spawn.

13 arrested in stolen artifacts scheme

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) – Eleven people from Florida and two from Georgia have been charged in what state investigators called a criminal conspiracy to sell artifacts stolen from state-

owned lands in Florida. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers Wednesday described a nearly \$2 million black market in illegal historical artifacts. Items shown at a news

conference in Tallahassee included dozens of arrowheads and pot shards. But many stolen artifacts likely will never be recovered.

"This looting didn't just take artifacts from the ground," said Robert Bendus, Florida's state historic preservation officer. "It took history away from this generation and from future generations of Floridians."

BIA official says progress made at Spirit Lake

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. (AP) – A top Bureau of Indian Affairs official says the agency is making progress in addressing child abuse and neglect on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota.

But Larry Roberts also says looming federal budget cuts could jeopardize funding for social services and law enforcement across Indian

Country. Roberts is a deputy assistant secretary with the Interior Department. He was one of the federal officials who met with reservation residents Wednesday for a discussion about what the BIA has done since taking over child protection services last fall. That happened after criticism that the tribe had failed to protect vulnerable children.

Reservation leader pleads guilty to drug charges

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) – A former spiritual and cultural leader on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has pleaded guilty to drug charges.

Jerome Lebeaux was charged and pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance and driving under the influence of a controlled substance.

The 35-year-old Lebeaux had served as cultural coordinator for Thunder Valley Community Development Corp. The possession charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Sentencing is set for March 18.

Lebeaux is being held without bond in the Pennington County Jail.

Christian nonprofit seeks to expand Wasco Co. camp

(AP) – A Christian-oriented camp on land formerly occupied by followers of Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh wants to expand but needs state lawmakers' approval.

Supporters are pushing House Bill 3098 which would allow Young Life to expand.

The nonprofit group owns and operates Washington Family Ranch.

The camp was donated to the group in the 1990s after Rajneeshpuram was abandoned and fell into foreclosure.

The 62,000-acre camp is looking to expand by an ad-

ditional 1,500 overnight beds. The property straddles Wasco and Jefferson counties north of Madras.

An official with the state Department of Lands, Jon Jinings, said the land is zoned for farm and ranch activity but it's an "unusual situation" because of its past use.

Nez Perce liquor bill passes House without tumult

BOISE (AP) – The House quickly passed the Nez Perce tribe's effort to win a liquor license for its new convention center on the Clearwater River. The 51-19 vote was absent tumult that accompanied the bill on its way through the House State Affairs Committee, where it passed by a single vote.

Not one representative spoke in opposition.

The measure was brought by the northcentral Idaho

tribe, to allow it to sell cocktails at its casino, convention center and 50-room hotel.

The Nez Perce need an exemption, under Idaho's strict 1947 liquor law meant to promote temperance.

Rep. Marc Gibbs of Grace told the chamber during debate that strict sideboards would prevent any "runaway use" of this new exemption to create numerous new liquor licenses. The bill now heads to the Senate.

Notice of the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

The USDA, Rural Development has received an application for financial assistance from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, Rural Development has approved an Environmental Assessment prepared by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs that evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comment, and USDA is publishing this notice in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA review.

Discovery Plan and further Tribal assessment before construction begins. Archaeological monitors will be present during all earth disturbing activities. The alternatives considered to the proposed project include: remaining at the current school location with its limited space and old infrastructure, other locations in the vicinity of the proposed location that had topography limitations, and a Warm Springs Campus location that has old infrastructure and is zoned commercial.

The proposed project consists of construction of a new K-8 school in Greeley Heights near the intersection of East Tenino and Chukar roads. The project will comply with all standards and best management practices set forth in the Tribal Integrated Resource Management Plan to avoid any adverse environmental effects. A cultural resource site known to be present in the area will be protected by development and implementation of an Inadvertent

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Attn: State Environmental Coordinator, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 801, Portland, OR 97232-1274, or locally at the Tribal Natural Resources Building, 4223 Holliday Street, Warm Springs, OR 97761. For further information contact Charlotte Rollier, State Environmental Coordinator, USDA Rural Development, 503-414-3356. Any person interested in commenting on this proposed project should submit comments to the USDA Portland address above by Friday, April 5, 2013.

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