

## Sisters Tournament coming up for White Buffalos

The White Buffalos varsity basketball teams have the Sisters Tournament on its late December schedule. The tournament is set for Dec. 29-31.

The varsity teams just finished the Seaside Holiday Tournament. The girls had a big win, 60-24, over Newport at the tournament.

They played in the tournament championship game, which the Seaside girls won. In the championship game Mariah Stacona had 14 points, Janae Adams 8, and Leah Suppah 6.

### Boys win

Meanwhile, the boys varsity team won the Seaside tournament, defeating Seaside 45-41.

Jered Pichette had 32 points and eight rebounds for



2014-15 Madras White Buffalo varsity girls.

Courtesy MHS

the White Buffalos.

The girls plays away on Jan. 6 against Ridgeview, followed by a home game against Mountain View on Jan. 7.

After that the next home game is Jan. 16 against Cascade Senior High School.

The varsity girls roster this year features several Warm Springs students:

Seniors on the team are Mariah Stacona, Hailey Sloan and Stephanie Gomez.

Juniors are Janae Adams, Mayra Renteria, Lana Shike, Leah Suppah, Rosebud

Whipple, Kalan Wolfe,

Freshman girls are Kiersten Anderson, Kaliyah Iverson, and Lynden Harry.

Elsewhere in high school sports: Madras High School Wrestling is at the Pendleton Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 27.

## Holiday tourney turning 51

The Fifty-First Annual Warm Springs Indian Holiday Basketball Tournament is Dec. 31 thru Jan. 3 at the Warm Springs

Community Center.

For more information call Austin Greene at 553-1953 or 553-3243.

## Invitation to MHS Connections

Madras High School Connections is a group that meets in the afternoon of third Monday of each month.

The group members talk about what's going on at Madras High School.

MHS Connections is for students, parents and school

administrators to talk about what's working and what's not working at the high school.

Contact Principal Sarah Braman-Smith to learn more, or stop by the school the third Monday of each month. You can reach the school at 541-475-7265.

## Walk, run, swim this Saturday

The Freeze Your Fanny Off Walk, Run & Swim is this Saturday Dec. 27 at the Madras Aquatic Center. Registration includes a fleece hat, chili feed and a free swim for

families. This is a fundraiser for the Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery. To learn more and to register, go online at macaquatic.com/events

## Penney to manage CRITFC Fishery Science Department

Dr. Zachary L. Penney will be the new Fishery Science Department manager for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

He will begin his new job on March 2.

Dr. Penney will manage CRITFC's largest department, consisting of 45 scientists and support staff.

The department main office is in Portland; with the Hagerman Genetics Lab in Idaho, and a research cooperative with the University of Idaho in Moscow.

The Fishery Science Department is tasked with increasing the scientific knowledge about Columbia Basin fish and the habitats upon which those fish rely.

The department conducts valuable research that informs tribal, state and federal management agencies.

Penney will be responsible for increasing the visibility of tribal scientific accomplishments; and planning, implementing, and improving technical projects and programs throughout the Columbia River Basin.

Dr. Penney has a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho, and an extensive background in fisheries management and policy.

His experience includes work with tribal agencies, federal agencies, and academia.

For the past year, Penney has been serving as a NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Fellow in the office of Representative Huffman (Calif.) in the House of Representatives in Washington D.C.



Dr. Zachary Penney

"Growing up, my parents and elders instilled in me the importance of fishing and education," said Dr. Penney.

"I'm excited to bring these passions to benefit the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, and culturally-significant species like salmon and lamprey.

"Tribal culture tells us why salmon are important, and science can tell us how to best help them. As we further the scientific understanding of fish and the habitats in which they live, we can improve the recovery efforts of Columbia Basin salmon."

Paul Lumley, CRITFC executive director, commented on Dr. Penney's hiring:

"His energy and passion for fisheries will be a great asset in the tribes' efforts to put fish back in the rivers and restore the watersheds where fish live."

In addition to his Ph.D., Penney has a Master's of Science in Earth and Ocean Sciences from the University of Victoria and a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Resources from Sheldon Jackson College.

## New research on sea lion harm to salmon

by Jeremy FiveCrows  
CRITFC

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries is trying to find out just how many adult salmon are being lost between the mouth of the Columbia River and Bonneville Dam.

The number that NOAA Fisheries came up with is quite alarming.

The fish loss research began in 2010, and shows a steady increase in fish deaths in that stretch.

Adjusted for harvest and other salmon impacts, the 2014 average spring chinook salmon survival was just 55 percent, down from 69 percent in 2013 and 82 percent in 2012.

If the 2014 estimate is representative of the overall run, this means approximately 45 percent of the 2014 spring chinook run died somewhere between Astoria and Bonneville Dam.

Right now, the research can't tell how much of this fish loss is due to sea lions and seals.

The project lead researcher reported, though, that fish mortality and the number of sea lions in the estuary have increased dramatically in recent years.

This coincides with reports from tribal fishers, who have seen evidence of sea lion and seal predation on damaged fish in their nets.



Courtesy Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Sea lions crowd a walkway at a mooring basin in Astoria.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and other agencies are trying to fill in this gap in the research.

They hope to determine just how much of the loss being seen is due to sea lions and seals.

One current CRITFC research project is counting sea lions and seals along the entire lower river, not just at Bonneville Dam.

The fish loss research focuses on spring chinook, because that is the time of year when the sea lion population is largest in the river.

The sea lions follow the spring chinook run coming up

the river between March and May. Most of the sea lions then go to breeding grounds off southern California in the summer.

About 68 percent of the fish the researchers tagged and sampled near Astoria were destined for the river and tributaries above Bonneville based on genetic testing.

Survival varies over the course of the run, said Dr. Michelle Wargo-Rub, of the Seattle-based Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

It appears that a higher percentage of fish in the early part of the run die before

reaching Bonneville Dam than fish migrating later in the spring.

Early returning fish also take longer to reach the dam, which exposes them to sea lions and seals for a longer time, she said.

CRITFC has been working with the states of Oregon and Washington, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to haze California and Steller sea lions below Bonneville dam to hopefully change their behavior.

The CRITFC hazing crew uses cracker shells, seal bombs, and boat chases.

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