

Stacona to play for Northwest

Madras High School basketball star Mariah Stacona will play college basketball at Northwest University.

She signed her letter of intent to Northwest on May 28 at the Madras High School gym, with family and friends on hand for the occasion.

Stacona in her senior high school was a Class 4A first-team all-state selection.

For the White Buffalos she averaged 16.1 points and 3.3 rebounds, four assists and six steals a game. The team won 16 games during the season, and made it to the state playoffs. Mariah, 5-5, plays guard.

Northwest University is a private Christian school in Kirkland Wash., near Seattle.

Mariah visited Northwest earlier this year, and loved the school right away. Besides playing basketball she will be studying Business Administration.

"I want to say thank you



Jayson Smith photos

Mariah signed her national letter of intent at the Madras High School gym (above), where she met with Northwest head coach Ken Crawford (right).

to everyone who has supported me throughout my high school career," Mariah says.

"It's been an awesome journey. Now onto a new chapter in my life, and I could not be more excited.

"This is such a great opportunity—amazing school, basketball program, and a great group of people to surround myself with."



Rally supports control of sea lion predation

Leaders from the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, and the recreational fishing community met in late May to discuss the problem of the growing sea lion population in the Columbia.

The tribes, state and recreation interests met at Clackamette Park on the Willamette River with U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader, and hundreds of concerned citizens.

They were on hand to support passage of federal legislation to protect endangered salmon by controlling the sea lion population.

The Columbia and Willamette rivers are faced with unprecedented levels of predation from the growing numbers of sea lions.

The rally was held near Willamette Falls, one of the

locations where sea lion predation is most acute.

The predation there is starting to take toll on returning endangered salmon and steelhead populations.

Willamette Falls is a traditional fishing site of the Warm Springs, Wasco and Yakama Nation.

The broad coalition of tribal, state and fishing organizations came together to draw attention to the urgent need to pass H.R. 564.

The proposed federal legislation, cosponsored by Rep. Schrader, would give tribal, state and federal fisheries managers the authority to address this growing threat to public safety and the survival of endangered fish populations in the Columbia River basin.

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Fishers Expo in July

The Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo is coming up on July 24.

The expo is hosted by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and is free to all Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce fishers.

The event provides Indian fishers with information, resources, and training that will help them improve river safety, fish quality, and equipment maintenance.

The event, held at the Best Western Hood River Inn, next to the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge, includes lunch.

Among the scheduled presentations and clinics are:

Boat engine maintenance: Ways to keep your boat engine running at peak condition. Also, common engine-killing mistakes and how to avoid them.

Fiberglass repair: A hands-on overview of basic fiberglass repair. Fishers can bring their own boats to the workshop to address specific

questions.

Food handling certification class: Conducted by Nancy Collins, Warm Springs sanitarian. Completing this class will give fishers Warm Springs tribally-issued certification that is recognized by the State of Oregon for sales within the state. Oregon residency is not required, but fishers selling to non-Indian customers over the bank in Oregon are encouraged to attend.

Selling at farmers markets: Farmers markets focus on local, sustainable products. This presents a great opportunity for Indian fishers. Learn how to participate in farmers markets.

Value-added products: How to develop a product that meets food safety regulations. Discussions include proper smoking, canning, and packaging techniques.

Luncheon presentations: Keynote presentation by CRITFC chairman, and CRITFC executive director's update to fishers.

Forecasting salmon returns presents new challenges

By Paul Lumley, CRITFC Executive Director

One of the key pieces of information in fishery planning is the pre-season forecast—an estimate of how many salmon will be returning.

This isn't always a perfect science, and it is based on past performance.

In some years, the forecast is close to what we see, but just as often, the forecast can be way off.

Forecasts are based on the historical relationship between age classes.

For example the number of jacks returning in one year is used to forecast the number of four-year-old fish in the next year.

This assumes that the future will behave just as it has in the past.

The forecast techniques are all based on the assumption that survival rate, particularly in the juvenile life stages, remains relatively constant over time.

As with many other things in life, conditions vary over time, resulting in these assumptions to be not at all what occurs when the fish actually come in.

During the past few years, we have seen very high spring chinook jack returns—more than we have ever seen before.

While we still saw large spring chinook adult returns, the proportion between adults and jacks did

not match up with the proportions seen in the historical data.

Jack counts are one of the most important methods we use to predict the adult returns, and with their numbers abnormally high, our adult returns were sometimes 'over projected.'

We're still studying why so many jacks returned last year. The connection between jack counts and future adult counts makes this year's low jack return troubling, as it might indicate low adult chinook returns in the upcoming years.

Despite being imprecise, forecasts are a valuable tool for fishery planning.

We know that the actual returns will vary from the forecasts; we just can't tell by how much and in what direction until the fish start to show up.

Each tribe sets its own fishing seasons, and to do this in a responsible and appropriate manner, they depend on accurate and up-to-date run size information and forecasts.

CRITFC and tribal fishery staffs gather this information, and adjust or fine-tune the pre-season forecasts as the actual return progresses.

We are constantly trying to make these forecasts more reliable, but with the major changes that are affecting the river, the salmon and the climate, this is turning out to be harder than it was in the past.

2015 Graduates



Shelby Moody



Tyrell Poitra



Larry Scott Jr.

Congratulations to tribal member students graduating this year at the South Wasco County High School in Maupin. The students include Tony Holliday Jr. (picture not available), Shelby Moody, Tyrell Poitra and Larry Scott Jr.

Master's Degree



Courtesy photo.

Pah-tu Pitt has earned a Master's of Environmental Studies from Evergreen State College. Her thesis is on a Food Sovereignty related topic. Pah-tu's parents are Louis Pitt and Nancy Pitt.

New power line will affect river traffic

by Nathan Mullen
Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Line Project, BPA

Since 2012, BPA has been constructing a new transmission line running 28 miles from the Celilo Substation in The Dalles to Knight Substation, a new facility about 5 miles northwest of Goldendale.

The tribes have been monitoring and consulting on the project throughout this time.

The Yakama Nation halted construction on one of the towers due to impacts to a cultural site. The tribe and BPA worked together to come up with a workable solution to relocate that particular tower.

During June and July, BPA will be installing 20 new transmission cables on the new towers where the new line crosses the Columbia River near Wishram, Washington.

Because of the very long distance these cables must cross—about 4,700 feet—BPA and its contractors plan to use a small helicopter to fly high-strength nylon ropes across the Columbia River that will be used to pull the transmission lines across.

This work, called "stringing," requires great precision and control, and is sensitive to high winds. Under windy conditions, the helicopters cannot operate safely and the work would be suspended temporarily.

While some of the stringing operations are underway, it will be necessary to temporarily stop highway traffic along I-84 in Oregon, railway traffic on both sides of the river, and river traffic within 500 yards of the Celilo train bridge.

The shutdowns during the day will be short, lasting from a few minutes up to one hour at a time. The shutdowns and delays will occur intermittently during the day approximately between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The best chance to avoid these delays would be before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. The construction contractor will have a boat in the water during the stringing operations to help ensure safety on the river.

BPA will continue working closely with CRITFC's Enforcement Team and our other tribal partners to share updates and new information with tribal fishers. Details and contact information will be posted at the Celilo and Avery access sites.

The operation should be fairly easy to spot when it is happening. Boats will be in the water to monitor the progress. The phone numbers of the boat operators will be posted at the access sites for fishers to contact to check on up-to-the-minute river traffic status.

Our goal is to cause the smallest possible disruption in river operations, while keeping everyone safe.

The Warm Springs Youth Council is doing a 50/50 Raffle to raise money for their travel to the Washington, D.C. for the Inaugural White House Tribal Youth Gathering and UNITY Conference. The drawing will be this Friday, June 12. Winner receives approximately \$2,500. Call one of these numbers: 541-777-7717 ~ 541-325-3288 ~ 541-410-3293 ~ 541-999-7363 ~ 541-460-2799.