

The Madras High School girls varsity soccer team has series of away games coming up: Thursday, September 14 at The Dalles Wahtonka; Tuesday, September 19 at Molalla; and Thursday, September 21 at Estacada. The girls are back home on September 25 against Gladstone.

The boys varsity soccer is at home on September 14, 19 and 21, against Wahtonka, Molalla and Estacad.

The boys and girls junior varsity soccer squads play the same days at the same schools as the varsity teams. Game time is 4 p.m.



Jayson Smith photos/Spilyay



White Buffalo football home opener Friday

The Madras high school football team has their first regular season home game this Friday, September 15, against Valley Catholic. They're at home again the following Friday against Molalla. In other

fall sports at the high school:

The girls varsity volleyball team plays this Thursday, September 14, at home against Estacada; followed by a trip to Gladstone on Monday, September 18.

Varsity cross country is at the Hood River Skip Sparks Invitational next Wednesday, September 20; then at the Three Courses Challenge at Seaside on September 22-23.

Camelback Trail hike with Diabetes Prevention

Warm Springs Diabetes Prevention will host the Camelback Trail Hike next Friday, September 22, starting at noon.

Be one of the first 50 hikers (18 and over) to sign up at the start

of camelback before 12:30 and receive a gray zip up hoodie. Look for the tent across from Upper Dry Creek Road.

This hike usually takes an hour to complete. Please bring proper

shoes and attire, and plan on plenty of time to enjoy the trail.

Water will be provided for the hike, and Diabetes Prevention will be serving a healthy bean salad after the hike.

Sports team pictures coming up at the high school

Sports team photos are coming up at Madras High School. Here is the schedule:

This Wednesday afternoon, September 14: Football squad, 3:30

p.m. picture at the stadium; cheerleaders also at the stadium at 4:15.

Next Thursday, September 21: Volleyball team at 3:30 in the gym; Cross Country team at 4 p.m. at the

Buffalo sign.

Friday, September 22: Girls soccer at 3:30 p.m. at the soccer field; and boys soccer ta 4 also at the field.

Birth announcement

Jaron M. Wells and Megan K. Wells of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their son Kady

Oliver Wells, born on September 5, 2017.

Kadyn joins brother Rylan, age 3.

Grandparents on the father's side

are Tammy Wilson of Madras, and Travis Wells of Madras.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Bryon and Jean Hinton and San Angelo, Texas.

Fall events with Recreation

The Warm Springs Recreation Department is gearing up for fall, with activities starting soon.

Recreation will host the Kah-Nee-Ta Fall Run—"For a Change of Pace"—on Saturday, October 14. This will be a 10k and two-mile fun run/walk.

Registration will be at 8 a.m., and the run/walk starts at 9. Pre-registration before October 11 is \$15; and afterward \$20. For more

information contact Recreation at 541-553-3243.

Later in October Recreation will present the Happy Spooktacular Halloween. There will be Trunk-or-Treating, Halloween Carnival, booths and costume contest. The costume categories will be best Looney Tune squad member, meanest monster, silliest granny, best Michael Jordan, and cutest baby Tune.

Fishery open til Friday

The fourth fall fishing period has been set. There is a fishery opened through 6 p.m. this Friday, September 15.

The open area is all of Zone 6. Allowed gear is set nets and driftnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh size.

Allowed sales are salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp.

Sturgeon may not be sold. Legal-size sturgeon between 38 and

54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool, and sturgeon between 43 and 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools, may be kept for subsistence use.

Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnets are in effect, including the Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery sanctuary. Fish may be sold after the period ends if caught during the open period.

Fall fishery update and forecast

by Stuart Ellis
CRITFC Harvest Biologist

Through the treaties of 1855 with the U.S., the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes reserved the right to take fish in all our usual and accustomed fishing places.

Treaty signers intended that fish would be present in perpetuity. Ensuring perpetuity is the responsibility of this generation. The tribes seek to manage their fisheries wisely and carefully on behalf of future generations.

This year has been a very unpredictable one for salmon and fisheries. Unusual river and climate conditions led to a very late spring run that didn't conform to scientific models, making fishery management very difficult. It was also frustrating to the fishers who were eager to begin fishing.

As we leave summer, the fall salmon and steelhead have already begun their migration upstream. The tribes opened the first fall Zone 6 fishery on August 21.

The fall fishery will likely be as unpredictable as the spring and summer fisheries have been this year. River temperature at Bonneville Dam passed 68 degrees on July 12, which marks the stressful zone for salmon and steelhead.

In early August the river temperature passed 72 degrees, which closed CRITFC's fish sampling operations at the dam to minimize handling stress on the fish.

The tribes are also aware of and concerned by the low B-Index summer steelhead forecast, and this year's low steelhead counts in general.

From July 1 through August 29, only 69,030 summer steelhead

passed Bonneville Dam. This is only about 30 percent of the 10-year average of 225,320 normally seen by that date.

The tribes will be monitoring the fishery on a weekly basis in order to provide accurate harvest estimates. The tribal fishery is highly responsive when adjustments are required to remain within tribal catch guidelines. This monitoring system, done in compliance with the terms in the 2008-2017 *U.S. v. Oregon* management agreement, works well to ensure fisheries remain within the tribes' adopted limits.

Guided by a commitment to protecting the health of Columbia River salmon and steelhead and tempered by the low steelhead returns, the tribal fishery plans will follow the abundance based harvest rate framework in the *U.S. v. Oregon* management agreement.

Based on the current forecasted run sizes, the tribes have an allowed 30 percent harvest rate on URB fall chinook, and a 13 percent harvest rate on B-Index steelhead.

The tribal fishery plans include efforts to harvest as many of the harvestable fall chinook as possible given the steelhead constraints.

Constraining fisheries to these rates represents a significant sacrifice on behalf of the tribes for the conservation of the resource.

The harvest rate schedules used in the *U.S. v. Oregon* management agreement are abundance-based, which means that a larger percentage of a run can be caught in years with plenty of fish, but a smaller percentage in years when run sizes are low.

(See **FALL FISHERIES** on 8)

'Herman the Sturgeon' survives Eagle Creek fire at Columbia

He's survived a stabbing, a kidnapping and now a wildfire.

Oh, and he's a fish.

The Eagle Creek Fire burned tens of thousands of acres in the Columbia River Gorge.

The fire forced the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to evacuate three fish hatcheries in the gorge, and to release thousands of juvenile salmon into the Columbia River ahead of schedule after ash and fire debris clogged hatchery intakes.

Despite all that, 'Herman the sturgeon' has survived.

"Right now, Herman the stur-

geon—who is a very large sturgeon, almost 11 feet long—Herman is fine," said Michelle Dennehy of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

For the unfamiliar, Herman is the star attraction of the Sturgeon Viewing Interpretive Center at the Bonneville Hatchery, adjacent to the Bonneville Dam.

Herman is 79 years old. And he's huge, weighing in at 500 pounds.

The fish is "an icon and something of a pop-culture figure," Dennehy said.

People love Herman, especially

kids. Dennehy said he typically gets about a half million visitors a year.

When ODFW had to evacuate the hatcheries, many people wanted to know, was Herman OK?

Dennehy said ash in the water can affect gills, stressing fish and potentially causing respiratory problems. But the water in Herman's viewing pond comes from a well, and hasn't been impacted by the fire.

The fire isn't Herman's first brush with death, either.

"Herman has had a wild life," Dennehy said.

Herman was kidnapped from

a viewing pond at Roaring River hatchery in 1983, and a man once jumped into his pond and stabbed him with a knife.

Herman has been nursed back to health so many times, ODFW said his caretakers are on guard for any people who would seek to disturb him.

"Nowadays, Herman is kicking back and enjoying the good life at Bonneville," according to ODFW's website.

Well, at least he will be once these latest fires subside.

Conditions at the three hatcheries affected by the Eagle Creek

Fire improved last week, though some trees were still smoldering near the hatcheries.

At the Cascade Hatchery, the power was out, but an emergency generator was operating necessary electrical equipment. And crews are building a fire line and planning controlled burns to help protect the Oxbow Hatchery.

ODFW is also preparing for possible emergency evacuations of fish stocks, and has trucks and raceway space ready to go if fish—including Herman—need to move.