



Academy Eagles teammates Marilyn Tom, Coreena Stwyer, Simyan David, Jessica Bruised Head and Amissa Anderson, with coach Andy Leonard (above from left); and Shantelle Henry (left) drives against Obsidian.



Jayson Smith photos/Spilyay

One of the last games of the 2017-18 basketball season, the Warm Springs Eagles beat the Obsidian Wolves. The next Academy sport coming up is track and field, starting just before spring break toward the end of March.

### Community notes...

The Warm Springs Culture and Heritage Language program is looking for volunteers to help chaperone, coach, judge and assist at the 2018 **Language Bowl** in May at the Wildhorse Resort. To learn more call Culture and Heritage at 541-553-3290.

Four Madras High School students are raising money for their trip to visit Madras' sister city, **Tomi City, Japan**, this June. They are selling tickets for their Sister City Mega Prize Raffle. Tickets can be purchased from the students: Daisy Tewe, Tyreke Ramsey, Osmar Rodriguez or Jessica Geigner; or at the Jefferson County Chamber office. You can all call Jason at 541-777-1252. The drawing will be done on April 4.

Jefferson County **Relay for Life** team captains meet the first Monday evening of each month at the Jefferson County Senior Center at 6:45. The Relay for Life will be July at

the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Madras.

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center Employee Appreciation Committee is having a **food drive** to benefit the Warm Springs Food Bank at the Presbyterian Church.

The community is asked to donate non-perishable food items. There are donation boxes placed in each pod at the clinic. They are taking donations until March 30.

The Second Annual Warm Springs **Healing our Spirits & Lands** Round Dance is coming up March 30-31 at the Community Center. There will be sweats, feast and pipe ceremonies.

The Madras Aquatic Center and rec district has open registration for their **swim team, swim lessons and the Mud-slinger**. The Mud-slinger is a 5.1 mile run or walk trail course on March 24. To register go to [marcrecdistrict.com](http://marcrecdistrict.com). Click on 'register now,' scroll down for your activity.



The Madras boys varsity basketball team ended with a 13-11 regular season record, followed by the weekend play-in win against Tillamook. The boys play Saturday afternoon, March 3 at Banks, game time at 3 p.m. The team this year was Chapin Grote, Donnie Bagley, Rena Adams-Smith, Lewis Fine, Cash Reese, Byron Patt, Dapri Miller, Kanim Smith, Kahne Herkshan, Danni Herkshan, Casey Locky, Tyler Locky, Gloria Borja Locky and Julian Badonu.

### Court sides with tribes in land dispute

In a victory for Indian Country, the nation's highest court this week confirmed that Congress can protect tribal homelands from litigation.

Announcing the judgment for the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Clarence Thomas said Congress did not overstep its bounds when it enacted a law that put an end to a long-running land dispute in Michigan. The ruling marks a firm vic-

tory for the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians, also known as the Gun Lake Tribe.

The decision also represents a win for tribal interests, whose record at the Supreme Court has been shaky in recent years. They have been paying close attention to the case because Congress is considering similar bills that would help other tribes with their homelands.

### Second fishing period for Columbia River Zone 6

Tribal Natural Resources has set the second fishing period of 2018.

**The Dalles Pool** is open until 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 3.

For the **Bonneville pool** the season will begin at 6 a.m., Monday, March 5, and closes at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 14.

For the **John Day pool** the fishery is extended through 6 p.m., Friday, March 2.

Allowed gear is gillnets with no

mesh restriction.

Allowed sales in the Bonneville pool are sturgeon between 38 and 54 inches fork length, and salmon, steelhead, walleye, bass, carp, catfish, shad and yellow perch. These fish may be sold or kept for subsistence use.

Allowed sales in the John Day pool are sturgeon between 43 and 54 inches fork length, and salmon, steelhead, walleye, bass, carp, cat-

fish, shad and yellow perch. These fish may be sold or kept for subsistence use.

Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gill nets are in effect.

The Spring Creek hatchery sanctuary is not in effect this time of year. Fish may be sold after the period ends if caught during the open period.

### Northwest governors urge action on sea lion predation

*The governors of Oregon, Washington and Idaho in February wrote to the Northwest Congressional delegation, urging action on the sea lion predation bill. Here is the text of the letter:*

Dear Northwest House Delegation Members:

As Governors that are working to recover Columbia basin salmon and steelhead, we urge you to support legislation aimed at reducing sea lion predation on threatened and endangered and other at-risk fish populations. Although several hundred million dollars are invested annually to rebuild these native fish runs, their health and sustainability is threatened unless Congress acts to enhance protection from increasing sea lion predation.

Over the last decade, predation by sea lions on salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and lamprey in the Columbia River has increased dramatically. State researchers have estimated that sea lions consume about 20 percent of the entire spring Chinook run. More recent

year research by NOAA Fisheries has found that up to 45 percent of spring Chinook adult salmon disappear between the estuary and Bonneville Dam. Much of that loss can be attributed to sea lions.

The risk is not unique to spring Chinook. Oregon scientists have concluded that wild winter steelhead are at extreme risk of extinction if the current rate of sea lion predation continues in the Willamette River. Additionally, Columbia River sturgeon are being impacted by sea lion predation at alarming rates.

It's hard to imagine successful recovery of threatened and endangered fish populations with these high levels of interception by sea lions.

### Stellar sea lion threatening sturgeon

Oregon biologists attempting to save the Willamette River's sharply declined winter steelhead run have faced a new twist in the battle against fish-hungry sea lions at Willamette Falls:

H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Protection Act, augments existing state, federal, and tribal authorities and allows quicker and more efficient intervention but still limits lethal removal. Hopefully, both parties can agree on a version of this bill that will gain broad bipartisan support in the Senate as well as the House.

No one wants to harm these great marine mammals, but effectively dealing with a small fraction of the healthy sea lion population is preferable to losing unique and irreplaceable species of salmon.

Sincerely,

**Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, Washington Governor Jay Inslee, and Idaho Governor C.L. Butch Otter.**

The river has seen an unusual influx this winter of large, sturgeon-eating Stellar sea lions. Anglers from the falls to the Portland harbor have reported seeing the carnage.

### Wildlife managers removing Willamette River sea lions

Oregon wildlife managers were trapping sea lions at Willamette Falls and trucking them out to the coast in an effort to protect a very fragile run of steelhead.

The estimate is that sea lions at the falls are eating at least a quarter of the winter steelhead run. At that rate, biologists say, there's a 90 percent chance at least one population of the fish will go extinct.

State biologists are waiting for federal approval to kill sea lions at Willamette Falls. In the meantime, they're moving as many sea lions as they can to the coast.

In February they moved three sea lions to the beach near Newport. But the animals return: One sea lion swam back up the river 230 miles in less than four days.

That supports the state's argument that lethal removal will be necessary to protect the dwindling wild winter steelhead run, which reached a low of around 500 fish last year.

The states of Oregon and Washington have been lethally removing sea lions from below Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River since 2008.

One of the sea lions on the lethal removal list turned up in the Willamette Falls trap in February, and was euthanized.

According to ODFW, other sea lions with a documented record of killing salmon and steelhead near Bonneville Dam may also be killed if they are captured in the Willamette Falls trap.

A decision on additional lethal removals at Willamette Falls isn't expected until the end of this year.

**We are back! The Eagle Crossing Restaurant is open for business, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ~ Come on down!**