

## Players and Coach on Seniors Night



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Madras High School seniors Byron Patt and Kahne Herkshan present the game ball, signed by the team, to their head coach Evan Brown, who was coaching his last home game for the White Buffalos. The game that February evening was also Seniors Night at the high school. Madras won the game over Estacada.

## Entries open for Cougars tourney

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Warm Springs Cougars All-Indian High School Boys & Girls Basketball Championships are coming up in early April.

Warm Springs Recreation will host the championships April 5-7 at the Community Center.

Recreation is taking entries up until March 22.

Contact tournament director Austin Greene at the Recreation Office for more information, 541-553-3243.

## Notes...

The next **Fish and Wildlife** Committee meeting will be on Thursday, March 7 from 3-5 p.m. in conference room 3 at the administration building.

There is a **Pathways Home** Native Home Ownership class this evening from 5:30-7:30 at the Credit building. They will cover Module 6 – 'Applying for a Home Loan.'

## Coho return could buck trend among salmon

Coho salmon could be big this year on the Columbia. That's the good news.

The expected return of coho salmon this coming year to the Columbia River is forecast to be well above average.

It's the only good news for fishermen in an otherwise dismal set of forecasts that likely will bring sharp restrictions on anglers.

About 900,000 coho are expected to enter the Columbia River, based on the Oregon Prediction Index, a workgroup with contributors from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee.

The expected return is much higher than the predicted 286,200 fish in 2018, and far more than the actual run of just 147,300 fish.

Computer models from Oregon and Washington fishery managers suggest this year's spring chinook, summer chinook and sock-

eye salmon runs will be well below the 10-year Columbia River average. Those 2019 models predict: 157,500 spring chinook salmon, 35,900 summer chinook, and just under 95,000 sock-eye salmon.

The spring chinook forecast is about 100,000 fish fewer than 2018, and 20,000 below the actual number that returned up the river. For summer chinook in 2018, the predicted run was 166,700. The actual return was 115,081—about 50 percent of the 10-year average.

The sockeye forecast is close to 2018, when the return actually was about 211,000. It's still less than a third of the 10-year average. Fishery managers in 2018 forecast about 190,350 steelhead at Bonneville Dam. The actual count was 100,483, about a third of the 10-yr average of 308,000 fish.

Officials had not released a predicted return of steelhead for 2019.

## Chinook sport fishery OK'd

State fishery managers from Oregon and Washington have approved a sport fishery for spring Chinook salmon on the Columbia River. With a significant reduction in fish available for harvest this year, managers were forced to restrict the seasons.

Preseason projections are for about 99,300 upriver spring Chinook to reach the Columbia this year, down 14 percent from last year and 50 percent below the 10-year average. Those fish re-

turn to hatcheries and spawning areas upriver from Bonneville Dam.

In addition, returns to the Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers in Washington are expected to be especially poor, and could fall short of hatchery escapement goals.

On the Cowlitz, this year's spring chinook run is projected to be just 11 percent of the 10-year average.

The weak returns are the result of poor ocean conditions that have persisted for years.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

*The best weather for winter sledding.*

## Rare Oregon fish proposed for removal from ESA list

Despite high levels of chemicals toxic to other animals, the Borax Lake chub thrived in the 10-acre lake, keeping to the edges where temperatures were more suitable.

It is the only animal that that is known to live in the lake's harsh environment.

Geothermal projects, shoreline degradation from

off-road vehicle use and development came to threaten the unique fish.

In 1980, an emergency listing was issued for the fish and it was granted protection under the Endangered Species Act.

More than 300 acres of habitat, including the lake itself, were safeguarded by the designation and the listing

also limited damage to the streams around the lake. In 2000, congress prohibited geothermal exploration and mining in areas around the lake.

Since then, the population has boomed. In the mid-1980s, the Borax Lake chub population dipped as low as 5,000. By 2015, that number approached 80,000, ac-

cording to the Center for Biological Research.

"The Borax Lake chub has a bright future thanks to the Endangered Species Act, and I'm happy this unique little fish will continue to thrive in the wild," Stephanie Kurose, endangered species policy specialist for the organization, said in a statement.

## Tribal fish commission hiring fishery, lamprey techs

**Fishery Technician II (2 positions).** Full time, temporary, non-exempt, Salary/Wage: GS – 5-9 (DOQ). Location: La Grande, Oregon, Closing date: April 13, 2019, Duration: 3-4 months, Start Date: July 8, 2019, Assist the four tribes in the co-management of their treaty fishing rights within the Columbia River Basin.

A complete application includes a cover letter, CV/resume, completed job application and a list of at least three professional references to: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Attn: Human Resources  
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1200  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Email: [hr@critfc.org](mailto:hr@critfc.org) (please follow with mailed original)

Fax: 503.235.4228 (please follow with mailed original)

(available on our website at [www.critfc.org/critfc-employment-opportunities/](http://www.critfc.org/critfc-employment-opportunities/))

**Lamprey Collection Technician.** Temporary, Full-Time, Non-exempt (4-6-month duration); Salary/Wage: equivalent to CRITFC GS 5; location: Portland. Closes April 19. Primary on-the-ground contact for member tribes (Warm Springs, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Yakama) that have initiated supplementation (translocation) projects within tributaries of their ceded areas; set, collect, log, transfer adult Pacific lamprey from previously determined dam locations to central holding site coordinating with CRITFC member tribe lamprey collection staff; responsible for lamprey health during trapping, transferring, and holding making this an on-call position.

Send complete application materials including: a cover letter, CV/resume, three references, completed job application. Email: [hr@critfc.org](mailto:hr@critfc.org) (please follow with mailed original), Fax: 503.235.4228 (please follow with mailed original). Available on our website at [www.critfc.org/critfc-employment-opportunities/](http://www.critfc.org/critfc-employment-opportunities/)

The Jefferson County Winter Shelter provides a safe cold weather shelter this winter in Madras. The shelter will be open at the Cornerstone Baptist Church, located on Tenth Street, in March from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. on especially cold nights. Call 541-325-2478 to find out if the shelter will be open.