

Great district tournament



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Warm Springs Nation Little League girls team at district tournament, where they took second overall: Coach Edmund Francis, manager Juliane Smith, Breann Heckathorn, Hailey Kathrein, and coach Donnie Bagley (back row from left); Keira Tortalita, Rebecca Francis, Marena Langnese, Ashley Alire-Camas, Lily Moses, Breanna Lacey (middle row), and Sally Medina, Carlica Dixon, Bianca Plazola Rosemary Medina, Valerie Alonso (front).

At the Spokane Hoopfest, Women's Elite Champions Abby Scott, Shoni Schimmel, Lucia Alvarado and Yolanda Martinez Diaz.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Pi-Ume-Sha Fun Run

Warm Springs Recreation hosted the Pi-Ume-Sha Fun Run. In the categories here are the runners with the best times (winners all from Warm Springs unless otherwise indicated):

One Mile Race

Eight years and under, girls: Mateja Sutterlee.

Women, 30-39: Jaylyn Suppah.

Women, 40-49: Angela Smith.

Women, 60-69: Sylvia McCabe.

Men, 20-29: Jeremiah Miller.



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Age 50-59: Allen 'Stretch' Jones.

Age 60-69: Romaine Miller (Bend).

5k Run

Men age 50-59: Vincent Simtustus.

Seventy-plus men: Doug Cleavenger, Bend.

Men 60-69: Walt Carter, Prineville.

10k Run

Women 60-69: Jane Cleavenger, Bend.

Age 14-19 males: Leander Smith.

Men 30-39: Johnathan Courtney, Madras.

Men 40-49: Kahsuss Jackson.

Men 50-59: Don Courtney, Madras.

Tribes, state apply to lethally remove more sea lions

A group of tribes, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in June submitted an expanded application to lethally remove California and Steller sea lions from the Columbia River and tributaries.

The sea lions are preying on threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia and tributaries.

Predator management is a key part of a multi-faceted effort to restore salmon and steelhead populations in the Pacific Northwest.

"Based on years of experience working within the bounds of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Columbia River fishing tribes contend that predator management is necessary to restore balance to the Columbia River system," said Ryan Smith, chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"Strong partnerships and collaboration with the states, northwest congressional delegation, federal authorities, and nongovernment organizations resulted in this amendment, which applies robust tools to manage sea lions in the lower Columbia River and recognizes tribal sovereignty in that management."

California sea lions—and increasingly, Steller sea lions—have been observed in growing numbers in the Co-

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Ryan Smith, CRITFC

lumbia River basin, especially in the last decade.

These sea lions prey heavily on salmon and steelhead runs listed under the Endangered Species Act, including thousands of fish at Bonneville Dam each year.

The impacts come at a time when many Chinook salmon runs are already at historic lows.

The recovery of sea lions since the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972 is a success story, said Kessina Lee, Region 5 director with Washington Fish and Wildlife. But that recovery has also brought challenges.

"The vast majority of these animals remain in coastal and offshore waters, but several hundred have established themselves in upriver locations," Lee said.

"Where salmon and steelhead numbers are low, any unmanaged increase in

predation can cause serious problems."

"For decades, we've made strides in habitat restoration, hydropower policy, hatchery production, and fishery management, and we continue to work with our partners to further those initiatives," Lee said. "Predator management remains an essential part of the equation."

The application submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service by Washington Fish and Wildlife and tribal partners is the first since Congress passed an amendment to the Marine Mammal Protections Act in December 2018.

That amendment, spearheaded by the Pacific Northwest congressional delegation, passed with strong bipartisan support and offers greater flexibility to wildlife managers when determining if a sea lion should be lethally removed in waters that host ESA-listed runs of salmon or steelhead.

The tribes and Fish and Wildlife have taken steps to deter California sea lions in the Columbia River basin for more than a decade, but non-lethal measures have proven largely ineffective, driving animals away for only short periods.

These hazing measures appear similarly ineffective against Steller sea lions.

Non-lethal measures continue to be used as a short-term deterrent when appropriate.

Wildlife managers have conducted lethal removal operations of California sea lions in the Columbia River basin since 2008, when National Marine Fisheries Service first issued a letter of authorization under section 120 of the Marine Mammals Protection Act.

From 2008-2019, wildlife managers removed a total of 219 California sea lions that met the federal criteria for removal below Bonneville Dam.

Steller sea lions have not previously been subject to lethal removal.

"Prior to this legislation, wildlife managers were severely limited in their ability to effectively manage sea lions in these areas," Lee said. "Additional action is required to protect these troubled fish stocks before they are completely eliminated. This is an unfortunate, but necessary step in the salmon recovery process."

If approved, the tribes and partners expect to begin humanely removing animals under the terms of the expanded application beginning in 2020. The application is subject to a public comment period and review by National Marine Fisheries Service.

Rodeo: 2019 results

(Continued from page 3)

Seniors breakaway (50 and over): Tod Cline, Reno. Robert Bruisedhead, Alberta Canada. Norbert Gibson, Owyhee.

Junior breakaway roping: Casey Johnson, Schurz, Nevada. Logan Cummins, Owyhee. Aliya Christie, Tulee River.

Team roping: Doc Walker and Norbert Gibson. Gene Curtis and RC Crutcher. Mike Holyan and Casey Green. Travis Thom and Leon Ramone. Rudy Blossom and Norbert Gibson. Rick Watlamet and Blaine Wheeler.

Senior team roping: Rudy Blossom and Norbert Gibson. Bob Joseph and Ed Harry. John Guerro and Tod Cline. Bob Joseph and Cort Herrera.



Linda Larson photo

Pi-Ume-Sha Rodeo junior roper.

Junior bulls: Isaiah Florendo, Warm Springs.
Calf roping: Clint Bruisedhead, Warm Springs. Robert Bruisedhead, Alberta, Canada. Casey Green, Warm Springs. Mike Holyan, Warm Springs.
Steer wrestling: Clint Bruised Head. Greywolf Herrera, White Swan.

(More Pi-Ume-Sha Rodeo results on page 10)

First Nations mark 'historic moment' in treaty talks

Three British Columbia First Nations marked what is being called a "historic moment" after joining international talks to modernize the Columbia River Treaty.

Representatives of the Ktunaxa, Syilx/Okanagan and Secwepemc Nations participated as observers when the most recent ne-

gotiations on the Columbia River Treaty were held in Washington, D.C. in June.

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland announced in April that the three First Nations would join the seventh round of talks and Indigenous representatives are to return when discussions reconvene in Cranbrook, B.C., in

September.

A joint statement from Indigenous representatives says much work lies ahead to modernize the treaty, but they are pleased with what they observed.

"This precedent-setting role as observers builds on and enhances our important work with Canada and B.C. over the last two

years," says the statement from the Ktunaxa, Syilx/Okanagan and Secwepemc Nations.

"We are confident that we can continue to contribute positively to these negotiations and help realize the First Nations' goals for meaningful outcomes that are of critical importance to our nations and homelands."

Fishery open through today

A zone 6 fishery is open through 6 p.m. this Wednesday evening, July 3. Gear: Set and drift gillnets with a 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction.

Allowable sales: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.

Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool; and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.

Closed areas: River mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnets in effect. The Spring Creek hatchery closed area is not in effect in the summer management period.

The tribes will consider additional fishing at a later time. The zone 6 platform, and hook and line fishery regulations remain unchanged.