

Car, Truck & Bike Show for DARE at Indian Head

The Warm Springs Police Department DARE Program—with partner Indian Head Casino—presents the 2019 Car, Truck and Bike Show, Saturday, September 28 at Indian Head Casino.

The show—with food, music and fun—will be from 12 to 5 p.m. There is a \$25 entry fee for vehicles, all pro-

ceeds go to the Warm Springs Police DARE program. There is a \$20 play voucher with the entry. Free entry for current sponsors.

This is Inaugural DARE Car, Truck and Bike Show. Set-up will start at 11 a.m. on show day. If you're proud of your vehicle, show it off and help a great cause.

Sporting notes...

Off-reservation general buck deer rifle season is now open, and Warm Springs tribal hunters are reminded to make sure you have your tags.

This year hunting tags are available online at: hunting.warmsprings-nsn.gov/

Or you can still go to the Branch of Natural Resources office for a paper tag. Tag and bag limits:

For off-reservation: Include two mule deer tags with three in possession limit. On reservation buck deer rifle season runs September 28 thru October 31 this year.

At the Madras White Buffalo home football game on September 27, **distinguished alumni** will be honored and inducted into the school's hall of fame. Warm Springs is well represented in this year's inductees.

Honorees this year include Tommy Tucker, who served in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne, and was killed in action in the Iraq War in 2006. Tucker graduated in 1999.

Jarold Ramsey, class of 1955, was an English Professor at Rochester University in New York, with a specialty in Native American Literature.

In retirement Mr. Ramsey has been involved with the Jefferson County Historical Society.

Dan Ahern, married into the tribes, will be honored. Judge Ahern is recently retired as a Circuit Court Judge. He graduated in 1977.

Warm Springs tribal member Dr. Shilo Tippett graduated with the class of 1991. Dr. Tippett earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Oklahoma State University, and worked in Seattle with the Veteran's Administration Medical Center before returning to Central Oregon to practice.

Dr. Antonio Pena left high school in 1982 and went on to the University of Washington. He has practiced medicine in Arizona and Texas, and now is in private practice with his brother, who was inducted into the Madras Alumni Hall of Fame in its inaugural year.

This is the third induction year of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

The hall is designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams, with the inductees all one time students at Madras High School who have gone on to achievements in the region and beyond.

There will be a student assembly on September 27 with those being honoree, as well as recognition at the football game in Stampede Stadium that evening.



Edward Heath Photos at top; Jayson Smith photo below.

Basketball action (left) at the Shoni Schimmel Back 2 School Basketball Classic at the Warm Springs Community Center. The Classic included a dance and ice cream social. Many teams participated, including, for instance, Team Rylan (below).



Scaffold and hook and line fishing

Zone 6 scaffold, and hook and line fishing remains open until further notice.

Commercial sales are allowed for salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp.

Sturgeon may not be sold but sturgeon between 38 and 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and between 43 and 54 inches fork length

in The Dalles Pool may be kept for subsistence use.

Fish may be sold after the period ends if caught during the open period.

Zone 6 commercial fisheries:

A commercial salmon fishery has been set. It is open until 6 p.m. this Thursday, September 12.

The open area is all of

Zone 6.

Allowed gear is set and drift gill nets 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 but sturgeon between 38 and 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and be-

tween 43 and 54 inches fork length in The Dalles Pool may be kept for subsistence use.

Sanctuaries are the standard river mouth and dam areas applicable to gill net gear including the Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery sanctuary.

NOAA Fisheries makes plans for sea lion control

NOAA Fisheries released a draft plan for public comment to remove and kill as many as 416 California and Steller sea lions each year in a 180 mile stretch of the Columbia River.

The stretch of river is from just downstream of Bonneville Dam at river mile 112 upstream to McNary Dam at river mile 292.

An application for a Section 120 permit to lethally remove the sea lions—an estimated 144 to 286 California and 105 to 130 Steller sea lions—was submitted June 13 to NOAA by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce; and the fish and wildlife departments of the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The request is for a depredation permit for up to five years. NOAA put the draft plan out for comment in the Federal Register August 30 and public comments are due October 29.

The Sec. 120 permit application is also for any

tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead, NOAA says in the August 30 Federal Register.

"This action is intended to reduce or eliminate sea lion predation on the fishery stocks that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973," it says.

ESA-listed species are Lower Columbia River chinook salmon, Snake River fall chinook, Snake River spring/summer chinook, Upper Columbia River spring chinook, Upper Willamette River chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River steelhead, Middle Columbia River steelhead, Snake River Basin steelhead, Upper Columbia River steelhead, Upper Willamette River steelhead, Columbia River chum salmon, Lower Columbia River coho salmon, Snake River sockeye salmon and Southern Distinct Population Segment of eulachon (smelt).

NOAA and the applicants say that "sea lion predation is having a significant negative impact on the re-

covery on the above-mentioned fishery stocks. Additionally, the application states that removal of sea lions is also intended to protect species of lamprey or sturgeon that may not be listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern."

Addressing sea lion predation is part of a comprehensive salmon and steelhead recovery strategy, NOAA says.

"As reported in the application, significant actions to address the decline of salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia River basin have been underway for several decades, and are progressing each year as a result of the implementation of ESA recovery plans throughout the Columbia River basin," NOAA says.

"These actions include harvest reductions, hydroelectric system mitigation, habitat restoration, predation management, and hatchery reforms."

Not everyone favors lethal removing of the pinnipeds. The Wild Fish Conservancy says that habitat destruction, dams and overharvest have far greater

impacts.

The Conservancy, which works to recover and conserve wild fish, opposes killing sea lions. The group says habitat destruction, dams and overharvesting have far greater impacts.

Conservancy spokesperson Emma Helverson said that killing sea lions "is a kind of scapegoating when there are a lot of other actions we are choosing not to do that would have a larger impact."

Sea lions, or pinnipeds, are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

However, since 2008 some 92 California sea lions have been lethally removed under such a permit at Bonneville Dam where the predators have targeted mostly spring chinook. The number of Steller sea lions at Bonneville now far outnumber California sea lions, according to a January 24, 2019 report on sea lion predation at the dam by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In the spring of 2018, the report concludes, sea lions ate 3,112 salmonids (spring chinook and steel-

head), 3 percent of the run.

And in 2018, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife received a Sec. 120 permit to remove up to 93 California sea lions at Willamette Falls where they were targeting threatened wild winter steelhead and spring chinook. As of late May, ODFW had removed 33 of the pinnipeds at the Falls.

The new plan now out for review would expand the areas where lethal removal of sea lions is legal; it would allow the tribes to kill sea lions and it includes Steller sea lions, which until now NOAA has not been allowed to be lethally removed.

The Section 120 application by states and tribes is the first since Congress passed an amendment to the MMPA 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.

NOAA Fisheries is solic-

iting public comments on the application and additional information that should be considered by a Task Force that will be making the recommendation. The agency asks that comments are specific:

"In particular, we request information regarding:

Observations of sea lion predation activity on salmonids and eulachon within the geographic area established in section 120(f); and,

Information on areas where numbers of sea lions are concentrated within the geographic area established in section 120(f), including resting/haul out sites and locations where sea lions have been repeatedly observed taking salmonids and eulachon; and

Dates when sea lions have been observed within the geographic area established in section 120(f)," the notice says.

The agency also wants to hear from the public the names and affiliations of experts from the academic and scientific community, tribes, federal and state agencies, and the private sector for consideration as potential Task Force members.