

# Students give back to city with cleanup day

BY JADE MCDOWELL  
EO MEDIA GROUP

When Echo School principal Keith Holman first heard about the school's annual community cleanup day, he didn't realize what a big deal it was.

Holman, who is in his first year at Echo School, soon realized it was more than a fun afternoon outing when calls and emails started coming in months in advance.

The big day arrived Thursday, and Echo students scattered across the town for a thorough spring cleaning.

Kindergartners and first-graders washed fire trucks and police cars. Third-graders spruced up the arboretum. Second- and fourth-graders cleaned up the school grounds. Middle school students pulled weeds and picked up trash downtown, and high school students did yard work at homes around the community.

Eighth grader Lexi Cox, who was downtown pulling weeds, said she was proud to help the city.

"I've been here since kindergarten, so I've been doing this for nine years," she said. "I like that we help actually keep the community clean."



EO MEDIA GROUP PHOTOS BY JADE MCDOWELL  
**Echo first-grader Piper Martin stretches to reach a spot while cleaning a fire truck during Echo School's community cleanup day.**



**Echo School principal Keith Holman laughs as students rush to get him wet after washing fire trucks at the school's annual cleanup day.**

## NORTHWEST ZONE FISHING

Weekend fishing opportunities:  
• The spring Chinook fishing has been good on the lower Umatilla, anglers should concentrate on the area upstream of the Hwy 730 bridge and Threemile Dam.  
• As spring continues, fishing for holdover trout in Wallowa Lake can be good, with fish in the 15 to 20-inch range.  
• Irigoin and Umatilla hatcheries will be closed May 25 through July 15 for renovations.  
• Visitors to the Umatilla National Forest this spring should pack a rod for fishing some of the many stocked forest ponds.  
Send us your fishing report  
We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your fishing report through ODFW Fishing Reports — the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.  
BULL PRAIRIE RESERVOIR: rainbow and brook trout  
Remains open to fishing all year. Approximately 200 trophy rainbow trout were stocked last fall and should provide fair fishing. Brook trout are also available.  
GRANDE RONDE RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass  
The Grand Ronde River will open for fishing on Saturday, May 23. Trout fishing early in the year can be good. Fly fishermen will find good hatches of caddis and stoneflies. Recent rains have increased flows and should set up well for a weekend raft or drift boat trip.  
HATROCK POND: trout  
The Hat Rock State Park provides a trail system with easy angler access to the pond for the entire family. Fishing for rainbow trout should be good.  
HOLLIDAY PARK POND: rainbow trout  
Pond has been stocked and fishing is good for both newly stocked and carryover trout.  
IMNAHA RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass  
The Imnaha River will open to fishing on Saturday, May 23. Fishing for whitefish in the upper river can be very good. Whitefish are abundant and can often reach lengths over 16-inches. Trout fishing can be good early in the season with all types of gear. Bull trout will begin moving through the system soon — remember, all bull trout must be released unharmed.  
Spring chinook are currently moving up the Columbia River toward the Snake River. ODFW managers are closely monitoring returns do determine the possibility of a salmon fishery on the Wallowa River. This fishery would open in early to mid-June provided a strong run of spring chinook bound for the Wallowa. Check the ODFW website for fishery openings.  
Flow data for the Imnaha can be found on the Idaho Power website.  
JOHN DAY RIVER: steelhead  
River flow levels are just right and steelhead are biting on jigs, flies and bait. Fishing for steelhead in the upper rivers above Kimberly is closed April 16 through Aug. 31. Most of the steelhead being caught are kelts and are between Service Creek and Kimberly. ODFW encourages all anglers to keep any ad-clipped steelhead taken in this fishery. All wild (adipose intact) steelhead must be released unharmed.  
John Day River flows  
A few bass are now being caught below Kimberly during the warmest days.  
JUBILEE LAKE: rainbow trout  
The main road to Jubilee Lake is open, but anglers must walk into the lake as the camp ground remains closed. This is one of the earliest dates for access to Jubilee Lake; fishing should be good for carryover rainbow trout.  
LONG CREEK POND, CAVENDER POND: trout  
Both ponds remain open all year. Long Creek Pond was stocked on April 13 and should provide good fishing. Carryover trout up to 18-inches are being caught at Cavender Pond.  
MAGONE LAKE: rainbow and brook trout

Remains open all year and is currently accessible by vehicle. Water temperatures are still cold and fishing is fair.  
McNARY PONDS: trout  
The ponds have been stocked and fishing should be good for rainbow trout. A trail system provides access to both pond and stream fishing and the area also has several handicap accessible fishing platforms.  
PEACH POND (Ladd Marsh): rainbow trout  
Stocked with rainbow trout for the first time this season during the first full week of April.  
ROULET POND: rainbow trout  
Stocked with rainbow trout for the first time this season during the first full week of April.  
ROWE CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout  
Remains open all year. Fishing is good for carry-over trout and the reservoir has been stocked.  
TATONE POND: trout  
The pond has been stocked and fishing should be good for rainbow trout.  
UMATILLA FOREST PONDS: trout  
The forest ponds have been stocked and should provide good fishing for rainbow trout.  
UMATILLA RIVER: spring Chinook  
For the week of May 11 to May 17, anglers averaged 3.9 hours per spring Chinook caught. The catch has been early and late with fish and anglers dealing with the high water temperatures. Returns and catch rates should pick up quickly within the next couple of weeks. To date a total of 3,500 spring Chinook have returned to Threemile Dam. Low water levels and high water temperatures are likely going to have major impacts on the fishery; trap and transport of all spring Chinook was started on April 26 and will likely continue for the remainder of the return season. This will effectively end the upper river fishery, there have been 160 fish released into that area and fish may drop back into the fishery area. Anglers should consult the synopsis for detailed regulations. Anglers are reminded steelhead season ended April 15.  
Threemile Dam fish counts  
WALLOWA LAKE: rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout  
Holdover trout from last season stockings are available and often range 15 to 20-inches long and can be caught in multiples. Early spring anglers have reported catching a few of these fish and one reward tag worth \$50 has been returned from a heavy 18-inch fish.  
The lake will be stocked for the first time this year before the Memorial Day weekend. Once stocking begins, catch rates are generally very high with many anglers taking home limits early in the day.  
Some experienced fishermen are picking up large lake trout trolling at depth with downriggers. While lake trout aren't abundant in Wallowa Lake it's not uncommon to find fish over 25 pounds.  
Biologists have received few reports on the kokanee fishery; however, late spring and early summer is usually best. Lend a hand to local biologist and report your kokanee fishing experience at ODFW Fishing Reports.  
In 2014 the lake was stocked with tagged rainbow trout in an effort by ODFW to better understand the utilization of this fishery.  
Tagged fish have been caught at very high rates and over \$2,700 in rewards have been paid. Some of these fish have likely held over from last year and are available to anglers. If you catch one of these tagged fish, please report the number, location, date, where in the lake the fish was caught and the size to the ODFW office in Enterprise or online.  
WALLOWA RIVER: steelhead, mountain whitefish  
Some salmonflies and caddis have been hatching and will put the fish on the bite; however, many techniques will catch fish. Whitefish will also be available and can offer up some fun when fishing for trout is slow. Remember, below Rock Creek only adipose-fin clipped trout may be harvested. All bull trout must be released unharmed.  
Spring chinook are currently moving up the Columbia River toward the Snake River.

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WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR: trout, crappie, bass  
Anglers are reporting good catches of rainbow trout from 12 to 20-inches. Best catches are falling for PowerBait and night crawlers fished on the bottom. The Reservoir was stocked last week with larger than legal-sized trout. Warmwater fishing is picking up as water temperatures increase.  
NORTHEAST ZONE HUNTING  
OPEN: COUGAR, SPRING BEAR (see regs), SPRING TURKEY  
See the turkey hunting forecast.  
Wolves in Northeast Oregon  
Wolves are protected by state law and it is unlawful to shoot them. Coyote hunters in northeastern Oregon need to take extra care to identify their target as wolves can look like coyotes, especially wolf pups in the mid-summer and fall. Please report any wolf sightings or wolf sign to La Grande office (541) 963-2138 or online with the Wolf Reporting Form.  
Use the Oregon Hunting Map to see where to hunt.  
BAKER COUNTY  
Check the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest website or call them for the latest on Forest Service Rd 39 construction and detour route information. Remember it is a designated snowmobile route until April 15 and is not maintained for passenger travel until mid-June. The southern 18 miles may be closed due to construction, please call or check the website ahead of time.  
Black Bear The warm and dry winter has left much more country snow free than usual. Green up has begun to appear in the lower elevations. The mild weather will have bears out and more active in the early part of the season. Look for bears close to timber stringers feeding on open ridges. Successful hunters need to remember to check in their bear within ten days of harvest. It cannot be frozen and propping open the mouth will help in aiding tooth collection later.  
Turkey season is here. Look for spring turkeys to be moving from wintering grounds to their nesting areas. Listen for males to be calling early and late in the evenings to help locate gobblers. With snow levels higher than normal expect turkeys to be at slightly higher elevations this year.  
Cougars can be found throughout Baker County but hunters should target areas with high concentrations of deer and elk. Setting up on a fresh kill or using distress calls can all be productive techniques. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, with skull and proof of sex attached. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.  
Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.  
MORROW, GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES  
TURKEY numbers have been rising slightly in the district. All our snow is gone from the timbered parts of the district. Turkeys have mostly moved up into the forest from their wintering areas. This year's very mild winter has allowed turkeys to disperse throughout the forest.  
Cougar hunting is open. Cougar are well distributed in our forested areas. Calling with distress calls or cougar vocalizations can be effective. However, locating a fresh, naturally made kill has the best chance of success. The Coyote population is healthy with good numbers of coyotes available for those who wish to pursue them. Watch wind direction to help prevent giving away your location. Calling with game distress calls can be very successful.

# Three years of Eastern Promise changing school culture in Stanfield

BY JADE MCDOWELL  
EO MEDIA GROUP

High school graduation usually marks the beginning of a new journey, but for most Stanfield students graduating Sunday the transition from high school to college won't seem like much of a transition at all.

Thirty of the 39 seniors will graduate Sunday with at least one college class under their belt. Thanks to Eastern Promise, the regional college credit program in its third year, many students are graduating with two or three semesters' worth of college credit and experience living in college dorms during Eastern Oregon University's summer institute.

Kris Mulvihill, Eastern Promise's K-12 director, said she has seen the program transform Stanfield Secondary School.

"They are, in effect, Stanfield Community College," she said.

For students who in the past would have run through their school's entire slate of advanced courses by the end of junior year, Mulvihill said Eastern Promise allows them to continue their academic progress while still enjoying the social life and extracurricular activities of a normal high school student.

"They're going to college in their own school," she said.

At the same time, students are encouraged to get

a preview of university life by staying in the dorms at Eastern Oregon University for a few weeks while taking summer institute classes.

Kirsten Wright, Stanfield Secondary's school counselor, said the culture of the school has changed in the past three years to where starting work on a college degree in high school is the norm.

"Even eighth-graders will say, 'I want to get my AAOT,'" she said, referring to the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree.

This year, the school developed an honors diploma, which seven students will be awarded on Sunday. One of the requirements is to earn 30 college credits.

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