Minahan Helps People Find Their Way

By Brent Merrill

Life is good for Siletz Tribal member Trinity Minahan. She has a husband she considers her "best friend," a close, loving family unit, two quarter horses named "Showtime" and "Dallas" and a job that has turned into a career of helping people find their way in the world.

She's happy and it's hard not to feel happy for her when she flashes a bright smile and ends her sentences with "I love it."

Trinity's mom is Siletz Tribal member Carlotta Hall, her dad is Terry Hall and they live in Dallas, Ore., where they race sprint cars and stock cars.

She is the granddaughter of Everett and Marguarite Lundy and Trinity's sister is Siletz Tribal member Gina Campbell, who also lives in Dallas and is close to Trinity and her husband, Nick, who also live in the area.

Trinity and Nick have been married five years and they love the fact they get to raise horses and live the life that goes with it.

Minahan's horses are sisters and she trains them for barrel racing events in the evenings and travels to rodeos and events on the weekends. Her parents travel to Lebanon and Cottage Grove on the weekends where her dad races as well – in his car.

"It is a lot of work, actually," said Minahan about raising and training her horses during an interview in her office in Grand Ronde, where she works in the Tribe's Education Department as a career counselor and academic advisor. "It is a lot of late hours and a lot of driving and hauling to the different events. But it is rewarding. I love it."

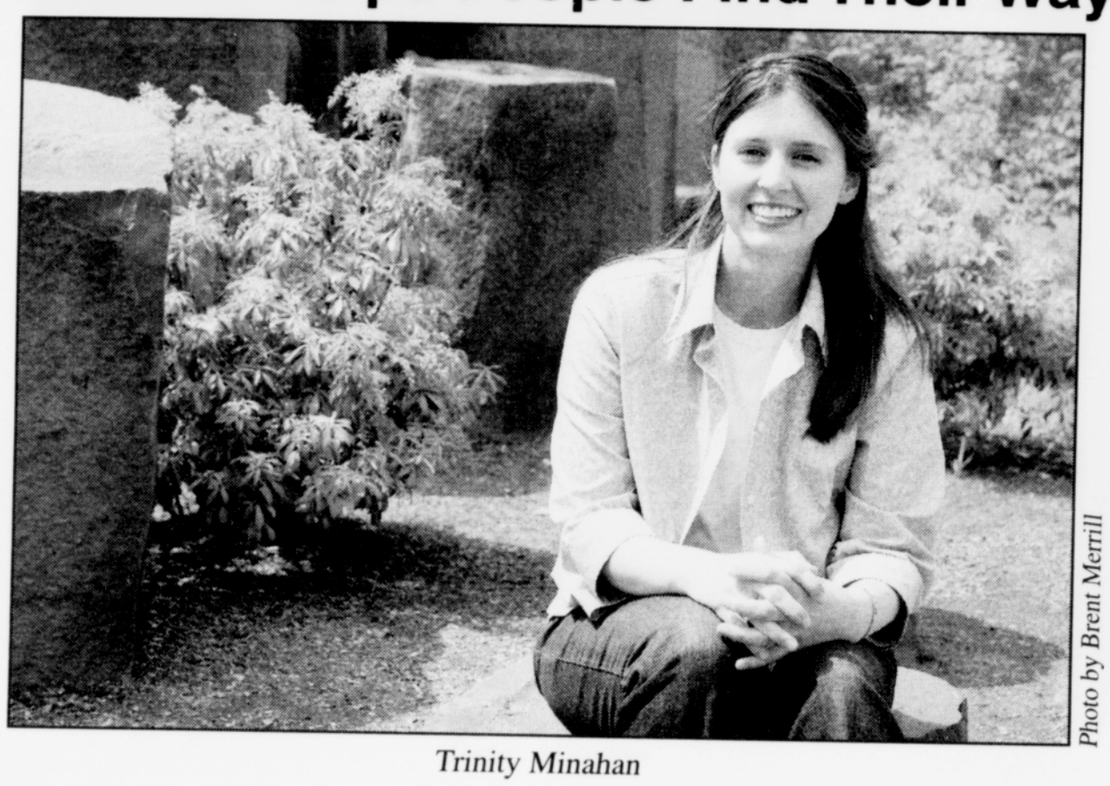

Photo by Brent Merrill

Trinity Minahan

Minahan, who graduated from Perrydale High School with a 4.0 GPA, has been barrel racing since she was 6 years old. She was inspired to race by watching her big sister Gina compete when they where younger.

In her senior year of high school, Minahan made it to the Silver State National Rodeo in the barrel racing events and earned a ranking as high as eighth in the state of Oregon.

Minahan received a rodeo scholarship out of high school as a barrel racer and attended Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho, before transferring to Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton and then Western Oregon University in Monmouth before graduating from George Fox University in Newberg in 2005.

Minahan said she started working for the Education Department in Grand Ronde while still in college as a summer recreation intern in 2003 and 2004. She then got a more-permanent position in Grand Ronde as an education assistant to then Department Director Marion Mercier through the Siletz Tribal Work Experience Program.

She worked her way up into the position of academic advisor and has held that position since April 1, 2005.

"I love it. I really do. Education is a passion of mine and it always has been," said Minahan. "Helping people get where they want in life is rewarding. Especially now, there are so many options for people from a traditional education to community colleges and trade schools to vocational training and apprenticeships. The sky is the limit, really. I'm always brainstorming different ideas to help people move ahead in life."

Minahan said she is teaching at Chemeketa Community College and has a course titled "Creating College Success" scheduled for fall 2009.

Minahan is well-received in Grand Ronde and Salem and is highly thought of by her supervisors, peers and the students she helps. After teaching her first class at Chemeketa last year, she received the Student's Choice Instructor of the Term Award for fall term 2008. Not bad first time out.

Siletz Tribal members can be proud that members like Trinity Minahan not only are making it in the world, but they are making the world a better place along the way.

Graduates!

Lisa Norton – PSU

Congratulations to Elizabeth "Lisa" Norton (right photo) for receiving her master's of social work (MSW) degree from Portland State University. She is pictured at right with her college advisor, Ginger.

Lisa completed her MSW in June and has been selected to enter the doctoral program in social work and research at PSU beginning in the fall.

Congratulations, Lisa, your family is very proud of you!

Courtesy photos by Tina Retasket

Allen Nelson – PSU

Allen Nelson (photo below right), an outpatient counselor in the Portland Area Office, received his master's of social work (MSW) degree.

He was one of the featured speakers for distance education students at Portland State University during the "hooding" ceremony for MSW students.

Tribal Member Business Owners

The Siletz Business Information Center/Siletz Business Loan Program of the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation is currently developing a business directory listing businesses owned by Siletz Tribal members.

The directory will provide potential customers with information about how to contact the business, location and types of products or services they sell.

If you are a Siletz Tribal member who owns a business and would like to be included in the online business directory at www.stbcorp.net, please contact:

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