

Youth learn at leadership retreat

By Kimberly Woolston
4-H Youth Development Agent

Five Warm Springs 4-H youths participated in the 2005 4-H High Desert Leadership Retreat at Eagle Crest Resort last month. The retreat is an annual youth conference held during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

During the four-day retreat, 80 youths from throughout Central Oregon gathered at the resort to challenge their minds and bodies by engaging in skill building and asset development.

The youths, from grades seven through 12, learned about education, character, college preparation, entrepreneurialism, technology, healthy lifestyles and



Matthew Sconowah shares his view with others.

public speaking by participating in hands-on activities, workshops, and seminars designed to

enhance their capabilities, in school, at home, on the job, and in life.

The participants were housed in a small community of condominiums a short distance from the conference center, swimming pools, and recreation centers. Each living group was chaperoned. Nutritional meals were prepared by the youths in their houses under the watchful eyes of an adult volunteer.

The 4-H program faculty and staff of Central Oregon have been planning and conducting the retreat since 1994.

As professionals in youth development, their priorities are to provide a learning environment that is healthy and safe.

Many people help make 4-H a success

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As the new 4-H Youth Development faculty member at OSU Extension, I would like to thank all present and past 4-H leaders, volunteers, and supporters for their hard work and dedication to the youth of Warm Springs. Without all of you, the 4-H program would not survive.

Thank you, Val and Deanie, for teaching the youth native dancing, songs, and language with your 4-H Wasco dancers club. Your continued devotion and instruction will always stay in the hearts and minds of the youth.

Thank you, Chris Buller, for

restarting the Rockin' 4-H Horse Club. Your passion, excitement, and knowledge are infectious and the youth enjoy all that you do for them.

Thank you Minnie T. and the Counseling Center for working with the high schools girls of the Peel Your Onion Club. Your dedication will foster healthier minds, lifetime skills, and lasting friendships.

There are so many of you to thank: Myra, Edison, Clay, Lynne, Carol, Neta, Angie, Wendell, Julie, Jim, Tribal Council, short-term club and event leaders, camp and program teachers, helpers, supporters.

A special heartfelt thank you to Arlene for her insightful mentoring and years of overwhelming commitment (you too Mikki), and all the faculty and staff at OSU Ext. office: Emilee, Fara, Clint, Minnie Y., Minnie T., and Danita.

A big and final thank you goes out to the youth of Warm Springs for your eagerness to learn and have fun, and for sharing your thoughts and opinions on what kind of Warm Springs 4-H Program you would like to see.

If you would like to be a part of the 4-H Program call me at 553-3238.

Workshop on beef quality

A Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training and certification workshop is scheduled for March 10 at the Maccie Conroy Building at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Madras.

The workshop, from 6 to 9 p.m., provides producers with detailed information regarding BQA and information on alternative possibilities for marketing cattle, including video, Internet and private actions.

Beef cattle ranches should now be BQA certified because major beef producers and sell-

ers and general consumers now value documentation on the quality of animals they purchase. Documentation of BQA certification can result in better market value for certain producers.

Participants can take a quick open-book test to become certified.

For more information and to register, contact Fara Ann Currim at the OSU Extension office in Warm Springs at 553-3238.

Seating is limited, so participants are encouraged to pre-register.

From Fire & Safety Be careful with burning candles

Did you know that almost half of home candle fires start in the bedroom? Why so many candle fires anyway? The demand for candles has increased due to the religious and romantic uses and for light and heat during power outages.

Aromatherapy and room fresheners are now especially popular. Candles of every color, size and shape are now available. With such popularity come more risks for fire and fire deaths.

Fires have occurred because the candles were left unattended,

some form of combustible material was left too close to the candle, or children were playing with candles or something flammable near candles.

Here are some safety tips when using candles: Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep; and keep candles away from things that can catch fire like clothing, books, paper, or curtains;

Place candles on a stable piece of furniture in holders that won't tip over; and make sure the candleholder is large enough to collect dripping wax.

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Sherar's Falls: records kept on fish numbers

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In other words, Kalama tallies the fish caught by tribal members each day at Sherar's Falls, a favorite fishing hole for generations.

Tribal members, like everyone else on the Deschutes River, face annual harvest limits for certain fish, such as chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

But unlike non-Indians, who face a daily maximum catch per person, the tribes share a communal limit.

In 2004, for example, tribal members were allowed to take a total of 500 fall chinook salmon from the river.

Kalama records specific information about each fish caught. He measures them, scans their snouts for metal tags implanted in hatchery fish and sometimes takes small samples from their dorsal fins. Fin samples can reveal specific information about a fish, including its age and birthplace.

Kalama also enforces tribal law around Sherar's Falls, which is property of the Confederated Tribes.

For instance, he keeps an eye on the wooden scaffolds that jut out from the rocky river canyon walls, to hold tribal fishermen.

Only tribal members are permitted to set foot on the plat-

forms. When the fish harvest is over, he helps the tribes' Department of Natural Resources count the "spawned-out" corpses of salmon that successfully returned from the Pacific Ocean to their native Deschutes River to breed.

And when he's not working, Kalama heads back to the Deschutes River to do a little fishing of his own.

Kalama was born and raised in Warm Springs. His second home is Sherar's Falls. He knows all of the tribal fishermen, as well as others who come to sit on the rocky banks and fish by casting lines into the river.

Like some other tribal members, Kalama uses traditional dip nets to snare fish from the roiling whitewater below.

A string links one of Kalama's fingers to the net, which is submerged in the river.

When he feels a tiny pull, Kalama knows a fish is, at least momentarily, entangled.

That's when he begins hauling his catch from the water, using a 20-foot pole made of lodgepole pine.

Once the fish flops onto the platform, Kalama delivers a couple of swift blows to its head.

Then he decides who to give the fish to, in keeping with a native tradition of sharing the river's goods.

Kalama says he feels "empty"

when the salmon and steelhead runs are over in the winter.

That's when he and his fishing buddies "move (upstream) and start picking on the trout," he said.

Kalama said he hears frequent complaints from fellow tribal members about how much water in the Deschutes is diverted for irrigation. But the way he sees it, farmers are using the river for the same thing as Kalama and other Indians.

"Whether the river puts fish on the table or (farmed vegetables) on the table, it's equally important," he said.

A few minutes later, however, Kalama revised his stance.

"As long as we have enough water for the fish, that's what's most important," he said. "And then if there's enough for irrigation, too, then that's even better."

A shortage of fish is unthinkable. Despite the Deschutes River's growing popularity as a fishing destination, Kalama remains confident in the river's management.

"The fish are going to make it," he said.

Kalama still remembers the excitement of seeing Sherar's Falls for the first time, as a child. His father used to fish with traditional nets, from the scaffolding there. But Kalama was barely old enough to watch.

"I just remember sitting in a

vehicle with my mom and peeking out the window, because that's all we were allowed to do," he said. "And I just thought 'wow.'"

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