

# Tourism effort gains recognition

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymoo

When representatives from Warm Springs' economic development offices appear before the Warm Springs Tribal Council next month, they will come with the validation of an award from the Oregon Tourism Commission.

Mike Clements, general manager of the Business and Economic Development Department, and Sal Sahme, the tribal Business Enterprise Development Director, picked up the Creative Tourism Development Award at the Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism, held April 12 at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino near Pendleton.

"I was surprised. I didn't go to the conference thinking we'd receive any kind of an award," Clements said.

Sahme accepted the award, which the Warm Springs group received for its efforts toward developing the Warm Springs Sustainable Tourism Action Plan.

The plan includes using key tourism centers like Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, and the Museum at Warm Springs as starting points, and offering a variety, or "menu" of activities that display tribal culture and history.



Jolene Atencio, Mike Clements and Sal Sahme with the Tribes' award from the Conference on Tourism.

"We struggled for two and a half to three years, trying to develop a tourism strategy for the region," Sahme said. "Out of the strategy came the idea of creating a council that would oversee tourism and look at the image that we all had and what we want to create by way of a tourism strategy."

Sahme and Clements had been working with the Lower John Day Regional Partnership, a group including representatives from counties in the John Day River basin, to discuss community development issues for the region.

The group received funding through the Oregon Lottery, monies that come to each region in the state. The group devoted the funds to a number of different projects. One of them was the concept of sustainable tourism.

"Tourism has been around with the tribes for quite some

time," Sahme said. "What we've had are some small home-based businesses. We have a fly-fishing business, and we have whitewater rafting, a relatively small pocket of groups."

"In the past, people coming to Kah-Nee-Ta would stay for a day or two, then they're gone," Sahme said. "What we'd like to see is those hub attractions creating a synergy, where there would be smaller businesses as a part of that menu of larger attractions, keeping people here more than just a day, maybe a week or two weeks. And they'd have a whole menu of family entertainment."

This menu would include fishing on the Deschutes River, observing tribal dress, dance and customs, or exploring the landscape of the Warm Springs Reservation itself.

"There's a growing recognition and interest among foreign travelers in Native culture,"

Sahme said. "We recognize that there's another market out there that is driving this."

Sahme said he enlisted the help of his fellow members of the Rural Development Initiative (RDI) board.

"RDI has done sustainable planning and strategy and development for other communities around the state and internationally," Sahme said. "Conceptually, Mike and I thought it would be nice if we could pull them in and use their expertise, because this is something on the cutting edge, sustainable tourism."

"Planning and then the growing attraction from Western Europe, the Pacific Rim and China could certainly be a major market we'd like to penetrate."

Clements and Sahme held a series of four community meetings in Warm Springs to gain feedback. Sahme said he and Clements wanted to present the new tourism idea to the community in a different way.

"The community has made a very distinct expression over time. They want to see projects, rather than going through a long involved process," Sahme said. "We decided to do product identification first. So I think that generated a lot of community interest."

See TOURISM on page 9

# Lego robotics class back by popular demand

The 4-H and OSU Extension program Lego Robotics is back by popular demand. The class is open to girls and boys ages 9-14. Class time is from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 30 at the 4-H Center (east basement) of the Education Building. Basic concepts that will be covered during the class:

Structure and robot stability,

motor attachment, touch sensors, light sensors, rotation sensors, problem solving (disaster management), motor control, basic programming using Robolab. Registration is limited to 25 youth, so sign up today at the OSU Extension office, or call 553-3238. There is no charge for the class, sponsored by 4-H and OSU Extension.

## New Marketing Option

### Co-Mingle Your Cattle... for more \$\$\$ in your pocket

#### How does it work?

- The seller, at their option, has the choice to allow his cattle to be sorted and sold with other producer's cattle based on sex, color, frame and weight.
- Cattle eligible for co-mingling must be unloaded before 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday for our Wednesday sale.
- The cattle will be unloaded and have a shrink factor applied which adjusts for fill condition.
- The cattle will then be sorted by color (black and colored) if it is deemed beneficial for selling purposes.
- Each individual animal will then be measured for hip height, weighed, sexed and receive an individual identification tag to determine which lot of cattle they will be co-mingled with.
- For every lot that a seller has cattle in a percentage of ownership is computed by dividing the total adjusted weight of each seller by the total adjusted weight of the entire lot. Example: A seller has three steers that weighed a total of 1,500 lbs. This seller's shrink factor was 2% so the adjusted weight of this seller for this lot is 1,470 lbs. The lot has 40 steers with an adjusted weight of 19,200 lbs. This seller has a 7.6563% (1,470/19,200) ownership of this lot of cattle.
- The cattle are sold on the weight through the ring. The weight the seller will be paid on is this ring weight of this lot multiplied by his ownership percentage at the sale price.

#### What are the benefits of this service?

- Cattle normally sell higher when sold in larger lots. By co-mingling smaller producers cattle together into larger lots, it allows them to achieve these benefits.
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Butchers start at 10am - Feeders start at Noon

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# Strong possibility of summer drought

A lack of moisture on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains indicates a strong possibility of drought this summer. Recent surveys indicate the 2005 snow pack is among the lowest on record, which may translate into a shortage of water later this year.

Crews from the Tribal Environmental Office measure the winter snow pack at three sites located on the reservation at various elevations. Snow cores are extracted and measured for depth and weight. This allows for an estimation of how much water (water content) is stored in the snow pack. Aerial markers on Bald Peter and Ollalie

Butte are also observed to determine snow depth.

The most recent survey showed water content of 36 percent of average at the south end of the reservation. The north end was even lower at 13 percent of average. Based on historical records dating back to 1973 this is the second-lowest snow pack on record. These numbers are only slightly ahead of the snow pack of 1977.

With such little snow in the mountains the possibility of drought greatly increases. Low stream flows with increased water temperatures could be detrimental to fish runs. The chance of springs drying up

may increase greatly.

Water available for crops or livestock may be limited this summer. Further measures may be required to assure proper care of livestock. Wildfire instances may increase this summer especially with the wet and cool spring increasing grass growth.

Extra precaution should be considered when protecting your home from fire. Be sure to keep all brush clear from an area around your home.

Although the possibility of drought is clear, proper preparation may go a long way towards getting you through the summer.

## Opportunity for vendors at Saturday market

The Madras Saturday Market opens at Friendship Park by Westside Elementary School, former site of the Collage of Culture, on June 4, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The market is held weekly through the summer.

The Saturday Market aims to bring together vendors and the community in a regular event where farm produce and garden produce, home-made edibles, and quality handcrafted goods can be displayed and sold in a convenient and enjoyable setting.

More than 25 vendors and food sellers have already signed up for the opening market.

Other interested vendors are encouraged to sign up, said Jerry Ramsey, one of the

organizers of the market.

Guidelines and application forms are available at the Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, and at the Jefferson County Library main desk. There is a fee of \$10 for yearly membership, and \$20 for a 10-foot by 10-foot vending space for each market day. For further information, call 546-6350, or 475-5390.

Market organizers plan to schedule local entertainment each market day. For the grand opening on June 4 the entertainment will be by Queen Lorene and the Skillet-lickers.

If you have a suggestion for other entertainment, contact the market organizers.

To place an ad in the Spilyay, call Sam Howard at 279-9973.

Deadline to submit items for the next Spilyay is Friday, May 6. Thank you.

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## Warm Springs Market

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