



Yolanda Yallup with a bag of eels at Willamette Falls.

Eeling: best part of summer

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Half of them were with the Natural Resources Summer Youth program, and the others from Workforce Development. "I think it was marvelous," said Ruby Reed, a cook at the Senior Center. She explained that the eels are a traditional food. They're eaten at traditional feasts, and on holidays such as Christmas, New Years and Thanksgiving. "People here do

love eels," she said.

The tribes have caught eels, or lamprey, at Willamette Falls from time immemorial. The Summer Youth trip this year, though, was rare.

"I've heard some people say this was the first time they can remember this happening," said Joseph Sheppard, tribal archaeologist who conducted the Natural Resources Summer Youth program.

Older adults went to Willamette Falls with the youth workers, to show them how the eeling is done. The adults who made the trip included Stanley "Tracks" Simtustus Sr. and

Lester Poitra of tribal Fish and Wildlife; hydrologist Ryan Smith and technicians Roland Kalama and Cy Jim; fish biologist Mike Gauvin; and staff of the Senior Department.

Youth workers Yolanda Yallup and Simeon Kalama agreed that the eeling trip was the best part of the summer program. It was a way to cool off in the summer heat, and it was fun, they said.

The trip was documented with dozens of photographs, that will become part of a book to be presented to Tribal Council, documenting the Natural Resources Summer Youth Pro-

gram, said Sheppard.

In all, the students caught 1,200 eels, which was the maximum number allowed for the 12-person crew.

You wear gloves to catch them, because they're slippery, said Simeon Kalama. You usually find them under rocks, he said. "If you find one you usually find a lot," he said.

Kalama said next summer he would like to work in hydrology. Yallup said she became interested in forestry. They agreed that the Natural Resources Summer Youth program was a fun and learning experience.

Business: good ideas for start-ups

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Beverly Arthur said she and her husband are trying to get tribal contracts for their landscaping work, and they already have a start through their work at the Small Business Center.

Berry Speakthunder delivered the invocation for the luncheon. He graduated from the ONABEN program last year.

"I was raised here in Warm Springs. My family raised cattle, and I grew into it and I enjoy it," he said.

Wanda Berry said she is training to work in the field of non-profit ventures. She and her husband hope to explore the establishment of a haven for the recently rehabilitated, and a community food resource, using their church's non-profit status.

Buddy Hicks said he would have started his trucking business in the 1990s had important paperwork not disappeared then. "We should have been in business since the 90s, but we're

just now getting started," he said.

Redine Kirk has a full-time job at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, and she also has her own business. With the help of ONABEN, she started Sitting Horse Traditional Art. She graduated from the ONABEN program in 2000, and she finished her business plan in June of this year.

"Upon retirement from my present position, I'll be able to have a smooth transition into my business," she said.

Leo Washington, a 1999 graduate, plans to start a venture that, if successful, will provide a service to patrons at the proposed Columbia Gorge Casino.

"My main objective is to provide transportation for our guests to and from the Gorge casino, from the airport or major hotels and downtown, or maybe from the fine dining establishment in the downtown Portland area," he said.

"One thing we don't have is tribal housing in place for the employees who are going from this casino to the new one. So I've tried to incorporate a couple big shuttle type buses into my plan. I would provide transpor-

tation for our employees back and forth."

Washington said he has a business mentor in Portland who has a fleet of 13 limousines. He said his mentor has transported Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and former Miss America Katie Harmon.

"That's what I look forward to out of this business experience, meeting different people and learning a different side of life as well," he said.

Ted Brunoe, director of the Warm Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, presented his office's service as a resource to businesspeople from the reservation. "The chamber is working to be a small entity that would help fulfill a lot of the needs that small business people have in respect to grants and loans," he said. "If we all work together, I think we have a better chance of being successful."

Taylor said he appreciated hearing of the experiences of the new businesspeople at the reunion.

"It is extraordinarily interesting to hear you tell your stories of starting businesses," he said. "I have an appreciation for that.

I started a business two years ago, not entirely from scratch. I'm very impressed by your entrepreneurship and your creativity in going after a livelihood for yourself. That is the future of economic development in Indian country."

Timeche is a member of the Hopi Tribe in northeastern Arizona, about six hours from her workplace in Tucson.

"We've been researching why some tribes are more successful in economic and business development than others," she said. "I want to commend all of you for your stamina and for sticking with it. It's not easy to start a business on a reservation. I run into a lot of people who give up, but you persevered."

In addition to the luncheon, Taylor, Timeche and Hampson were involved in round-table discussion with business owners at Warm Springs Power Enterprise. They toured several small businesses whose proprietors graduated from the ONABEN program. They traveled to the Peaceful Spirit Retreat site, owned by Lucinda Green, where they were treated to a traditional salmon dinner.

Languages: goal to return to schools

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"When I came on board six years ago, we didn't even have a computer, but now they do language lessons and curriculum themselves," Switzler said.

A total of 21 people attended the seminar, including consultants, staff from the Culture and Heritage Department, and elders, some in their 90s.

"The language teachers were in the public schools at one time," said Switzler. But because of the need to focus on the No Child Left Behind curriculum standards, she said, the school district discontinued the traditional language program.

In his Warm Springs history class at Madras High School, teacher Matt Henry has used teachers from the Culture and Heritage language program.

"One time students actually petitioned the schools to

have languages in the schools (after they were removed three years ago)," Switzler said.

"But we didn't have the resources. Teachers are fluent in the languages, but the school district wants to see curriculum, and that's where we fell short."

Switzler said Henry and Talman are strong advocates of bringing the Native languages to Madras High School.

She said she organized the recent three-day retreat simply to give language teachers in her department instruction and training that they would normally only get at seminars in faraway places.

"Our teachers go all year (teaching), and we don't have the resources to send them on retreats, so it was more cost effective to bring people here," she said.

The languages of the Confederated Tribes are Kiksht (Wasco), Ichiskin (Warm Springs), and Numu (Paiute).

Youth: studied many aspects of natural resources

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"The focus is on quality or experience, not quantity," Brunoe said.

Sheppard recruited students from the high school to join the program. He worked with the departments that in the past have helped students with jobs. These include Higher Education and Workforce Development. The school liaisons also helped.

As the program has proven to be successful, it was decided

that this would be an annual program.

This summer the crewmembers were Yolanda Yallup, Simeon Kalama, Carina Miller, Jacoba Smith, Oits Johnson, and Roland Morningowl. Their graduation ceremony at Natural Resources is this week.

The group is producing a book documenting the various projects they participated in, including trips to Fort Rock, Willamette Falls, and Mount Jefferson, to name just a few.

The book will mostly be pictures, said Sheppard, and will be given to Tribal Council as a

way to show what the crew has been doing this summer.

Variety of experience

Over the summer, a professional staff member from each department at Natural Resources provided the crewmembers with a project, telling them what needed to be done, and demonstrating how to carry out the assignment.

The students took one week to participate in hydrology, where they learned to how to use equipment to measure water quality in stream.

Another week, the crew covered fish biology. The students put on wetsuits and used snorkels to get in the water and observe fish habitats. The enforcement department put them on a tribal patrol boat to check for permits. When the crew studied wildlife, they went to the Mutton Mountains, where they tracked big horn sheep with a radio telemetry device.

In forestry, they observed all stages of production of wood on the reservation and documented forest health.

"I liked forestry the most, because I learned about logging," Yallup said.

Working with the Range and Ag Department, the crew learned to identify noxious

weeds on the reservation and the Ceded Lands. They observed how fire fighters respond to wildfires and how mitigation is required when the fire is out. For this, they worked at Fire Management.

Working with air quality, the students sampled the impact of contamination in the air from stubble burning. In Cultural Resources, they learned the history of Indian trade over Mount Jefferson into the Willamette Valley.

"They took us on old trails that were used long time ago," Yallup said.

Oral history was another sub-

ject the group became familiar with. The students listened to tribal elders tell stories, such as the stories of Sasquash and stick Indians. "During Oral History Week, we learned about traditions, and the names of the roots," said Kalama.

The Language Department took part in the students learning, and taught them weekly language lessons of all three tribal languages. The crew went to language class every Monday.

They tried everything for making arrowheads to visiting the hydroelectric dams. "We did something different almost every day," Yallup said.

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