

Question of the week

What do you do to prepare for back-to-school?



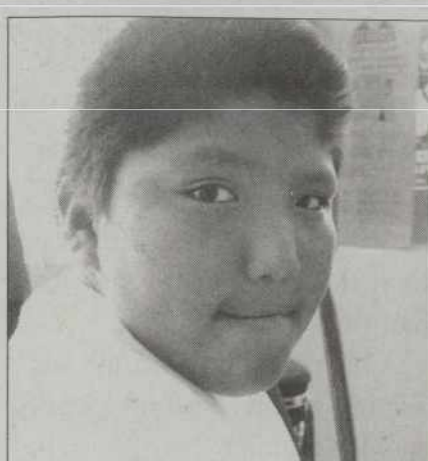
Robert Spino

"Get school clothes, try to make the summer stretch."



K-Lei Smith

"I go shopping, usually year round shopping, and then I'm learning all summer. So I'm pretty much ready for school."



Tyrin Wolfe

"Get school supplies."



Lori Switzler

"Set my goals and expectations."

"I prepare myself emotionally well before school starts. I reflect on positive past experiences such as

excitement of meeting new teachers and classmates or the feeling of accomplishment of good grades from the last term. I make a resolution to do my best in completing homework and attaining an A."

"Take care of routine responsibilities

"I take the kids to the dentist, make medical appointments, or other duties that can be done before school starts."

"Start working on my time management so that it will not be hard to get into a routine when school actually

starts. This includes scheduling free time in my home schedule which will be used for homework and studying. Being a single mother, I have to accommodate my children's schedules also."

"I take a mini vacation
"I want to get traveling and restlessness out of my system so I won't run off somewhere mid-term and lose focus on my schooling."

"Buy books and supplies
"I purchase my school supplies and text books required for my classes so I will be ready before class starts."

Ranchers, water trust strike fish deal

JOHN DAY (AP) - A deal between local ranchers and the Oregon Water Trust will mean more water for Spring chinook and summer steelhead in the Middle Fork John Day River.

Pat and Hedy Voigt are third-generation ranchers on the Middle Fork John Day River. They own the Austin Ranch, for which this project was named.

The river winds through the property and provides habitat for waterfowl and is a critical spawning ground for spring chinook. The Voigts use water from the Middle Fork and surrounding streams to irrigate 640 acres for cattle.

The Voigts and the trust made a deal that shortens the Voigt's irrigation season and keeps water in the Middle Fork for fish.

The trust paid the Voights an undisclosed sum to stop irrigating on July 20 each year in perpetuity. This will keep an additional 10 cubic feet of water per second in the river when it is needed most.

Pat Voigt said this portion of the river is the last place that isn't

controlled by fish interests. But he and his wife wanted to take action now rather than under pressure.

Each September, hundreds of spring chinook salmon spawn in the river on the Austin Ranch and downstream on wildlife preserves owned by the Warm Springs Tribes and The Nature Conservancy and on U.S. Forest Service land.

The Austin Ranch Project will increase available fish habitat and improve water quality by adding cool water to the river.

"We wanted to do something to everybody's satisfaction," Pat Voigt said. "We think we'll be running about 20 percent fewer cattle, but that still works for us economically. At the same time, we're putting a significant amount of water back instream to do something for the resource."

"I give OWT a lot of credit," Pat Voigt said. "They came to us with an attitude of wanting to help and they displayed a great deal of respect for agriculture."

Founded in 1993, the OWT

was the first water trust in the United States. The trust's mission is to restore surface water flows for healthier streams in Oregon by using cooperative, free-market solutions.

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