



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The Madras High School tennis team went to the district meet earlier this week (results in the next paper). Team members who played at districts include Kadie Manion (left), and Tamara Moody, pictured with team manager Byron Scott.

Deal for park back on track in Eastern Oregon

JOSEPH, Ore. (AP) - After hitting a snag, the idea of creating a park on land near the Old Chief Joseph monument at Wallowa Lake is back on track, officials said.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and K&B Family Limited Partnership have signed a letter describing the terms of a deal to create a new state park out of a parcel that has been embroiled in controversy for some 20 years.

The department intends to purchase the 61.93 acres of the former Marr Ranch property for \$4.1 million, much of the money coming from lottery proceeds dedicated to buying parkland.

The rest will come from the

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe through a donation to the nonprofit Oregon State Parks Trust.

The state park is likely to include trails and interpretation of the area's history and geology but no camping spots, parks spokesman Chris Havel said.

Long-term plans include the possibility of cooperative management with the National Park Service, which operates the nearby Chief Joseph grave site as part of the multistate Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The Oregon State Parks Trust may eventually sell its minority interest in the property to

the National Parks Service, using the money it gets for development and operations of the park.

On March 8 a tentative purchase agreement was reached, but then K&B spokesman Steve Krieger objected to the involvement of the Wallowa Land Trust, a nonprofit formed to buy and receive land and easements from willing sellers. He said he is now satisfied that "it is not involved in any funding of this proposed purchase."

Krieger had announced plans to split the property into two parcels and said that process would go ahead. If the land deal goes through, he said, the partition would not be recorded.

Klamath group files suit against Pacificorp

(AP) - A group of Klamath River tribal leaders, commercial salmon fishermen, recreational business owners and the Klamath Riverkeeper Group sued in federal court in Northern California last week claiming two Pacificorp dams on the river cause massive toxic algae blooms.

The lawsuit contends the reservoirs behind Iron Gate and Copco dams in Northern California are a toxic nuisance, threatening salmon fishing and posing a human health threat.

The suit wants Portland-based Pacificorp to stop operating the dams in a way that causes the blooms.

Pacificorp spokeswoman Jan Mitchell said the company does not comment on pending litigation.

Pacificorp is seeking a new operating license for a number of its dams. But numerous Indian tribes, commercial fisherman and conservation groups want the dams removed rather than relicensed - saying the dams hurt water quality, wildlife

and cause other problems.

The company contends removal would eliminate a source of renewable, low-cost power.

Pacificorp serves 1.6 million customers in six Western states.

A collapse of wild salmon returns to the Klamath River triggered drastic cutbacks in salmon fishing off the coasts of Oregon and California last summer and prompted the governors of the two states to call a summit to consider removing the dams.

The Stag



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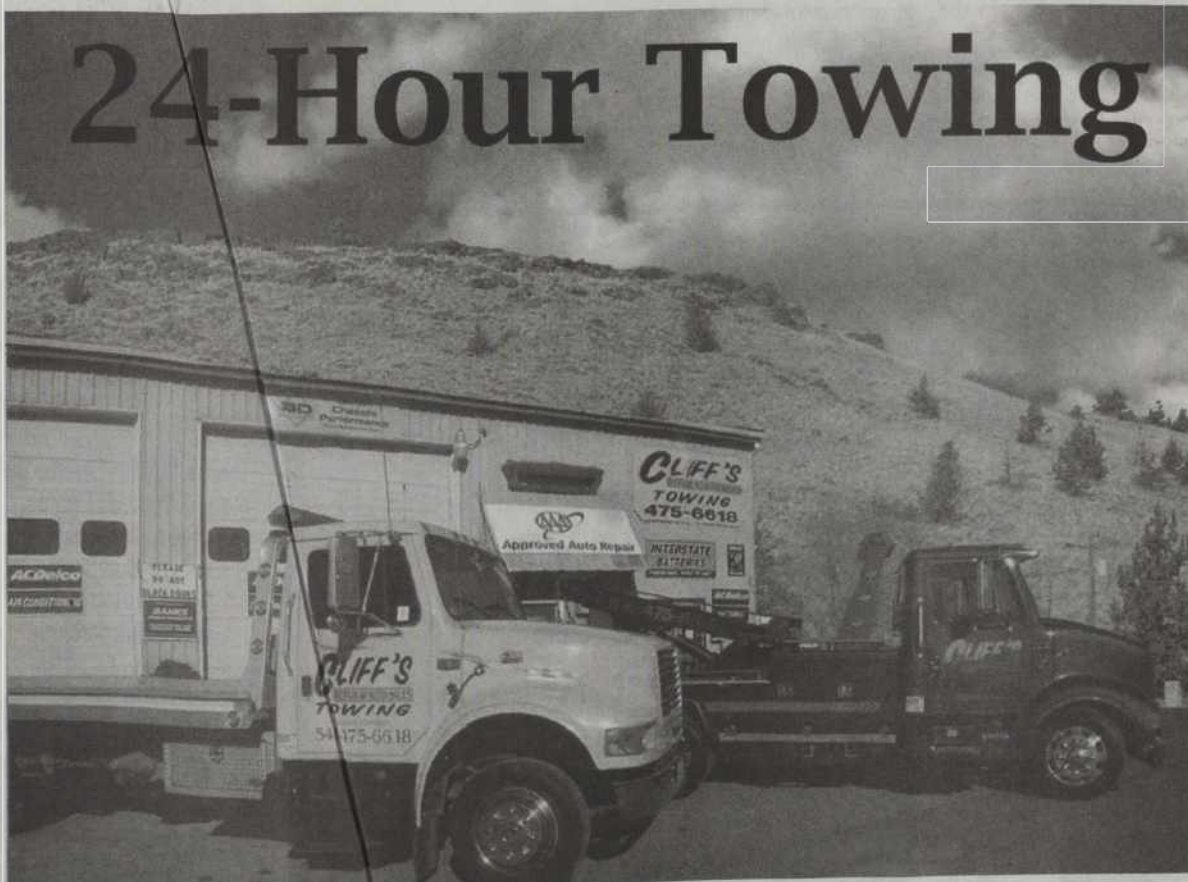
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