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Tribal members of the Madras High School Class of 2007

Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

## Congratulations, Graduates

There are 48 tribal members in the Madras High School Class of 2007. Several other tribal members are graduating from other high schools, colleges, and post-graduate schools.

The graduation ceremonies at Madras High School begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 9.

The tribal member graduation banquet for high school, college and ECE graduates is set for Wednesday, June 20 at the Warm Springs Community Center.

The banquet this year will also honor three tribal members who have recently earned post graduate degrees.

(See pages 8 and 9 for more on the graduates.)

## Council hears improvement plans

By Maren Cohn  
Warm Springs Ventures

Groups working to improve the Warm Springs tribal government and economy went before Tribal Council recently to give outlines of their projects and the status of each one.

"The purpose of today's meeting," Clint Jacks, meeting facilitator, explained in his introduction, "is to give the Twenty-Fourth Council an overview of what the Twenty-Third Council commissioned. It will be up to you to make these projects your own, to the extent you wish to do so."

The presentations dealt with governance issues tackled by the Twenty-Third Council, the administrative restructuring plan developed under that Council but not yet adopted, and prospects for economic development on the reservation.

As general overviews of the differ-

ent initiatives, none of the presenters were asking for Council action on specific recommendations.

But that didn't stop Council from getting straight to work. The group of leaders listened attentively to background reports on governance and administration, but it was economic strategy that really sparked their fire.

As presented, that strategy centers around so-called "Plan B" projects for land use and occupancy. ("Use and occupancy" means dedicating certain reservation lands through leases for use in resorts or housing developments.)

Economic analysis has shown that after "Plan A," i.e. the Bridge of the Gods Casino, use and occupancy projects hold the most promise for bringing in large revenues. Moreover, unlike the casino, such projects would involve tremendous growth in on-reservation jobs.

"We've been talking about this for a long time," said one of the chiefs. "We're in a crisis, we're already there, we're cutting millions of dollars every year. When are we going to move on Plan B?"

Several Council members addressed the need to act, and act quickly, to improve conditions for the membership. "We need something as soon as possible," said one member. "And building something on the reservation is going to be a lot easier than off the reservation."

Discussion focused on the tribes' valuable resource base, including some of the best land in Central Oregon and perhaps the best water rights in the nation.

"I see a lot of opportunity for this tribe," said Ken Smith. "We're hurting for money, hurting for jobs."

See COUNCIL on 13

## No funding for proposed Willow Creek high school

The 509-J School District Budget Committee voted unanimously to adopt a proposed budget on May 31 and present it to the board of directors in a meeting this month.

The proposed budget does not allot funds for the Willow Creek Community High School, the alternative high school that had been scheduled to open next year with 60 new students.

Interim superintendent Kay Baker told the board members and crowd of concerned students and family members that she does hear an agreement in the community that the alternative high school is needed.

"What I don't find is the funding source that's there," Baker added.

With the funding for WCCHS as

well as other expenditures, the school district would have faced a budget shortfall of \$1.8 million.

One student asked the board members why the school board had agreed to fund the school and then later had to reject their funding.

Chairman Steve Earnest said, "That's really a question not for this budget committee but for the board of directors." That board will be meeting in June, he added.

The budget also includes several eliminated teaching positions of teachers that have retired or resigned.

According to Chief Financial Officer Dan Chamness, "The key is that we re-work the school district between now and when we re-work the budget next year."

## N8TV Adventures offers river boarding, kayaking

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Few business people have the opportunity to spend a summer experiencing the thrill of the outdoors full time.

But for Randy Nathan and Brenda Williams, this summer will be the first of what they hope will be many summers they can spend doing just that.

Nathan and Williams started their new business, N8TV Adventures, at the beginning of May.

This summer they'll offer guided kayaking tours as well as guided river boarding trips.

In addition to supplementing their work with Nathan's Business Services, it's a general love of adventure and the outdoors that prompted the two to start up the new business.

Since they spend the winter in an office working on tax preparation, bookkeeping and payrolls, Williams said, it benefits them to spend their summers pursuing the new business.

"We have the two extremes," Williams explained—going from office work to outdoor recreation.

"This is a great balance for us to be outdoors during the summer," Williams said. "It is so peaceful and calm. You feel like you're in heaven when you're in the water."



Randy Nathan on the river.

Plus, it's not a bad way to spend their time.

"It's real rough," Williams joked.

Their enjoyment of outdoor recreation has also led them to consider expanding their fledgling business.

"We're actually going to try to expand into all different kinds of recreation," Nathan added.

Eventually, Nathan added, their goal is to lead ATV tours and perhaps even dog sled tours in the winter—but that's something that would require working with land use committees, he added.

In general, their goals include lead-

ing tours with maximum safety and as little environmental impact as possible.

They also hope to introduce the relatively new sport of river boarding locally.

"River boarding is getting on what looks like half a surfboard with handles and going down the rapids," Williams said.

Nathan and Williams originally learned about river boarding during the Oregon River Games event. After meeting an experienced guide, Nathan said, he agreed to demonstrate the sport and train them.

"They don't have very many guides around," Nathan said. While river boarding is extremely popular in Europe and other areas, he added, it's only become big in the United States in the past few years.

But the ability to travel down the river with your face at that level, Nathan said, makes it much more extreme than other water sports.

It's something that Williams embraced wholeheartedly after trying it for the first time.

In her opinion, it's a sport that differs completely from kayaking.

"Kayaking is calm and serene," she said.

As for river boarding, Williams added, "You get this whole sense of the force of nature."

"You're thrilled and excited and scared at the same time," she said.

In Nathan's opinion, "Being so close and low to the water—it's just huge."

Waves look a lot bigger at face level than they do otherwise, he added.

"They're not little," Nathan explained. "They're 10 times bigger than you can imagine seeing them from the road. It's exhilarating to get that water splashing in your face."

In fact, it's that reason that led them to offer both kayaking tours as well as river boarding tours.

That way, people are able to enjoy

"We're not just looking for tourists. It's a good way for local people to get out on the water."

Brenda Williams

the water through the calmer sport of kayaking, but are still able to spend time on the water.

"They still get the adventure," Williams explained.

In the future, Nathan hopes they can use their river boarding skills and train to complete swift water rescues.

Working with search and rescue teams, they will then be able to offer their services when needed, Nathan said.

According to Williams, "It's a way of us also giving to the community."

Kayaking tours will be launching from Indian Park. All tour participants will be equipped with proper safety equipment, Nathan added. For river boarding that includes a wet suit and a helmet.

While river boarding is a full-day trip, they also offer half-day kayaking tours.

See N8TV ADVENTURES on 13