

### Dinner honors graduates of business program

Graduates of the Indianpreneurship Program were honored during a graduation ceremony last week.

Winter 2007 graduates included Francis Kalama, Franki Gaskins, Tom Adams, Emma Smith, and Celena Gilbert. Leo Washington received a participant recognition.

The Indianpreneurship classes are presented on behalf of Onaben, in conjunction with Eagle-Tech Systems.

The curriculum titled, "Indianpreneurship: A Native American Journey Into Business," is a new resource for Native American entrepreneurs who want to start their own business. Differing from other small business training materi-



Onaben executive director Tom Hampson, training coordinator Yvonne Iverson, Tom Adams, Frankie Gaskins, Leo Washington, Emma Smith, Celena Gilbert (from left). (Not pictured: Francis Kalama)

als, ONABEN's curriculum is story-based, using Native American entrepreneurial experiences as a basis for illustrating business principles. The curricu-

lum also features native-inspired graphics and photos of Native entrepreneurs and their businesses.

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### Department works to ensure safe drinking water

By Jonathan Smith  
Environmental Technician

The Environmental Health Department recently conducted research for information about our Public Drinking Water System.

The project was initiated to inform concerned community members who are interested in how the water system operates.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Utilities Department of Water Works produces drinking water for the Warm Springs, Sidwalter, and Schoolie Flats/Simnasho areas.

The Warm Springs water system is a public water system. All public water systems must comply with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974. The law was passed by the U.S. Congress to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply.

The law was amended in 1996 and requires many actions to protect drinking water and its sources: rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs and ground water wells. SDWA does not regulate private wells that serve fewer than 25 individuals.

Public drinking water cannot be taken for granted. There are a number of threats to drinking water: improperly disposed chemicals, animal wastes, pesticides, human wastes, wasted injected deep into the earth, terrorism, vandalism, and naturally

occurring substances can all contaminate water.

The Environmental Protection Agency sets national drinking water standards of our tap water to ensure the quality of our nation's drinking water supply and public health. The U.S. EPA sets legal limits for contamination and treatment techniques.

The SDWA also requires each drinking water system to have certified operators. To become state certified you have to meet minimum requirements through experience, education and examination.

Paul Henderson is the Water Engineer for the Public Utilities Department. Paul is state-certified in water treatment, distribution, and wastewater collections and sampling.

The water engineer is the person responsible for overseeing the Water Works Department.

The Water Works Department is composed of two branches: Warm Springs Water Treatment Plant and Distribution, and Warm Springs Wastewater Plant.

The Warm Springs Water Treatment Plant employs two state-certified treatment plant operators.

The Chief Operator is Steve Courtney Sr. who has over 25 years experience. The other operator, Ronnie Palmer, has over 14 years of experience.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs new Environment Technician is myself,

Jonathan W. Smith Sr.

I am also state-certified in Water Treatment Plant operation.

The Warm Springs Water Treatment Plant provides the drinking water to the Warm Springs Agency area. The source water for the plant is the Deschutes River.

The water is chemically treated and filtered to remove contamination and then is pumped into the distribution system.

Up until July 2007 the Warm Springs Water Treatment Plant had a fluoridation program. Sodium Fluoride would be added to the drinking system as a treatment to prevent tooth decay.

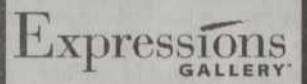
The program was discontinued for the following reasons: Sodium Fluoride is not a treatment chemical needed to make our community drinking water safe for consumption. Inadequate budget; cost of fluoride increases every year, average yearly cost is approximately between \$8,000 and \$10,000. The risk of health problems, and/or death, is increased with the use of fluoride in a water system that operates substandard equipment and conditions. The operators adding fluoride are at the greatest risk of health problems due to poor ventilation, training and proper safety equipment.

(This article will conclude in the next edition of the Spilyay.)



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on the first Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call us at 385-6944 Monday through Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

### Birthday, Christmas wishes

Merry Christmas to my kids Anessia Marie Sam and Decimus Tracy-Quessa Sam. You've always been a wonderful blessing for me and you will always be. Dad loves you and I miss you a lot. From your dad Tracy Ray Sam.

Merry Christmas to my dad and my mom, Robert and Marella Sam Sr. Merry Christmas, Dad and Mom, I hope you have a good day and new year. Love you, from your son Tracy Ray Sam.

To my brothers, sisters, and all the kids: Merry Christmas to you all. I hope you are all at Dad and Mom's so I can talk to you all on Christmas day. From your big brother Tracy Ray Sam.

Grandma-mom and Grandpa Eliza and Harvey, Merry Christmas, Mom and Grandpa. I love you and miss you a lot. Take care, from Tracy Ray Van Pelt Sam.

Merry Christmas to all my family in the Warm Springs Charlotte Shike family, Neda Wesley family, Ulla Mary Danzyka family, Auntie and Uncle's Levi Van Pelt family,

Chester Van Pelt Jr. family, Tiger Van Pelt family, Itta Van Pelt family, Aurlyon Stwyer family, Maria Lopez family, Lucy and Tom Williams, Julie Sandavol family. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Love from Tracy Ray Sam.

Happy first birthday to one of my pride and joy, Gerald Lee Tias Jr on December 26. Baby, Grandma will always be there for you and your big brother. Grandma's boy, love you from Grandma Marella Sam.

Happy first birthday to Gerald Lee Tias Jr. on December 26. Have a great day! Love from Grandpa Robert Sam Sr.

Happy birthday to our baby brother Gerald Tias Jr. Have a good day, kid, from your big brothers: Woody Jr., Dartanian, Kaylobe Clarence and Jonathian Tracy Ray-Lee Tias.

Happy first birthday Gerald Lee Tias Jr. We hope that you have a great day and you don't let anyone tell you what you can't get into—your cake, it is your first. From Elisha and Chantel Picard.

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