

N8tv Adventures looking at partnership

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

N8tv Adventures may start seeing additional business from a potential partnership with a California-based adventure travel company.

Brenda Williams said N8tv Adventures hosted a trip for staff from Optical Edge Adventures, which is based in Santa Monica, California.

Right now N8tv Adventures offers guided kayaking and river boarding trips, and may potentially begin offering mountain biking trips pending approval, Williams said.

They have also started hosting groups in a teepee at Indian Head Park.

Chris Ashford, CEO and founder of Optical Edge Adventures, said he first found N8tv Adventures after doing a search on the social networking website www.myspace.com.

Optical Edge does business with companies in Bend, Ashford explained, and they wanted to expand options for their travelers in Central Oregon.

It was through N8tv Adventures' Myspace page that Ashford came into contact with Randy Nathan, owner of the local adventure company.

Optical Edge Adventures is an adventure travel company specializing in multi-destination and multi-activity vacations.

The staff develops relationships with companies featuring activities that appeal to the adventure traveler and compile itineraries specific to their clients' desires.

The adventure travel com-



Courtesy photo.

Chris Ashford of Optical Edge Adventures went river boarding with N8tv Adventures during his trip to Warm Springs.

pany leads trips to areas such as Catalina Island, Moab, Utah; Sun Valley, Idaho; Sonoma, California; Ivins, Utah; and Central Oregon.

The company uses a chartered aircraft to transport their clients to their destinations and depart at the convenience of the traveler.

According to the Optical Edge website: "Exceptional customer service, convenience and flexibility separate us from our competition."

Ashford said partnering with N8tv Adventures would mean bringing small, exclusive groups from California to participate in an excursion with the Warm Springs company.

The trips could also potentially include a cultural aspect, Williams said, like a salmon bake. Riverbend Guide Services would also partner with them to offer fishing trips.

During the trip for Optical Edge Adventures staff, Williams added, they went on a moonlight kayaking tour in addition to ac-

tivities like river boarding.

"It's very surreal," Ashford said of the moonlight kayaking trip. "It's more of a heady experience."

Ashford also had the chance to go on his first fly fishing trip and was quite proud of the 16-inch fish he caught.

It would be especially beneficial to work with N8tv Adventures because of the knowledge of owners Randy Nathan and Brenda Williams, Ashford said.

In Ashford's opinion, "Randy is very in tune with what's going on in the community and is very willing to share."

"It's been great just learning about the culture and the community and also the challenges," Ashford added.

Partnering with N8tv Adventures would also give their travelers a chance to explore ecotourism, Ashford said, because N8tv Adventures strives to create as little environmental impact as possible.

According to Ashford, "You don't see that all the time."

There is a huge market for eco-tourism within the travel industry, Ashford said.

The staff at N8tv Adventures prefers to host groups of four to eight people, Williams said, because it has less of an impact on the land.

Plus, Williams added, "It gives a more personal touch."

This summer N8tv Adventures is also employing two summer youth workers through Workforce Developments—and depending on how much business increases throughout the season, they could potentially hire a few more, Williams said.

The youth workers are helping with activities like kayaking, and have even been very beneficial in terms of getting new aspects of the business going.

One worker is very experienced at setting up teepees, Williams said, and has been helping

to set up the new teepee at Indian Head Park.

"They get to learn a lot," Williams said of the youth workers—including how to serve as ambassadors for the tribes.

That may also include a trip to the Museum at Warm Springs, Williams said, so they can try to look at their culture from an outsider's perspective.

"They've grown up with it, so they're used to it," Williams explained.

"A lot of people don't understand what its like to be Indian," Williams explained.

"Most of them ask a million questions," Williams said. "They're curious about what life on a reservation is like."

For more information on N8tv Adventures, visit www.n8tvadventures.com or call 553-1200.

Peak gets new name

(AP) — A Southern Oregon peak that was known commonly, though not officially, as Squaw Peak has a new name that no longer uses the word many American Indians say is derogatory.

The United States Board on Geographic Names has approved the naming of Taowhywee Point for the 3,727-foot peak just outside of Ashland on the 1,800-acre Circle of Teran Ranch, owned by Scott Young and Sulara James.

The couple applied for an official name in March 2007 after an American Indian friend, Robert Greygrass, told them that many consider the term squaw derogatory.

Sound advice on Fourth of July safety

by Suzi Macy
Prevention Technician
W.S. Fire Management

The fourth of July is this Friday. If you are planning to buy fireworks please purchase only those that are legal in Oregon.

A good rule of thumb is, if it flies in the air it probably is not legal here in Oregon.

According to the State Fire Marshal's Office the following are legal fireworks: Base Fountains, handle fountains, sparklers (wood core), cone fountains, ground bloom flowers and wheels.

Those that are illegal are: roman candles, missiles, bottle

rockets, all firecrackers, aerial spinners, bees, helicopters and jumping jacks.

Ensure your fun this Fourth of July by following these safety tips:

Never allow children to play with matches or lighters.

Make sure an adult is present.

Keep fireworks away from small children.

Keep pets indoors or secured in a fenced area away from fireworks.

Only use fireworks outdoors. Avoid dry vegetation, debris or buildings that may catch fire.

Never point or throw fireworks at people, animals, cars or buildings.

Have a hose or bucket of water ready to extinguish a fire or douse used fireworks.

Avoid fireworks that are leading, wet, or look old.

Never alter fireworks or attempt to make your own.

Dispose of spent fireworks by dunking or dousing with water and putting into an outdoor trash can away from a building.

Remember, be prepared, be safe and be responsible. Fire Management & Smokey Bear would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July.

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