

Sanctuary continues youth work

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Sanctuary, a local nonprofit organization, is continuing to expand and develop new ways of helping the Warm Springs community after several years of operation. According to Director Chris Buller, Sanctuary put approximately \$49,000 back into the Warm Springs community last year.

Buller's organizations—the Christian-based Sanctuary and the secular Faith Trails—are both non-profit organizations that have been working with people on the reservation for several years.

Sanctuary hosts a family night at the stables at Kah-Nee-Ta on the first Sunday of every month, but that's only a small part of what Sanctuary and Faith Trails have accomplished in the past year.

Last year Sanctuary sponsored five local youth for the Oregon High School Equestrian Team. They were able to provide the horse, tack, and transportation if it was needed by a sponsored youth, Buller said.

"Last year the kids that participated from Warm Springs and through Sanctuary are what put Madras over the top to win their district," Buller added.

The youth involved with the equestrian team seemed intimidated at first, Buller said, but that quickly faded when they began competing.

"That's why it's worth doing," Buller said. "They learn that they can compete and are just as good as regular kids from all over."

"The thing that makes it work is the kids have to make a commitment to working hard and wanting to do this, and then we support them in doing it," Buller said. "You're able to give a pretty incredible reward to a long-term commitment."

Sanctuary is also hosting study halls for students at the high school on Monday nights from 5:45 to 7:15. Dinner will be provided from local restaurants, Buller said, and they are working to have rides home for students. They are targeting athletes specifically, Buller said.

"We're really trying to keep our kids eligible for athletics, as well as excelling in athletics," he explained.

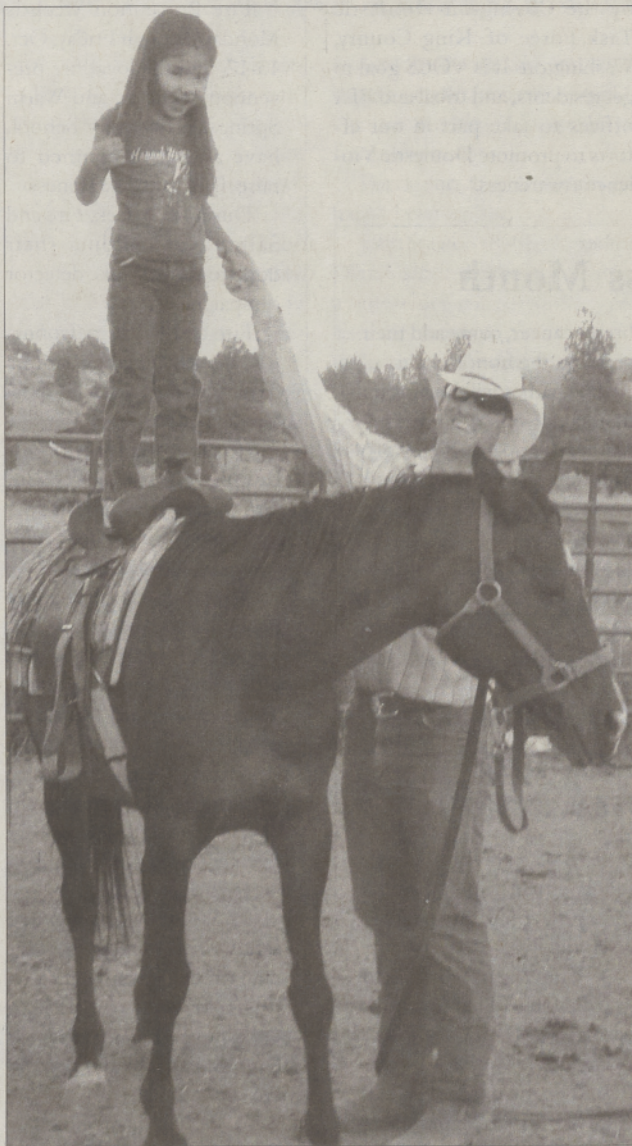
Some of the methods of helping community members involves making a deal with a mechanic to help a family with a broken down car, Buller said.

"A lot of that assistance comes in ways like that," Buller explained. "It comes from families who are really trying. They're working to be good parents' their kids are trying in school."

In addition, Sanctuary does advocacy in local school. Currently Buller serves as a personal contact for over 70 youth.

"What that allows is it allows me to check their grades, work with counselors, work with administrators," Buller said.

Students can become in-



Courtesy photo.

Janessa Scott is among the local youth who like learning about horses with Chris Buller, of Sanctuary and Faith Trails.

involved by signing a contract with Sanctuary that states their goals, Buller said, and students who do so typically improve their GPA by an average of 1.6.

With Buller as a personal contact, he said, students can seek help from him at times when a parent might not be able to travel from Warm Springs or Simnasho. They also give students rewards for good grades and good behavior.

"Our kids deserve that," Buller said.

"The big thing is kids have to want to do this," Buller added. "Students have to want to be on the contact list."

Sanctuary has been able to accomplish a lot through their operation of IKIUTAN stables at Kah-Nee-Ta. The revenue from the stables helps to fund the non-profits as well as offering work and volunteer opportunity for local youth.

Between employees and volunteers, Buller said, there are about 20 youth working for the stables.

"They learn to work with people from all over the world and their confidence is just going through the roof," Buller added. "It's just amazing to watch them grow and develop over the course of the season."

He's seen people from out of town react with surprise when meeting the youth from Warm Springs, Buller said, because they've only heard negative things.

"The people from Portland, they're shocked at how wonderful our youth are," Buller said.

Buller said he recently heard a youth who was training a new employee explain that they don't take breaks until a job is done, and that is exactly what he wants the students to learn.

"For me that is one of the lessons you can give young people that makes them marketable anywhere they want to be," Buller said. "They finally get that if you're professional and you work hard and you're polite that'll serve you no matter what you choose to do."

"The whole mission statement behind what Sanctuary does is helping people discover their potential and then reaching to get there," Buller continued. "We believe you can't reach your potential without going on a faith walk. When you're reaching for your potential, you live in hope."

"We don't give things away, but we make it possible to get there," Buller said.

For more information, visit www.sanctuaryfaithtrails.org or contact Buller at cb@faithtrails.org or (541) 460-0177.

Word of thanks from Reservation Runners

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of our Hood to Coast Team.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

Warm Springs Composite Products, Brunoe Logging, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino and DMJ Automotive.

I would also like to thank the following people for their support:

Earl and Rita Squiemphen, Saphronia Katchia, Monica Leonard, Sam Heath and anyone else that assisted us in our fundraising endeavors.

I have always been lucky in getting the runners I do. This year was no exception. Those runners were:

Kaipo Akaka, Lex Anguiano, Jeff Anspach,

Buddy Charley, Angel Daniels, Leslie Davis, Yvette Leecy, Monica Leonard, Rich Lohman, Ina Schuster, Jason Smartlowit and Karlen Yallup. Special thanks to Saphronia Katchia for being our other driver. Everyone did a great job, as always.

This was their year... Again! For the second year in a row, this team broke their own record.

They ran it in 28 hours, 40 minutes; just 20 minutes short of breaking the 28 hour barrier. That is their goal for next year, to break the 28 hours. What a team! Thanks for the effort, everyone.

As usual, everyone is looking forward to next year and most of them have already started their training.

You can see them out there running the hill at Fire Management or around "the loop". They have been a dedicated

bunch of people.

I appreciate their dedication and the whole team appreciates everyone's support of their endeavors.

We couldn't do it without our sponsors and they couldn't do it without the support of their families and friends. Thank you, everyone.

Be on the lookout for those extra people running, too. I have decided to start a Second Hood to Coast team.

I hope this all works out as I'm sure everyone else does.

There has been enough interest in HTC that I think the second team will work. I hope everyone will be there cheering them on.

Val Squiemphen, captain, Reservation Runners.

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Tribal Court notice

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, petitioner, vs. Dana Hardin, respondent. Case no. CV158-08. To Dana Hardin: You are hereby notified that a petition to exclude a resident non-member and order to show cause has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for 3 p.m. on the Oct. 27, 2008 at the Warm Springs Tribal Court. All of the facts of the case will be heard at this hearing, including evidence you wish to present. You must appear to

present your side of the argument or the other side will automatically win. The petitioner, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, may then be given all that is asked for in the petition for Petition to exclude a resident non-member and order to show cause. The petitioner will be present at the hearing. If you desire to personally argue your side of the case, you may have a legal aide, spokesperson or attorney appear on your behalf at your expense. If you have any questions, you should seek legal advice immediately.

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