

Graduating with highest honors

MayAnne Mitchell will be graduating with highest honors this week from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

Mitchell will graduate on May 8 with a 3.89 grade point average.

Graduating *summa cum laude*, she will be giving the graduation commencement address.

Mitchell will receive her bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She was selected as the 2009 Student of the Year.

MayAnne is going to spend another year in Lawrence, as her husband



MayAnne Mitchell (middle) at last spring's Haskell graduation ceremony with friend Recinda Adams.

Allen has one more year of school before he graduates. In a year, MayAnne plans to

move closer to Warm Springs. She plans to attend law school in Oregon.

'Trading at the River' to focus on economy

For Native American entrepreneurs, tribes and other people all across Indian Country, the economic downturn has challenged expectations and raised many questions.

This issue will be a topic of discussion at the Trading at the River Conference and Trade Show.

The seventh annual event, presented by the Oregon Native American Business Entrepreneurs Network (ONABEN), will be Tuesday and Wednesday, May 12-13 at the Red Lion Hotel on the Columbia River in Portland.

The show this year will provide a forum discuss the current economic situation, as it effect Native entrepreneurs, tribes and their members.

The conference has attracted sponsors from all over Indian Country and the Northwest.

The Financial Services Corporation of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians has joined ONABEN as a full part-

ner in the conference.

The theme of the conference this year is: Bringing tribes, enterprises, and entrepreneurs together in tough times.

Like a traditional trading event, new people and organizations choose to join right up to the day of the gathering.

The Department of the Interior Office of Energy and Economic Development, the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, Lewis & Clark Law School and the Small Business Legal Clinic have announced they will sponsor and attend this innovative and influential event.

"The event grows and strengthens with each person or organization that joins the conversation," said Tom Hampson, executive director of ONABEN.

"It's a conversation about Indian Country business and the future of the planet. The stakes are that big."

Discussions during the conference will include:

Blending the private sector and the tribal sector; and,

Exploring ways that tribes and enterprises can add citizen-owned businesses to their business development mix.

Workshops on this topic will include:

Finding ways for Indians to compete in a big box world; and,

Creating family resiliency through business, trade and barter.

These discussions and workshops are designed to encourage conversation and build connections between tribes, entrepreneurs, government agencies, non-profits, and many more from across the region.

About ONABEN: The network was founded in 1991 as a non-profit organization by four Oregon tribes.

ONABEN currently serves entrepreneurs and tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest. For more information please visit our websites at: www.onaben.org.

Advice on defensible space against fire

by Suzi Macy
Fire Management

Fire is impulsive and unpredictable.

It can find the weak link in your home's fire protection design and get the upper hand because of something that has been overlooked or some other seemingly insignificant aspect.

When designing your defensible space, start with the easiest and least expensive actions. Begin your work closest to your house and move outward.

Keep working on the more difficult items until you have completed your entire project.

Two factors have been established causes of a home's ability to survive a wildfire. These are the home's roofing material and the quality of your defensible space surrounding it.

Use fire-resistant materials (class C or better) to roof your home. Don't use wood or shake shingles, as these provide no protection from fire.

When your roof needs significant repair or replacement, do so with fire-resistant material such as composite shingles, metal, tile or a non-combustible shake material.

Defensible space is an area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of a wildfire toward the structure.

Your home is more likely to withstand a wildfire if grasses, brush, trees and other fuels are managed to reduce a fire's intensity.

Fuel hazard refers to its continuity across the ground (horizontal) and from the ground up

into the vegetation crown (vertical). Fuels with a high degree of both vertical and horizontal continuity are the most hazardous, particularly when they occur on slopes.

Also remember, heavier fuels (brush or trees) are more hazardous than light fuels such as grass.

The actual design and development of your defensible space depends on several factors: size and shape of buildings, materials used in their construction, the slope of the ground on which the structures are built, surrounding topography, and the types and sizes of vegetation on your property.

All these areas will affect the design of your defensible space. For more information on defensible space, please contact Fire Management at 553-1146.

Raffle for Team Wading to Exhale

A raffle drawing set for May 26 will help the local team Wading to Exhale participate in the 2009 Portland to Coast Walk. For tickets see:

Earlyne Squiemphen, Shari Marrazzo, Jolene Hintsala, Candice Jimenez, J'Dean Kalama, Sylvania Russell, Michele Stacona, Cheryl Lohman, Urbana Ross, Ina Schuster, Melissa Benson and Lynn Fluhr.

Lava Lands visitor center near Bend opens

BEND (AP) - The Lava Lands Visitor Center near Bend is ready to reopen Friday after two years of construction and remodeling by the U.S. Forest Service.

The completion of the new Lawrence A. Chitwood Exhibit Hall is the final piece in the first makeover for the center in 30 years, including the lobby, reception area and bookstore.

The interpretive themes of the new exhibit hall will showcase how Central Oregon geology, ecology, climate and culture are interwoven.

Forest Service officials say it will provide the latest information on topics ranging from volcanic activity in the Cascade Range to early American Indian technology.

Need help with a legal problem?

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. 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.

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