

A journey to France for D-Day anniversary

Soraya Mendez had a high school graduation day to remember.

She was in Normandy, France, at the time, and received her diploma during a special graduation ceremony in town of Sainte-Mère-Église.

Soraya was at Sainte-Mère-Église in Northwest France for the seventy-second anniversary of the World War II D-Day invasion.

She made the trip as part of her work with the Ma-

dras High School JROTC program. "Sainte-Mère-Église was amazing," Soraya was saying recently.

"Everyone was so friendly, and grateful for the United States. We were almost like celebrities—everyone wanted to take our picture."

During their time in Normandy, Soraya and other JROTC students—she was one of two from Madras—visited the famous Normandy beaches where the Allies landed on June 6, 1944.

The students visited monuments and cemeteries, and on the anniversary day took part in the ceremonies at Sainte-Mère-Église.

The streets there are fairly narrow, and on that day were crowded with people, Soraya says. There was a parade, music from a choir, and a talk by veteran who had been part of the invasion. This was the first time the veteran, now in his 90s, had talked about that day. Hearing him was a moving experience, Soraya says.

Another part of the ceremonies involved paratroopers jumping from air planes near the town. This commemorates the paratroop operation that happened just before the boat landings on the beaches.

A church at Sainte-Mère-Église features the effigy of a paratrooper, Soraya says, with his parachute stuck on the steeple. This is in honor of an actual event that happened to an American paratrooper during the invasion.

The condition of the Normandy shore itself was surprising, she says: The beaches there are rocky, making the D-Day landing—during stormy weather and high seas— even more treacherous.

On D-Day the Allied Forces landed more than 156,000 troops in Normandy. There were thousands of casualties. An estimated 4,413 lost their lives. The cemeteries there are immense, Soraya says.

The visit to Sainte-Mère-Église was just part of the experience. Her group, led by Col. Renfro, started the trip in Washington, D.C.

They went to the Smithsonian Museums, and to landmarks such as the Lincoln Memorial and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

They flew to Iceland, then



Soraya Mendez

France. After the events at Sainte-Mère-Église, the group went to Paris.

They visited the Louvre Museum, where they saw the Mona Lisa, the Venus De Milo, the Winged Victory of Samothrace, among other world famous works of art. They went to the top of the Eiffel Tower. "The greatest view ever," Soraya says.

They went to Versailles, saw the Arc de Triomphe and Notre Dame Cathedral, and visited the medieval town of Bayeux, home of the 231-foot long Bayeux Tapestry.

This fall Soraya is planning to earn an advanced diploma through Central Oregon Community College. After this she may continue at COCC, or transfer to a university.

She was active in the JROTC program during all four years at Madras High School. She was also a cheerleader, and played softball. Soraya grew up in Warm Springs, and is the daughter of Joy and Jose Mendez.

Besides graduating from high school while in Sainte-Mère-Église, Soraya also celebrated her eighteenth birthday while in Paris. A thank you goes out to all the people and businesses who helped with fund-raiser for the trip.



During the memorial ceremony at Sainte-Mère-Église (above); and at a Normandy Beach memorial (left).

Courtesy MHS JROTC

Apply for fall Head Start

Apply now for the fall 2016 season of the Warm Springs Head Start program.

Eligibility is based on the child's age, family need and income. Priority is given to those with a household income below the federal poverty guidelines.

Children with documented disabilities or special needs are encouraged to apply.

Head Start is a free pre-school program for children 3 (by Sept. 1) to 5 years old.

Class time is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The program provides assistance with accessing health care, and comprehensive services to the entire family.

Contact the staff at the Early Childhood Center, 541-553-3242.

Burn permits reminder

Warm Springs Fire Management reminds Warm Springs residents that burn permits need to be renewed if you would

like to continue burning in 2016.

Any questions can be directed to fire management at 541-553-1146.

~ Hay ~ Hay ~

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Extension Fruit Loop tour

Warm Springs OSU Extension is making a Fruit Loop Tour on Wednesday, June 29.

They have space for ten people, first come first serve. They will leave the Extension office at 7:45 a.m. and return by 5 p.m.

They will make stops at

several fruit stands. Remember to bring your own lunch, or they will make a stop in Parkdale if you choose to buy lunch. Also, bring containers for your produce.

Call 553-3238 if you have questions.

Summer powwow at Simnasho

The Simnasho Hot Summer Nights Powwow is coming up in July. The powwow is set for the Simnasho powwow grounds, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 12-13. Meals will start around 6 each night and powwow at 7.

Tuesday night is the weenie roast. There will be a Tiny Tots Special, Sweep Your Teepee Championship of the World, and a Family Team Dance.

On Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. is the Sixth Annual Hot Summer fun walk. That evening is a potluck barbecue meal.

The specials will be a Round Bustle and Puth-lapa, the Sixth Ever Drummers Relay Race honoring Mackie Begay, and the Ninth running of the Simnasho Derby.

Bring your lawn chairs. It's all about fun, social dancing and good times!

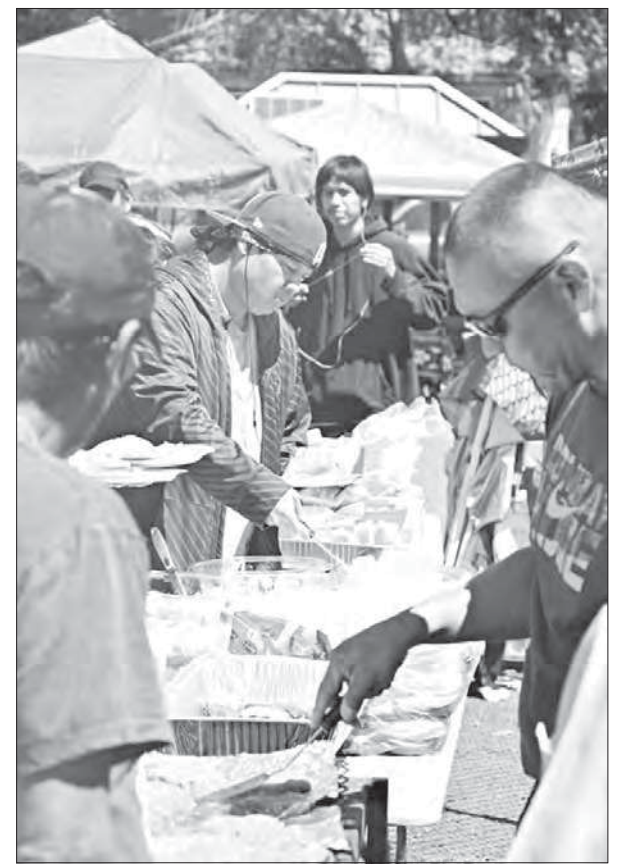
Summer meals at B&G Club

The Summer Food Service meal program is hosted by the Warm Springs Boys & Girls Club at the old grade school.

Breakfast is served from 8:15-9 a.m.; and

lunch from 11:45-12:30 p.m. This is free to all youth ages 18 and under.

No registration required. Must eat on site. Call the club for information, 541-553-2323.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

The Warm Springs Outdoor Market is Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., next to the Re-Use It Thrift Store by Warm Springs Market.

The first market of the summer, earlier this month, featured a free barbecue (above). Contact the Warm Springs Community Action Team to find out about setting up as a vendor, 541-553-3148.

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