

Graduation marks unique accomplishment

Krysten Heath-Saldaña has an inspiring story, one of working through challenges and accomplishing her goals.

“As one of my goals,” Krysten was saying the other day, “I would love to be a role model for the students at the Warm Springs Academy—to show them that a person from here can accomplish this.”

Krysten is the first tribal member to complete the George Fox University teaching program called ‘Grow Your Own.’ The program encourages local people to become the teachers in their own community.

Krysten now has her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, and will soon get her Oregon teaching license.

The George Fox University ‘Grow Your Own’ program is in partnership with the Jefferson County School District. The students work part-time at the school while also taking classes.

For the course work the instructor comes to Madras twice a week, and some work is done online. The two-year program is rare in that the students are paid while working through the requirements.

Krysten completed the program this month with Highest Honors, maintaining



Keira and Krysten at the George Fox graduation, ceremony held this month in Redmond.

straight A’s throughout the course.

Through dedication she was able to work at the school, keep her grades at the highest level, all while raising her 5-year-old daughter Keira, a kindergartner at the Academy.

Krysten also has her own home in Warm Springs, a car

and all the usual bills and obligations. “It’s been a lot of work, but it’s been worth it,” Krysten says.

There are many people to thank for their support during these past two years, she says. These include her family, especially mom Heather Alford and dad Edward

Heath; Principal Parshall and the assistant principals, teachers and other staff at the Academy.

“Especially the students,” Krysten says. “They have been very supportive. They are amazing kids, very smart. They’ve been my best teachers.”

The Confederated Tribes, and Carol Dick at Higher Education were a great help with the financial part of her education.

Growing up, Krysten went to elementary school in Warm Springs, then to the Jefferson County Middle School, and graduated from Madras High School in 2010.

She started at Central Oregon Community College with the idea of becoming a nurse. She then moved away for a while, came back to Warm Springs and applied for the George Fox program.

“I was thinking, ‘If I get accepted, then this is what I’m meant to do,’” Krysten says.

Now with her Teaching degree she hopes to become a full-time teacher.

“I want a job where I can impact the future,” she says. “I want my students to love school, to have the lives that make them happy, to accomplish their goals.”

Hatfield Fellowship

Robert Ahern will travel to Ottawa, Canada as part of his tenure with the 2016-27 Hatfield Fellowship. This will be a chance to learn how the Canadian legal and political system differs from those of the U.S.



Robert Ahern

Through the Fellowship, sponsored by the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Robert is working in the Washington, D.C., office of Rep. Earl Blumenauer. The focus is on Native American issues pending in Congress.

As he was intown, Robert gave an update on the program last week at Tribal Council. Robert is a graduate of Madras High and Pacific University. His parents are Fran and Judge Dan Ahern.

Eclipse: moves west to east

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The August 21 eclipse will begin in the morning in the Pacific Ocean. At this initial point in the ocean, viewers (such as those on a ship) would actually see the sun rise while totally eclipsed.

After this, the eclipse shadow will move from northwest to southeast, reaching the Oregon Coast just near Newport.

The path then continues across the country, northwest to southeast,

passing over South Carolina and then into the Atlantic Ocean.

As the shadow passes over the Warm Springs Reservation, the eclipse totality will last a little over two minutes.

The shadow moves fast, at about 400 miles per second, crossing the U.S. in about an hour and a half. For a summary of some of the local events August 19-21, visit the Indian Head Casino website:

indianheadgaming.com

Tower: allows for mixing of cooler and warmer water

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The design wasn’t successful, and fish passage was blocked above the dams. FERC re-licensing in the late 1990s was the opportunity to try and address fisheries above the dams.

A major problem was that fish migrating downstream from above the dams could not find the actual downstream current through Lake Billy Chinook.

The selective water withdrawal tower helps create a surface current in the lake; so the downstream migrating fish can find the fish facility, where they are marked and then trucked downstream past the dams.

The facility operators have also implemented a change in the operation at the Round Butte powerhouse: they are releasing water through the turbines at night, when mi-



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Touring the fish tower were PGE biologist Rich Madden, Secretary-Treasurer Michele Stacona, Natural Resources general manager Bobby Brunoe, Umatilla Fish and Wildlife Committee member and CRITFC commissioner Bud Herrera, Warm Springs Fish and Wildlife Committee member and CRITFC commissioner Emerson Squiempfen, Councilman Raymond Tsumpti, Power and Water general manager Jim Manion, Sara Thompson of CRITFC, PGE water manager Megan Hill, and Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. (from left)

grating smolts like to move, instead of during the daytime.

Another aspect of the selective water withdrawal tower has to do with down-

stream water temperatures.

Water temperature

The cooler water in the lake is at the bottom, and the warmer at the top. The tower

allows the project managers to mix the water as it’s released through dam. The intent is to match what would be the natural temperature downstream during various

times of year.

There is opposition to this aspect of the project, while PGE and the tribes, along with resource agencies responsible for the eco-

system above and below the dams, are working to address any potential challenges, Jim Manion said.

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