



Joey Holmes/Athabaskan and Alex Mendenhall



Tribal Elder Clarice Ellison (center) with husband Ebert and Tribal member and granddaughter Tiffany Greenberg



Tribal member Nikki Norwest



Tribal member Nathan Mueller

2006 Graduation

■ Junior high, high school graduations time to shine for local Tribal youth.

By Toby McClary

On the weekend of May 26-27, Willamina hosted two ceremonies that graduated students to the next stage of their lives.

On Friday, May 26, Willamina Middle School eighth graders attended the Eighth Grade Promotion held at the Willamina High School gymnasium and on Saturday, May 27, Willamina's High School Graduation was held on Glenn Larkins Field with 56 graduating seniors.

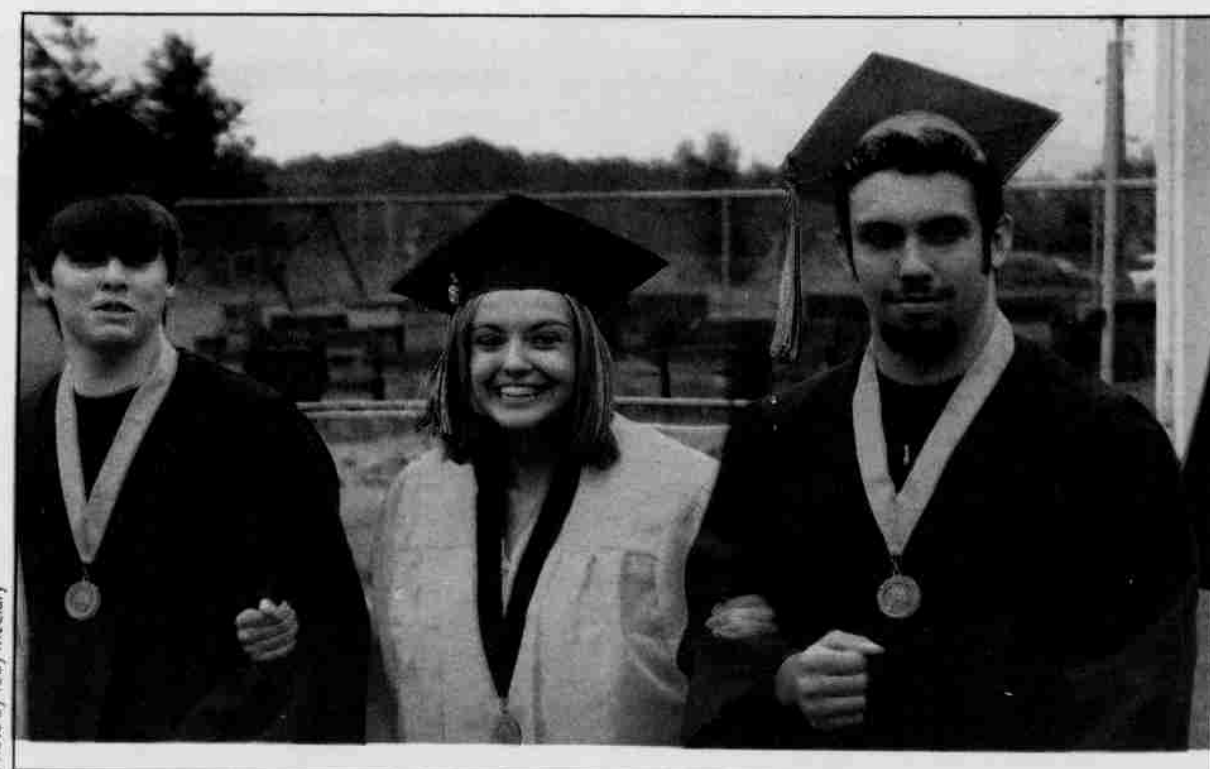
Despite the scattered showers that occurred, the emotions of the seniors could not be erased. Smiles, tears and words of wisdom surrounded the hundreds in attendance and woodshop teacher Ray Gilliam gave the graduation address. Gilliam, a 36-year employee for Willamina School District, also announced his retirement. "Thank you Willamina for your unfailing support over the last 36 years," said Gilliam.

The 2006 graduating seniors included Tribal members Nikki Norwest, Jacob Hofenbredl, Hope Lafferty, Lacy Leno, Nathan Mueller, Tony Perkins, Eric Sabin and Meghan Zimbrick.

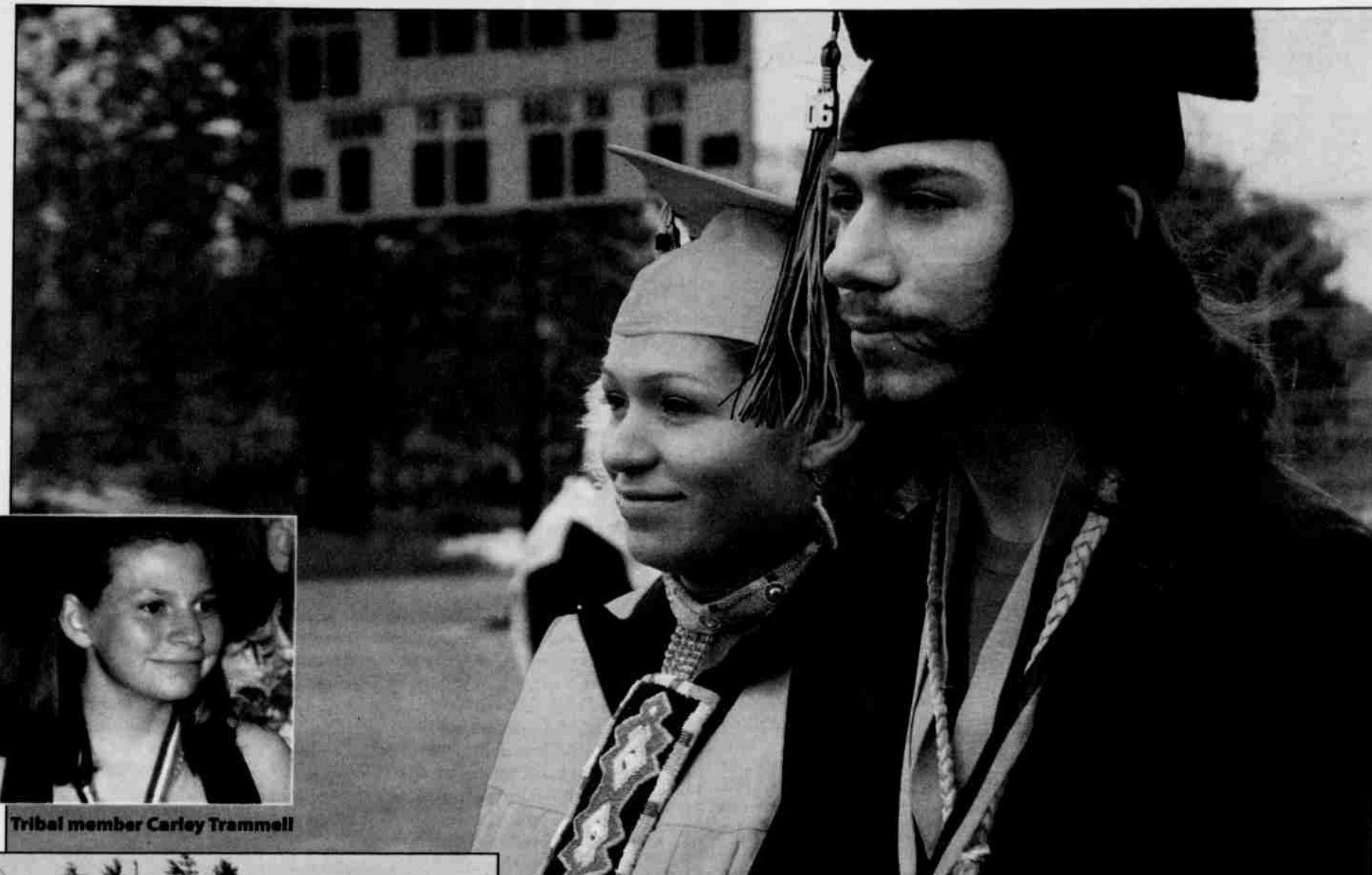
Sabin accumulated over \$7,000 in scholarships and grants and Zimbrick earned at least \$6,000.

The 2006 eighth grade graduates included Tribal members Halona Butler, Alex Foster, Talon Jackson, Robbie LaBonte and Brett Norwest with Justine Colton, Erika Merrill, Carley Trammell and Brent Bruckner graduating with honors.

Another chapter has been written in these young lives and another door of opportunity opens on their path to success.



Tribal member Jacob Hofenbredl (l to r) Niki Hargitt and Brody Collins



Tribal members Hope Lafferty and Eric Sabin.



Tribal member Carley Trammell



Alysse Cruickshank, Tribal member Meghan Zimbrick, Brent Murrell and Brittany Woolley.



Tribal member Halona Butler and father, Siletz Tribal member Lee Butler



Kaylyn Hill and Tribal member Robbie LaBonte



Siletz Tribal member Keshena Butler and Tribal member Brent Bruckner