

More than 200 poised for yoga seminar

Tania Wildbill coordinating free event with Yogi Amrit Desai at Pendleton Red Lion April 24-27

PENDLETON - More than 200 individuals from as far away as Jamaica are registered for the April 24-26 Pendleton Yoga Round-Up being organized by Tania Wildbill, a yoga instructor who also works as a grant writer on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Yogi Amrit Desai, the founder of both the Kripalu Center for Wellness and Yoga and the Amrit Yoga Institute, will lead the yoga seminar, a free event to be held at Pendleton Red Lion Hotel.

Wildbill, a longtime yoga enthusiast who now runs Yoga on Main in Pendleton, met Yogi Desai as a 13-year-old in 1983. Last year she invited him to the Umatilla Indian Reservation, where he was "captured by the beauty and rich culture of the Umatilla Tribes." He accepted when she invited him back this year to conduct the seminar.

Wildbill is coordinating the event with fellow yoga instructor James Dewar from Sammamish, Wash.

A more recent student of Desai, Dewar has said that "Since my first experience in the sweat lodge a few years ago, I have felt a strong connection to Umatilla country. Although I was surprised by the idea of a yoga event in Eastern Oregon, the response has proven me wrong. In a short amount of time, we have already gotten word of people traveling from all over to participate. When Yogi Desai agreed lead our Saturday evening Kirtan, I was in awe of the possibility of 500 strong chanting OM in one of the most spiritually charged areas of the country."

Yogi Desai said he's been impressed with "Tania's dedication and ability to con-

nect with the community" and said Dewar "has proven himself to be an excellent teacher of yoga and carrier of the authenticity and depth of its teachings in the Sammamish community."

Said Desai, "My intention for coming to Pendleton is to make this free program available and accessible to as many as possible who hear about yoga but do not have a clear perspective that it is a spiritual science and not bound by any religious beliefs or biases. As a result yoga is growing throughout the world. There are so many on an evolutionary journey who are ready to recognize the power and depth of yoga in their lives and in their search for health, peace and happiness."

The event, marketed mostly from a grassroots effort, is expected to grow to at least 400 people.

Leslie Carnes, Director of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center stated, "It is exciting to host an event of this stature here in Pendleton. This event showcases our ability to host events that are beyond what most expect from a Top Ten Western heritage town. But Pendleton is used to surprising people, with both our unique brand of hospitality and the variety of options for meeting venues and entertainment."

Registration will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 24, at the Red Lion Hotel in Pendleton. There will be a welcoming ceremony and native cultural activities throughout the weekend from members of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Daily yoga classes will be held and Yogi Desai will lead several sessions in Yoga Nidra as well as Saturday evening Kirtan.

For more information contact Wildbill at 541-310-9102 or wildbill@wtchlink.us

To register for the event go to www.pendletonyogaroundup.com. Vendor applications are available.

Paddler hopes to share canoe-carving skills

TUTUILLA FLATS - Jim Kirk has an 18-foot red cedar log, traditional as well as power tools, and a dozen years of experience carving canoes and paddling them through ocean waters that he'd like to share with young people on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Kirk, who grew up in the Puget Sound area, took part for the 12th time last summer in the "Tribal Journeys 2008 Paddle to Cowichan." The annual event boasted more than 100 canoes that converged from different directions on Cowichan Bay in Duncan, B.C.

Now Kirk, who is married to Tribal member Carol Kirk, hopes to pass on what he's learned to students through Cay-Uma-Wa Education Department or at Nixyaawii Community School.

Kirk obtained the 1847 second-growth cedar log after it was cut down near Troutdale to clear an area for construction. A friend helped him move it to Auburn, Wash., where it sat for a while before Walla Walla Chief Bill Burke and his trailer helped move the log to Tutuilla Flats.

Years ago, after several young people from the Tribes participated in one of the "Paddle" events in Washington, Thomas Morning Owl tried to start a canoe club. Some logs were acquired but a lack of support and interest has left the logs sitting near the Plant Nursery.

Meanwhile, Kirk's proposal is on the table.

He not only wants help, he needs help.

"I have a lot of relatives in the Puget Sound area who would be helping, but if we work together here we could make it happen," said Kirk, who rowed with a Lower Elwha canoe last July.

"I'm just looking for interest. I want to pass on my experience," he said.



Marcus and Rachel Luke bought their car from Mark Loebner at Auto Solution.

"I had to get my wife a used car because her car had 190,000 miles and was starting to smoke. I know Mark Loebner because he teaches the ABC's of Carbuying about how to save hundreds buying a car through a credit union instead of a bank.

"I went online to their website and picked out what I liked and then worked through Oregon First Community Credit Union to see if we qualified. The Credit Union cut them a check and I went down and picked up the car in Portland the next day. The paperwork with the Credit Union only took about 30 minutes. They are super friendly, easy to work with, fast and they filled up the car, too. What more could you ask for?"

- Marcus Luke, Home Ownership Counselor at Umatilla Reservation Housing Authority



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Contact Mark Loebner at 1-800-207-2429 / 1-503-789-4477
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