



Kittitas County, Washington

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

April 21, 2008

This year marks the 16 year anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Kittitas County and Sanda City, Japan.

On July 18th Kittitas County will once again be welcoming two athletes from their Sister City. As an ongoing exchange of athletes, two men will be representing Sanda City, Japan at the 2008 Whisky Dick Triathlon. The athletes will have less than 48 hours to acclimate themselves for a triathlon that has been known to be very tough, and depending on the weather it's been known to test the best of athletes due to extreme heat and high winds of the Kittitas Valley.

Mr. Bunta Saiuchi from Sanda, Japan, is a 34 year old physical education teacher. He has prior experience in both marathons and triathlons. He feels it is a great honor to represent both Sanda City and his country. This will be his first race outside of Japan and he is looking forward to experiencing the American culture and meeting people from Kittitas County.

Mr. Kiminori Ogino also from Sanda, Japan is a 54 year old office worker. He has several years of experience participating in both marathons and triathlons. Mr. Ogino is most looking forward to enjoying the sights of Kittitas Valley and eating American foods. He said he will cherish every moment of his visit and hopes to complete the race with a smile on his face. Both men will be accompanied by their wives Mrs. Kiyomi Saiuchi (33) a music teacher and Mrs. Kazue Ogino (53) a housewife.

During their visit to Kittitas County, the athletes will be honored at a welcome barbeque sponsored by the Sanda City Relations Committee; they will tour the Anderson Hay & Grain facility; go sightseeing and shopping around Kittitas County; spending the day in Seattle and attend a Seattle Mariners game. The athletes and their host families will be recognized at a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners before heading back to Japan.

The annual exchange of athletes is sponsored by the Sanda City Relations Committee. The committee fundraises for the expense of one athletes travel expenses and Anderson Hay & Grain sponsor's the other. Anderson Hay & Grain continues to be a major supporter of the Sister City relationship and offers their assistance whenever needed. If you would like to be a part of the Sanda City Relations Committee or have questions please contact Julie Kjorsvik at 509-962-7508 or Julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us