

## WOTE Developing Turtle Island Storytellers Network

The Turtle Island Storytellers Network, the online speaker's bureau for talented Native American historians, storytellers, and song carriers in your area, currently is under development by Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. (WOTE), a Native American non-profit corporation located in Portland, Ore.

The purpose of the Turtle Island Storytellers Network is to create speaking and consulting opportunities for gifted Native American oral historians during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and beyond.

When we launch our Web site in December 2004, it will include up to 80 individual Web pages of talented indigenous speakers from tribes in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, and Indiana. Each Web page will include a summary of the speaker's background and tribal heritage, an audio file, historic and contemporary photographs, relevant Web links, and the individual's contact information.

Starting in the fall of 2004, WOTE will send notices by e-mail announcing the Turtle Island Storytellers Network, share speakers' Web portfolios, and communicate their special skills and talents to area agencies, organizations, and institutions. Our project is being funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail at the National Park Service.

WOTE records and preserves traditional cultural values, oral history, prophesy, and other messages of guidance from exemplary indigenous elders in order to regenerate the greatness of cultural values among today's and future generations of Native Americans. We especially target the growing number of younger generations.

WOTE was founded in 1992 by the late Martin High Bear, Lakota medicine man and spiritual leader, and Rose High Bear, Deg Hit'an Dine, Alaskan Athabascan.

WOTE also acknowledges the need for reconciliation between Indian and non-Indian. As part of its race reconciliation and education mission, WOTE strives to share these rich teachings with all peoples, using public radio and documentary production, book publishing and other educational venues in collaboration with diverse cultural organizations and educational institutions.

WOTE's projects include the public radio program, *Wisdom of the Elders*, the upcoming biography, *The Seven Commandments of the White Buffalo Calf Maiden: Martin High Bear (1919-1995)*, and The Respect and Honor Documentary Project.

For more information, contact Rose High Bear, Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. 5518 SE Flavel Drive, Portland, OR 97206, or e-mail [rose@wisdomoftheelders.org](mailto:rose@wisdomoftheelders.org). Our radio Web site is at [www.wisdomoftheelders.org](http://www.wisdomoftheelders.org).

## Back to School, Back to SMART for Oregonians

STATEWIDE, Ore. – Oregon children aren't the only ones gearing up for school this fall. Longtime SMART volunteer Stephanie Oliver also is looking forward to heading back to the kindergarten classroom.

As a volunteer with SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) for the past five years at Beach and King elementary schools in Portland, Oliver is one of thousands of Oregonians planning to do her part to make sure children throughout Oregon have the help they need to learn how to read.

SMART volunteers like Oliver give an hour of their time each week at a local school to help young children improve their reading skills as part of Oregon's most innovative, volunteer-driven reading program. Since 1992, SMART volunteers have provided nearly 1.8 million hours of service to more than 77,000 Oregon children and have given away nearly 1.2 million books.

With the state's limited budget, more help than ever is needed. This school year, SMART will serve nearly 12,000 students in 261 schools in 29 Oregon counties. SMART is seeking volunteers statewide to help local schools and children in their communities.

SMART also is working to raise awareness about ways local families can encourage children to read at home. Program officials suggest ideas for what parents can do at home to help children improve reading skills and help foster a lifelong love of books.

To learn more about SMART, call 1-800-355-3999 or visit [www.getsmartoregon.org](http://www.getsmartoregon.org).

### SMART Tips for Encouraging Children to Read

- **Allow the child to choose an appropriate book.** Children are more likely to develop an interest in books and reading when they can choose books and develop preferences.
- **Talk about the book you share with your child.** Children's reading comprehension improves significantly when they have the time and opportunity to discuss a book and understand its meaning.
- **Re-read a favorite book.** Children benefit from repetition both in hearing stories and reading them. Re-reading reinforces the concepts and vocabulary of first reading.
- **Create a comfortable environment for the child to try "cracking the code."** Youngsters build confidence in approaching new words when they feel secure puzzling out a word with a caring adult. Using a variety of strategies to decipher unknown words gives developing readers the chance to learn how to work out words the way good readers do.
- **Overlook a mistake.** Consider skipping a minor mistake that doesn't interrupt the flow of the story. Keep the child's frustration level low and help him or her feel successful in the reading experience.

## Important Dates for 2004 Elections

from [oregonvotes.org/dates04.htm](http://oregonvotes.org/dates04.htm)

|            |  |         |   |
|------------|--|---------|---|
| Oct. 12    | Voter registration deadline for Nov. 2 general election      | Dec. 2  | Last day for secretary of state to declare election of general candidates and governor to declare passage of general measures |
| Oct. 13    | Last day to mail Voters Pamphlet for Nov. 2 general election | Dec. 20 | Electors of president and vice president convene at the Capitol   |
| Oct. 15-19 | Ballots mailed for Nov 2. general election                   |         |   |
| Nov. 2     | <b>Election Day: statewide general election</b>              |         |   |

In an effort to improve voter education, voter turnout and the dissemination of elections information – particularly details about when, where, and how to vote and how to obtain a replacement ballot – Secretary of State Bill Bradbury has developed a toll-free voter information line and Web site.

The voter information resources are:

Call: 1-866-ORE-VOTES  
(1-866-673-8683), se habla espanol  
TTY: 1-866-350-0596 (for the hearing impaired)  
Visit: [www.OregonVotes.org](http://www.OregonVotes.org)

## Voting Web Sites of Interest

[www.nativevote.org](http://www.nativevote.org)

[www.nationalvoice.org](http://www.nationalvoice.org)

<http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/GetOutVote.htm>

<http://www.rockthenativevote.com/>

<http://www.nwnativeinfo.com/index.htm>

**Register to vote by Oct. 12!**  
[www.sos.state.or.us/elections/votreg/vreg.htm](http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/votreg/vreg.htm)