



Stutzman, 4 others receive Governor's Arts Awards

SALEM, Ore. – Gov. Kate Brown announced on Sept. 6 two artists and three organizations as winners of the 2017 Governor's Arts Awards.

Yoncalla artist Esther Stutzman and Portland artist Arvie Smith both won Lifetime Achievement Awards. Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts, Portland Opera and The James F and Marion L. Miller Foundation also will be honored.

The return of the awards after a 10-year hiatus coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Arts Commission.

"Not only do the arts enrich our quality of life and local economies, arts education is key in fostering a spirit of creativity and innovation in our youth," said Brown. "The awards are a great way to celebrate Oregon's artistic treasures and honor the impact they have had to our state."

Oregon's highest honor for exemplary service to the arts, the 2017 Governor's Arts Awards will be presented during a ceremony at 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 6, at the Portland Hilton Downtown. Admission to the ceremony, which precedes the 2017 Oregon Arts Summit, is free and open to the public but registration is required.

Award recipients were selected from a pool of 110 nominations received from across the state. The nominations were reviewed and scored by a diverse selection committee, which submitted its recommendations to Brown for final award decisions.

"So many deserving artists and organizations were nominated," said Arts Commission Executive Director Brian Rogers. "As a result, the review process was extremely competitive and we are extremely grateful to the members of the selection committee for their time and thoughtful consideration. Each of the award recipients has made outstanding contributions to the arts in Oregon and we are excited to honor them."

The 2017 Governor's Arts Awards award object will be designed and produced by artist Marie Watt.

Governor's Arts Award recipients

Esther Stutzman, Yoncalla: Lifetime Achievement

Esther Stutzman is a native Oregonian and traditional American Indian storyteller of Kalapuya/Coos heritage. She learned the stories from her grandmothers and she has been telling stories of the ancient ways for more than 50 years.

She is a descendant of the Headman Camafeema (Halo) of the Komemma/Kalapuya and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

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Photo by Andrea Taylor

Jessica Garcia (left) watches her daughter, Chelo, try out the new batting cages in Siletz that opened during the Wellness Carnival on Aug. 25. The Siletz Tribe helped fund the project through EPR (excess pledge revenue) funds. The batting cages are located near the Siletz Rec Center.

See more photos from the Wellness Carnival on page 14.

Get college credit along with your high school diploma

By Andrea Taylor

As the 2017/2018 school year resumes, I realized that reminding friends, family and students about higher education and all the options available through both the Tribe and your local school district would be most beneficial.

What I am talking about specifically is early college. College is the word that almost everyone dreads hearing and talking about, yet there are so many resources that make the transition easier.

I learned that the Lincoln County, Ore., schools and just about every school district in America offer what is commonly known as Early College Program. What is the Early College Program? This is when a high school student takes some form of college credit course while in high school. This offers students an advantage of getting the basic required classes for almost every degree out of the way before they even graduate high school.

Most high schools offer this, usually as an advanced placement (AP) class or as a dual credit (DC) class. However, there are other versions of the credit program depending on your school.

For the most part, AP/DC classes are available free or with a hefty discount of 50 percent or more off the price of each class through either your local school district or the college with which they closely work.

Siletz Valley Early College Academy (SVECA) works with Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) to offer youth dual credit classes during their junior and senior years, including homeschool students. The Early College Program includes one free college class per term, per academic year. If you're a Siletz student, SVECA picks up the cost of books. If the student wishes to take more than one class in a term, the class is offered at a 50 percent discount to the student and books are still covered.

I attended a field trip with the Siletz 11th- and 12th-grade classes to the college, picking up education information from the many activities set up and from Ben Kaufmann, Navigate Program manager at OCCC, who noted the "majority of our students finish their prerequisites and transfer to a university or another college where they can finish their degree."

Kaufmann explained that one of the school's priorities is making sure students have all they need to get to the next step, whatever the next step is for that individual.

A topic of interest was how people are under the impression that you won't get a quality education if you attend community college.

"That myth was started, most likely when people hear the words 'community college' and think because it's open that it must be bad. Also when they see that the price of a class is much lower, that must

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