

Deadline for minor's trust fund

By Julie Quaid
Education Support Services

In 1999 the Tribal Council passed Resolution 9738 to amend the requirements to receive the tribal minor's trust fund.

The minor's trust fund was established in March 1958 for the purpose of providing funds to assist in payment of continuing education costs for minor tribal members.

The 1999 amendment was made based on a decreasing number of members not completing high school and continuing higher education.

The amendment states that trust funds were not being utilized for education needs, but used to the detriment of the health, safety, welfare, and morals of minor tribal members. Finally, an increasing number of offenses committed by minor members result in damages to persons and/or property.

The amendment further states that those tribal members who have dropped out of school, and who have consistently a GPA below 2.00 shall not have trust funds disbursed to them until they reach the age of 21; or until completion of at least one term of post secondary education, with academic performance meeting the passing standards of the institution.

The Vital Statistics and Education Support Services departments work with the Tribal Court to administer the twice-yearly distribution of minor trust funds. The amendments took effect in 2000.

In addition to being between the ages of 18 and 21 years of age, minor must complete high school with a 2.00 GPA or better. Since the resolution was enacted, students who graduated from high school with a GPA below 2.00 have been approved to receive their trust fund. Members who completed a

GED have also been approved. For juveniles ordered by the Tribal Court to pay restitution and who have not, the amount will be attached and the balance distributed to the minor.

Positive impact of Council action

When the amendments took effect in 2000, 24 of 99 age-eligible tribal members completed a high school education. In 2005, the number increased to 72 graduates.

The majority of graduates completed their education at the Madras High School. The remainder attended BIA boarding schools or other public or tribal schools off the reservation.

There is a trend toward tribal members completing high school by attending a fifth year of high school or transferring to an alternative education program or completing in a GED program.

A complete historical data analysis will be conducted and made available in 2006.

Submit documentation of education completion

Tribal members who have completed a high school diploma or GED between July 2005 and January 2006 may submit a sealed, official transcript from the accredited education institution by Friday, Jan. 27 at 5 p.m.

If you graduated in June or have ready received a trust fund, you do not need to submit a transcript. In addition to providing documentation of completion, tribal members must meet the age requirement of 18 or older.

In addition to name and birth date, the official transcript must include the date of graduation/completion and a grade point average or GED score. The institution must be accredited and recognized by a national association of secondary and higher schools. Questionable

documents will result in a check of the institution's accreditation.

Please request that the institution seal and mail the official transcript to the following address:

Julie Quaid, Director
Education Support Services
P.O. Box C
Warm Springs, Or 97761

The final approved winter trust fund list will be forwarded to the Vital Statistics department on January 31.

The Tribal Court will review the confidential list to determine if juvenile restitution is ordered. Then Vital Statistics will prepare for the transfer of funds to individuals.

If you have questions about the official age requirement, distribution schedule, or have an address change, please contact the Vital Statistics department at 553-3252.

If you have questions about the transcript, please call Education Support Services at 553-3438. Please contact the Tribal Court regarding uncollected juvenile orders at 553-3454.

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Youth art exhibit opens Jan. 26

The Thirteenth Annual Warm Springs Tribal Youth Art Exhibit is set for Jan. 26-March 26.

The theme of this year's exhibit is, "Discovery Through Art."

The opening reception for the exhibit will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26.

For more information call Natalie Kirk at the museum, 553-3331, ext. 412.

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