

Harvest event benefits museum

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

The 11th Annual Huckleberry Harvest proved to be a success at the Museum at Warm Springs.

The two-day fundraising event featured a silent auction and dinner held at the museum and a live auction and dinner the next day at Kah Nee Ta High Desert Resort.

Coralee Popp, the director of the Art Adventure Gallery in Madras, donated several of her own pieces for the auction.

Local artist Lillian Pitt sold several pieces of her work, including an eagle mask made using a Japanese method of firing.

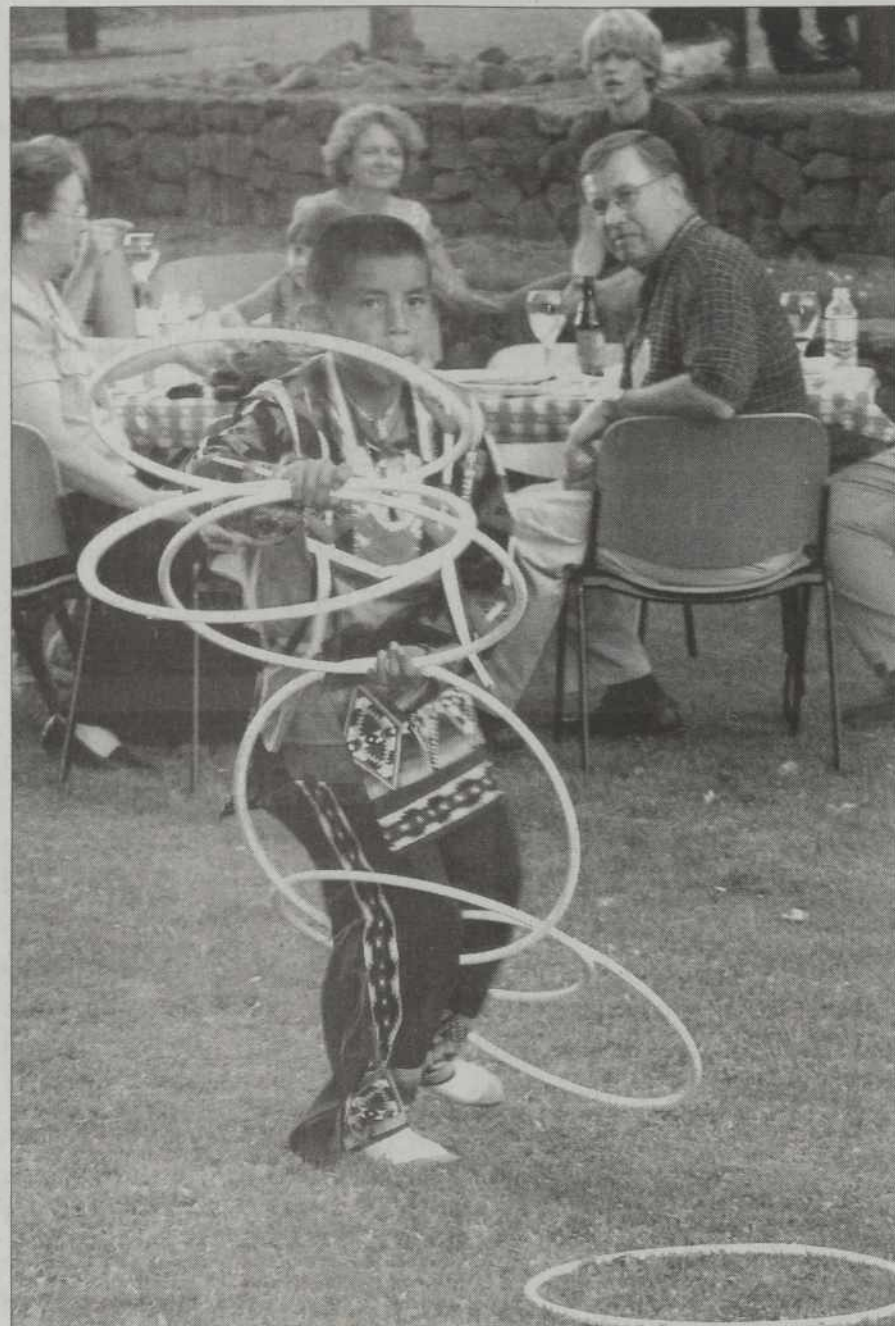
Pitt explained the importance of the eagle to tribal culture to the crowd, and spoke of the inspiration for her artwork.

Carol Leone, director of the museum, expressed the appreciation of the museum to the audience of community members who donate to the organization.

This year attendees were treated to an after-dinner dancing demonstration by the 4-H dancing group, a fashion show, horseshoe competitions and roping demonstrations.

Adeline Miller, a longtime friend of the museum, provided the drumming and singing for the dancers and said the group has come a long way since its beginning.

"They do a good job of it,"



Trent Heath demonstrates the hoop dance.

she said. "I'm kind of lucky to be hanging in there with them."

According to Miller, "They're getting better each time."

The fundraiser is an annual event and the main source of fundraising for the museum.

The Museum at Warm Springs, a non-profit, education organization, also holds an annual

golf tournament and chili cook-off in addition to accepting donations and support from sponsors.

Next the museum will follow up its prior exhibit, entitled "Toi Maori: The Eternal Thread" with the 13th annual tribal member art exhibit, "Creations," which will open September 28.

Tribal elders not expected to be adversely impacted by new Medicaid ID requirement

By Leslie Mitts
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Oregonians applying for or renewing their Medicaid benefits will be asked to provide evidence of citizenship as of September 1, according to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

The new requirement could potentially create problems for tribal members lacking proper documentation.

However, Ann Snyder with the Oregon Department of Human Services said, "They should have tribal membership forms, and in most cases those will suffice."

The requirement is part of a new federal law, the Deficit Reduction Act, passed in early 2006.

The law requires Medicaid recipients to show proof of citizenship by providing a document from a specific list—the list includes proof in the form of a birth certificate,

American Indian Card, final adoption decree, U.S. military card and other documents.

Proof of identity must also be provided in the form of a driver's license, government ID card, certificate of Indian blood, or another item from the list of acceptable documents.

Originally many believed this would be a problem for tribal members, many of whom lack official birth certificates.

The ODHS, however, will assist those lacking the necessary documentation in order to ensure that those in need of Medicaid may receive it.

"Both Governor Kulongoski and federal officials have made it clear that no one who is eligible for Medicaid should be denied services unnecessarily," said Bruce Goldberg, ODHS director, in a press release from the department.

"So we will balance full compliance with this new federal law

with assistance to persons who cannot readily comply... because they face legitimate barriers."

The national law went into effect on July 1, but Oregon officials delayed the implementation in order to update rules, train staff and prepare mailings to alert those receiving Medicaid.

In Oregon, approximately 500,000 people receive Medicaid benefits. The ODHS estimates that as many as 3,000 people will need state assistance in obtaining proper documentation.

The Deficit Reduction Act aims to curb the amount of illegal immigrants receiving Medicaid and other benefits in the U.S.

For more information, and for a complete list of acceptable documents, visit www.oregon.gov/dhs/index.shtml.

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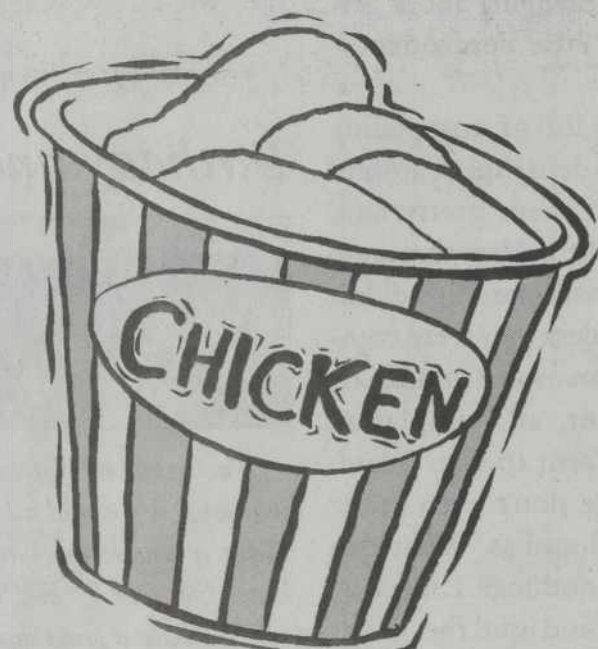
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