

Kah-Nee-Ta stables employ 15 youth workers

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

For Whitley Ruiz, working at Ikiutan Stables this summer provides an opportunity to enjoy something she already knows plenty about: working with horses.

Ruiz, a recent graduate of Madras High School, is one of several youth working at the stables this summer.

"It's exciting," she said of the job. "It's fun."

Ruiz, 18, works as a guide along with Atcity Begay, 17, and various other local youth.

She and Begay both have extensive experience with horses that they bring to the job.

"I've been around horses my whole life," Begay said.

Both of them described the same aspect as their favorite part of the job: meeting new people and interacting with customers from a variety of locations.

Chris Buller, president of Sanctuary and Faith Trails, is overseeing the management of the stables this summer in conjunction with Kah-Nee-Ta.

Because they work in conjunction with Kah-Nee-Ta, Buller said, they are able to employ local youth through the WED Program and Higher Education.

"We can actually employ a lot more kids than if we were just a business," Buller explained.

This summer 15 local youth are employed at the stables. The total includes less experienced youth employed as hands, those employed as guides, and even students in college working as managers who help with the administrative and financial as-



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Whitley Ruiz is one of several youth working at the Kah-Nee-Ta stable this summer.

pect of the business.

In order to work as a guide, Buller said, the youth have to meet several requirements.

"There's a certain level of maturity you have to have to do that too," he added.

In addition to working on their skills with horses, he said, the youth have gotten a chance to interact with all different types of people.

"Every one of my guides and even the hands and staff out here have gotten incredibly good at advocating for their

So far this summer they have led over 1,000 rides.

people," Buller said.

They've had plenty of opportunities to improve upon their people skills in addition to many other skills this summer—so far Buller said they have led over 1,000 rides.

Buller added that working with youth is part of their suc-

cess.

"We've been lucky that we've just had phenomenal young people to work with," he said.

Though some of the youth workers already know a lot about working with horses, Buller said, others have to be taught certain aspects.

"It's a blend," he explained. "Even the ones that know a lot will know a lot in a certain area."

Because of that, Buller said, the youth often teach each other—for instance, he said, they've explored different op-

tions for starting horses that they might not have known before.

Buller said they are also striving to use the stable to interact more with the local community.

They've hosted several barbecues this summer, and offered free horseback rides to veterans on veteran's day. Often local people will stop by to visit as well, Buller said.

Several changes are notable at the stables since Sanctuary and Faith Trails began working in conjunction with Kah-Nee-Ta: for example, they now offer the opportunity for tourists to lease a pen and bring their own horse onto the reservation. People can then hire a guide and ride their own horse in the area.

Recently, Buller said, they began offering a horse sale in May while working with college students or high school seniors to start horses.

The student then keeps a portion of the proceeds for spending money while pursuing higher education—an opportunity that doesn't come often, Buller said, when many scholarships apply only to tuition and other related expenses.

Many of their horses are horses that have been saved from slaughter or been donated, and guides working with the stables can even bring their own horses to work with throughout the summer, Buller added.

The stables offer one-hour rides, two-hour rides, half-day rides and full-day rides.

Buller said they plan to remain open throughout the year, especially by appointment.

For more information, call 541) 553-1112 ext. 3375.

Deadline approaching for tribal art show

The deadline for submission to the Tribal Member Art Exhibit at the Museum at Warm Springs is Friday, Sept. 21. The exhibit will run from Oct. 4 through Jan. 6.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Applicants may submit up to five items along with application before the deadline. All entries must be no more than five years old and have not been exhibited in any other exhibits at the Museum at Warm Springs.

Submitted works must remain on display through the entire duration of the exhibit dates. Applications are now available at the museum. Contact Natalie Moody at the museum, 553-3331, ext. 412.

Hoops tourney Oct. 26-28

There will be a 30 and over basketball tournament on Oct. 26-28. First place winners in the men's and women's competition receive eight leather sleeve jackets. Second place, eight hooded sweatshirts. Third, eight sweatshirts. There will be one MVP and 10 all-stars, men's and women's. Contact the Tulalip Recreation Department for information, (360) 651-4389. Checks payable to Tulalip Tribes, Recreation Department, 6700 Totem Beach Rd., Tulalip, WA 98271. Entry fee is \$300.

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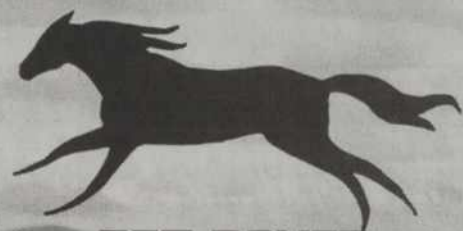
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While learning family management skills, you can earn money by completing individual assessments, family inter-

vention and working with a family therapist.

For more information contact Alison Ball, Child and Family Center, (541) 346-4088; or at aball@uoregon.edu.

Or contact the Shadow Project staff at the Warm Springs Community Counseling Center, 553-4918.