

Photographer wins Image Award

Just five years ago, after noticing that some of the things that he saw on a daily basis around him would make perfect photographs, Levi Blackwolf got his first camera.

Levi is the son of Katie Blackwolf and John Bevis. He is the father of Katrina, who attends school in Toppenish.

"One time I went to the Gathering of Nations Powwow," Levi recalls. "There were a few calendars in circulation then, and I told myself, 'Hey, I think I can do something like that!'"

A friend of Levi's, who is featured in his calendar, urged him to go forward with his dream.

"She was an inspiration in my life," he said. "Just like my daughter is, and my mom. My



Blackwolf receives Outstanding Calendar of the Year Award.

whole family, my dearest friends, they all drove me forward."

Starting from scratch, Levi got to work on his dream, a calendar of beauty and art.

"It took about a year and a half to complete," Levi said. He called it *Wolf'n Photographies presents Powwow Model Calendar*.

The images Blackwolf captures in his calendar catch the breath. Each month features a Native American model.

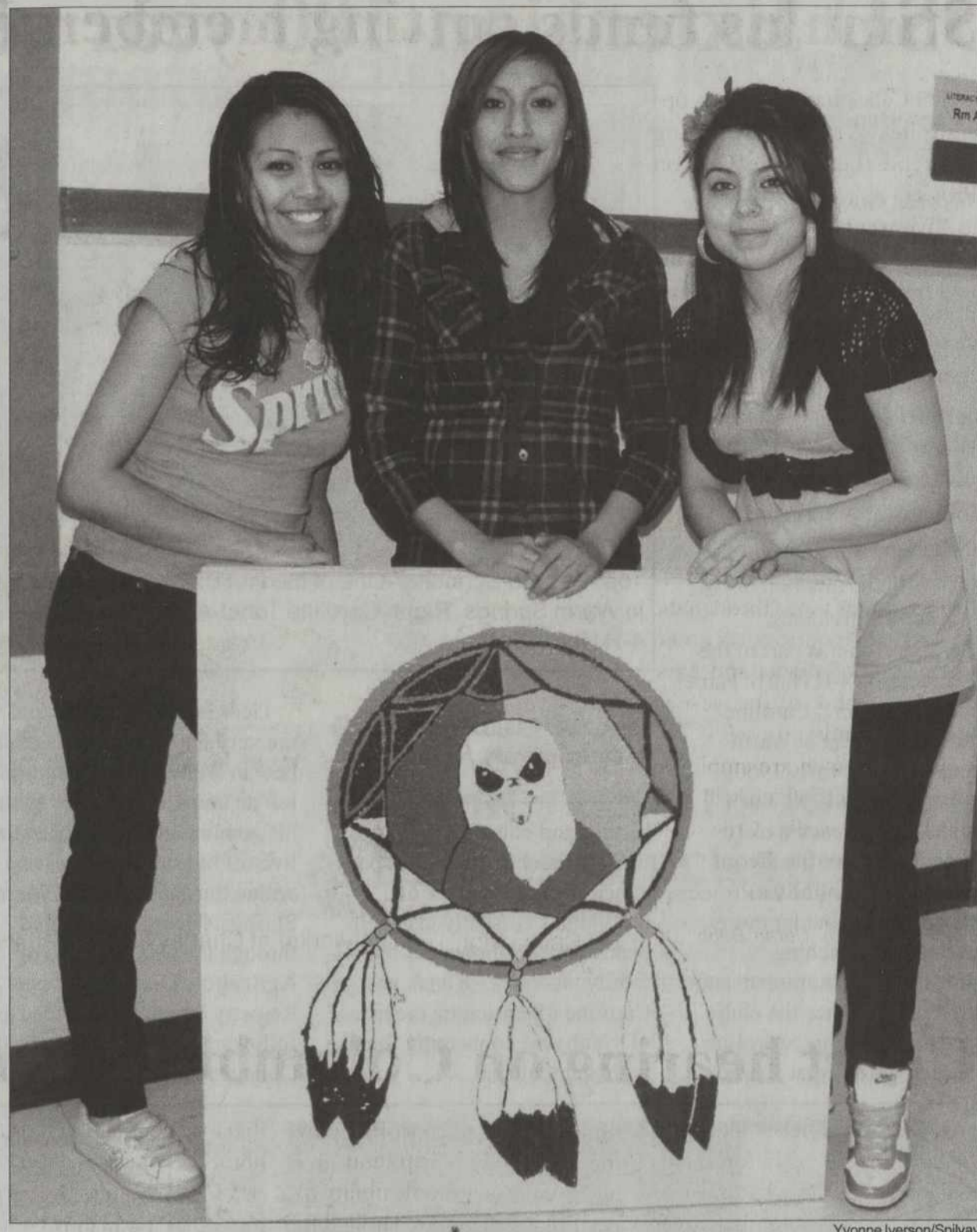
Roxanne Gomez, May, is dressed contemporarily, in an elegant pose, black and white. August shows Willow Rose Jack in a jingle dress, regal and alive.

Levi was nominated for, and won, the North American Indigenous Image Awards "Outstanding Calendar of the Year" award.

At the awards, Levi sat with Native actors, hip hop artists, movie producers, editors. He walked the red carpet.

It just goes to show, Levi said, "a dream is only a dream until you put actions towards it... then it becomes reality."

— by Duran Bobb



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

You may have noticed the artwork of the Advanced Art Class of Madras HS (pictured above: Jessica Valasquez, Jessica Garcia, Yolanda Santellano) throughout the community. Phil Smith, Instructor and his Class painted the panels provided by the WS Sanitation & Landfill Dept. Panels were assembled and trash can holders are now placed in various locations.

Prom king naming came as surprise

Justin Queahpama-Mehlberg was nominated by the Madras High School teachers, and then chosen by his peers, to be the 2011 high school prom king.

It was a pretty big surprise, said Queahpama-Mehlberg, who is graduating with his class on Saturday, June 4.

Justin said he found that keeping up with school work is the key to making it to graduation. If you get behind in classes, it is very difficult



Prom King Justin Queahpama-Mehlberg and Queen Brianna Pineda.

to get caught up.

Queahpama-Mehlberg and his teammates just finished the golf season. During high school, he also played basketball, and ran cross-country.

His parents are Shauna Queahpama and Jim Mehlberg. Justin lived in Warm Springs until this school year, when he moved to Madras.

— by Dave McMechan

Veterans: interviews will identify barriers

(Continued from page 1)

Sixteen veterans also attended the meeting, held last month, and they expressed their support for the research project, said Greeley.

The organizations conducting the research are the VA Rural Health Resource Center—Western Region Na-

tive Domain; and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health (CAIANH).

As stated in the resolution presented by Greeley and passed by Tribal Council, the VA and the CAIANH will focus on key players—veterans, veterans

family members and community members who work with veterans.

Confidential interviews with these key players should help identify the barriers to Native veterans' use of the VA services. This will then give some idea as to solutions.

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Our New Teacher Induction Program is one of the best in Central Oregon.

It offers new educators a chance to learn about our teaching methods, school policies and culture and introduces them to the most current research-based instructional strategies we have been putting in place to improve student achievement. Each new teacher is also assigned a mentor teacher who partners with them to provide support during their orientation with us.

The program doesn't stop with orientation. The new teachers participate in monthly training sessions to expand their skills even further throughout the year. In addition to offering teaching strategies, the sessions focus on understanding diversity, engaging students, providing positive teaching environments, classroom technology, problem-solving and more.

"Our program for new teachers really strengthens our team so we can do more for students," said Melinda Boyle, director of Curriculum and Instruction for Jefferson County School District. "We offer high quality academic training, but there is also an important focus on the learning environment we're creating for all students," she added.

For more information about the program for new teachers or the district in general, contact Melinda Boyle at (541)475-6192.

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Warm Springs Grant Update

We recently learned that Warm Springs Elementary was not selected by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to receive a School Improvement Grant (SIG). Their decision was based on the fact that our district has already adopted several of the school improvement efforts they are looking to fund with the grant.

"ODE believes that we are already moving in the right direction and they wanted to focus on other areas with greater need," said Rick Molitor, superintendent for JCSd. "What we need to do now is create a stronger collaboration among ALL of our schools with a focus on what we know works."

For more information, contact Rick Molitor at (541)475-6192.

509-J
Jefferson County School District

Calendar

May

- 5/19 Multi-cultural Event at Buff Int. 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- 5/23 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.- Support Services Bldg.
- 5/30 No School; Memorial Day