

Family History Inquiries To Be Sent To Enrollment Department

By Leslie Riggs

As the former Cultural Education Specialist for the Tribe I have been asked to put together a piece discussing one of the items I dealt with on a regular basis during my tenure in that position. This item is cultural requests. The Cultural Resources Division receives many of these requests from Tribal members, non-Tribal community members and the general public. It was my honor to serve in this capacity, but the position did not come without problems, issues and concerns.

One of the problems is that there are far too many requests for one person to deal with individually. Therefore I must thank the rest of the Cultural Resources Division who pitch in and help out on these requests (a lot)! It is fitting that they do so, as some requests deal directly with other parts of the division besides Cultural Education. For instance, some issues are more of a concern for Cultural Collections, Language and Site Protection. It seems right to allow the correct



Primary Chinuk Wawa Teacher & Tribal member Leslie Riggs

area of the division handle issues relevant to that area of focus.

One issue that concerns the department is that many of the requests are for personal information, such as family trees, or genealogical information. A problem, or concern,

with this issue is that we have been directed to not give out any information as pertains to enrollment. There is an Enrollment Department for this purpose. Another issue involved is that the database for family information is faulty, rendering some of

the family information potentially inaccurate. For that reason, it is the consensus of the Cultural Resources Division to postpone any family tree or family history information until we have a chance to correct the information and improve the reliability of our database. We are also going to cease giving this type of information to non Tribal members. Not that this has been a practice in the past, but there will now be a directive against it. At this time, the Cultural Resources Division will send any inquiries regarding family histories to Enrollment until we are satisfied we can dispense accurate information.

Because all of these changes take time, we ask that our membership be patient until all of this can be set right. We have only the best interests of the Tribe in mind and want only what is best for our people.

hayu masi (many thanks) for your understanding.

Leslie Riggs, Primary Chinuk Wawa Teacher, 503-879-2249, leslie.riggs@grandronde.org ■

Not Playing The Blues

■ Tribal member Olivia Larkin will tickle the ivories in Reno.

By Ron Karten

Tribal member Olivia Kathryn Larkin, 7, is headed for the big time. On March 2 and 3 this year, Larkin will join others among the area's great young musicians for a turn at the Reno Music Festival.

She will play "Shepherd's Lullaby," by Denes Agay, and "The Bear," by Vladimir Rebikov. In January, she already was prepared, she said, in part because she is something of a natural with the instrument, and in part because of a rigorous practice schedule that ties her to the piano every day for five to 10 minutes.

"It depends on how I'm feeling, pretty much," she said in a telephone interview.

"Her teacher," said Olivia's mom, Tribal

member Kelly Larkin, "has a lot of trophies in her office. My daughter is dying to get one of those. 'I might get a trophy,' was her big thing."

But Kelly admitted that she does not even know for sure if they hand out trophies at this event.

Her teacher takes a few students each year. "Probably five

or six this year," said Kelly. "It's exciting because our daughter's so young."

The family lives in Carson City, Nevada, only 25-30 minutes away from the concert hall at the University of Nevada/Reno.

"She plays Beethoven, 'Für Elise,' which is pretty advanced for her

On this recent test, the teacher showed Olivia a line of music and Olivia wrote what key it was written in.

"She wrote down B-minor," said Kelly. "Then she was asked what dynamic or volume level it was written in. She wrote 'BC,'" said Kelly, "but I really don't remember



Tribal youth Olivia Larkin

age," said Kelly. "The end is quite long and it gets fast and intense at the end, and she can't do it all, but she plays the rest perfectly. Which is pretty good for her age."

In her four years on the piano, Olivia also has tested on music theory for her level. "They have to learn a lot of Italian words," said Kelly. "She did the test last night. It's another whole language."

what that means. It's hard because she knows more than I do."

In music theory, Olivia is learning how to transpose melodies from one key to another. She has learned the four major historical periods of music from baroque to modern. She has learned the famous pianists of those eras. Chopin from Romantic. Bach from Baroque. Mozart is classical. Bartok is modern.

"Music has been very good for her," said Kelly. Her other interests include gymnastics and horseback riding. She is at the top of her class in reading. And also is top among girls in her class in math.

"It is really exciting because her music helped her with the math."

Kelly, who is earning her teaching degree, volunteers in Olivia's class.

"Wheel of Fortune is her favorite television show because

that's what her grandparents watch when they come over." They are Tribal Elder Patsy Pullin and husband, Denver. And another small fact about Olivia: she was named after her great grandmother, Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison, because "Kathryn's done so much for the Tribe and I wanted to recognize that," said Kelly.

"I also like to play ball with my dad, (Greg Larkin, who owns a glazing business in town)," said Olivia, "baseball and soccer, just for fun down the

hall, and I like to hang out with my girlfriend."

Although the upcoming event is the first festival Olivia has played, she is no novice. In four years of practicing, she said, "I performed in a lot of recitals."

Sometimes, she gets nervous. To overcome the nervousness, she said, "I just play and walk away."

"And take a bow," she added. ■