

Tribal member explains powwows in April issue of Highlights

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Children across the United States will learn about powwows in April thanks to children's magazine Highlights and Grand Ronde Tribal member Charlene R. Willing McManis.

McManis, 54, who lives in Worcester, Vt., wrote "Heartbeat of Mother Earth," which appears on pages 10 and 11 of Highlights.

The article starts, "When I was growing up on the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation in Oregon in the 1950s, there were no powwows — only a potluck at the Tribal Community Center. Old men, dressed in black pants and white long-sleeved shirts, sat around the cafeteria tables. Their large hands pounded the tabletops in unison as their voices sang in Chinook. A few elderly women rose from their folding chairs. They danced, holding their lacy sweaters like shawls. Their feet stepped to each beat of the makeshift drum. My cousins and I hopped excitedly, as if the floor was on fire. And the grandparents smiled."

From there, McManis' article explains the history of powwows, dancing, regalia, the powwow trail and food traditionally served at powwows.

McManis said it was interesting "that I was able to answer any questions regarding my piece and that the questions gave me an insight to views outside Native perspective. I really appreciated the help."

McManis said she was most satisfied to explain that powwow re-

galia should not be called costumes. "We're not dressing up and playing Indian," she said.

"Indians call their clothing regalia, not costumes," the article says. "Costumes mean pretending. Indians are not pretending to be Indians."

Now in its 62nd year, Highlights is edited for children up to 12 years old. It is sent to about 2 million homes, schools, libraries and professional offices, and has the largest circulation of any children's magazine in the country.

McManis is a career homemaker and a theater consultant for middle schools and high schools. She is currently working toward a degree in Native American education and is on the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs.

She served eight years in the Navy, where she met her husband, a Vermonter. After he retired from the Navy, they moved to Vermont, where she has organized children's programs including gymnastics, musical activities, summer camps, hot lunches and theater.

"Heartbeat of Mother Earth" is her first published article. She is a



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member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

In her spare time, McManis enjoys exploring Native American subjects, issues and culture. She also enjoys writing and creating beadwork, sewing projects and needlecrafts.

She has one grown daughter, four grown stepchildren and four grandchildren.

"It was a dream to publish an article in Highlights, and I am very honored that my writing piece was chosen," she said.

McManis was born in Grand Ronde in 1953, but left in 1957 when her father, Charles "Sid"

Willing, moved to Los Angeles as part of the relocation program following Termination. Her grandmother was Maud Petite.

She has revisited Grand Ronde twice since then.

McManis closed the article with, "Powwows have also come to Grand Ronde. Their first one was in the late 1970s, after my family moved away. It grew from a small gathering and now has more than 15,000 people. Some day I plan to go. I doubt I'll see men pounding tables or women using sweaters as shawls. But I bet I'll see children hopping to the drums — and grandparents smiling." ■

Wildlife Center dedication



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Above, Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom speaks during the dedication ceremony for the new Wildlife Center at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, March 29. Below, baskets woven by Tribal member Connie Graves are part of the exhibit in the new Wildlife Center at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.



Tribal history class

Tribal Cultural Protection Coordinator Eirik Thorsgard will teach a Tribal history class from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in the Education Building, Room 126. For more information, call Cultural Education Specialist Misty Thorsgard at 800-422-0232, ext. 2320. ■

Bear Hunters: Skull check-in is now mandatory!



Under new regulations that took effect January 1, 2008, all successful bear hunters are now required to check in their bear skull at an ODFW office within 10 days of harvest. (The check-in of non-hunting mortalities such as bears taken on landowner damage complaints is also required.)

Previously, check-in was voluntary, but participation rates were too low to get accurate data about Oregon bear populations.

Hunters need to take their bear's skull to any ODFW office during normal business hours Monday – Friday (please call first to ensure someone is available to help you). A biologist will pull a premolar tooth, measure other teeth, and seal the skull. This process will not affect taxidermy plans. **The bear skull must be thawed prior to bringing it in to enable measurements and pulling the premolar.**

Accurate information is critical to establishing hunting seasons and managing bears in Oregon. Thank you for your assistance!



More information
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/>
tel. 503-947-6300



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE