

Letters

Dear Smoke Signals:

I would like to begin by saying, as an Elder, my life has not been an easy road, nor was the road any easier for those before me.

The stigma of being an "Indian" set me aside from other individuals and did not offer me the same privileges. But yet, I strove forward to make a better life for myself and my family against those odds.

So to get to my point. I take great offense to read or hear people referring to my benefits as "free." I have earned and paid for those benefits many times over. They are not being freely given as "handouts," but are received as an entitlement for all of our past trials and tribulations.

Out of respect for our Elders, past and present, please refrain from using the term "free."

Nadine Mercier McNutt

Roll #49

Udall scholarships

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011 Udall Scholarships. Interested students should talk to a faculty representative to nominate them. Scholarships are offered in any of three categories:

- To students who have demonstrated commitment to careers related to the environment; or
- To Native American and Alaska Native students who have demonstrated commitment to careers related to Tribal public policy; or
- To Native American and Alaska Native students who have demonstrated commitment to careers related to Native health care.

Nomination deadline is Feb. 25, 2011. Application deadline is March 2, 2011. Please visit www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/MKUScholarship/MKUScholarship.aspx for complete program information. ■

Win big prizes for helping wildlife

Help collect biological samples from deer and elk and your name will be entered into a drawing for six gift cards.

3 prizes for deer: \$125 gift card to Cabela's
3 prizes for elk: \$125 gift card to Cabela's

Why: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Natural Resources Division, in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and USDA Veterinary Services, is collecting biological samples from deer and elk to learn more about diseases that may be affecting our deer and elk herds. The Tribe will test for a variety of diseases primary among these are the following:

Chronic Wasting Disease has not been detected in Oregon. We want to catch this disease early if it shows up in Oregon as it can have devastating effects on deer and elk populations.

Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease has been detected throughout Oregon. Samples will help determine where adenovirus is found in Oregon.

How to participate:

- Allow the Tribe's biologists to collect samples of brain stems, lymph nodes and tooth samples from elk and samples of blood, brain stems, lymph nodes, muscle tissue and tooth samples from deer.
- All samples must be collected within 48 hours of death, 24 hours preferred.
- Bring hunter-harvested animals to the Tribe's Natural Resources office at 47010 S.W. Hebo Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m. **After hours or on the weekend call 503-560-4426.**
- If you are unable to bring an animal in we may be able to come to you to collect samples. Please contact the Tribe's biologists for more information.
- Hunters will need to provide the general location (within a mile) of where the animal was killed (to be used in the event that a disease is found).
- Your name will be entered in the drawing for each useable sample we are able to collect, up to three entries for each deer and up to two for each elk.
- Fresh road-kills can be reported to the Tribe's biologists so we can pick them up for sampling. Your name would then be entered for any useable samples we collect from the road kill.
- Tribal and nonTribal community members are eligible to participate.
- Animals must be harvested legally.

Drawing will be held at the April 2011 Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting at the Natural Resources office. Prizes are sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Fish and Wildlife Committee.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee and Natural Resources Division thank you for your help in gathering information to help us maintain our deer and elk populations. Happy hunting!

For more information: Natural Resources Division, 47010 S.W. Hebo Road, Grand Ronde, Rebecca McCoun at 503-879-2396, Lindsay Belonga at 503-879-2387 or Kelly Dirksen at 503-879-2382. ■

Bazaar happenings



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members DeAnn Dickinson and her daughter, Daysia Duran, 5, look through some jewelry for sale at the Elder's Christmas Bazaar in the Tribal gymnasium on Friday, Dec. 10. The annual event also was held on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Online degree programs

Turn your college credits or associate degree into a more powerful four-year degree from Portland State University.

Attend fully online classes taught by Portland State faculty.

Undergraduate degrees offered: BA/BS in Social Science, BA/BS in Arts & Letters and BA/BS in Liberal Studies.

Option: Earn an Early Childhood Education certificate as part of this bachelor's degree. It is an 18-credit program culminating in a certificate of completion. Pay Oregon in-state tuition (no matter where you live).

For more information, call 503-725-4822 or 1-800-547-8887, ext. 4822. E-mail: online@pdx.edu. ■

Free online learning source

The information includes:

Everyday life

Math and money

Computer training

Online classes

Work and career information

Check it out at www.gcflearnfree.org ■

Oregon launches toll-free Adult Learner Resource Line

The state of Oregon has launched a toll-free Adult Learner Resource Line (1-877-84U-4NOW or 1-877-848-4669) and Web site (www.OregonOpportunities.gov) for Oregonians interested in returning to college, or enrolling for the first time.

Funded through a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Adult Learner Line is specifically for Oregonians ages 25 and older who are interested in going to college, but need some help and direction on how to enroll, seek financial aid and generally navigate the process.

The Adult Learner Line and Web site are just one component of the College Access Challenge Grant Program funded last year through the federal government, which is directed at increasing awareness of and access to post-secondary education in Oregon.

The Adult Learner Line and Web site are supplemented by other Oregon-based resources, such as OSAC's financial aid Web site, www.GetCollegeFunds.org, which helps Oregonians understand the types of aid available to them, deadlines for applying and other college-related information. ■