

## Tribal youth crowned Junior Miss Oregon Queen

Tribal youth Ayana Buxton, an 8-year-old third-grader at St. John's Lutheran Church in McMinnville, was crowned Junior Miss Oregon Queen 2011-12 by Dream Girls USA on July 11.

Ayana will represent Oregon in the 2012 National Dream Girls USA pageant to be held in June in St. Louis, Mo. She also will be featured in the 2012 American Dream Model magazine.

Ayana performs community service at Osprey Memory Care in McMinnville and helps raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, works with Pennies for Presents and is involved in the Kit Kat Recycling Club at her school.

She is the daughter of Tribal member Robert Buxton and granddaughter of Duane and Tribal member Jeanna Buxton.

"The Dream Girls motto is 'Don't Just Dream It, Do It!'" says Jeanna. "This is not a glitz pageant. They seek real girls with big goals. Show your personality plus! Keep it real and be yourself! This can be the key to your success. A contestant is judged on real beauty. Nothing fake is allowed. We, her family, are so proud of her and wish her the best." ■



Ayana Buxton

## Recycle Center moved

The Recycle Center has been moved temporarily to 9675 Grand Ronde Road. For more information, contact Tribal Facilities Manager Michael J. Larsen at 503-879-2407. ■

## Plankhouse celebration set

The Tribe will celebrate the one-year anniversary of the opening of Achaf-Hammi — the Tribal Plankhouse — from 1 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, in the Plankhouse near the Tribal Powwow Grounds off Hebo Road.

There will be a dinner followed by a giveaway, and a full day of sharing, visiting and celebrating the Grand Ronde community.

All are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Tribal member Bobby Mercier at 503-879-2076. ■

## Fischer started working for the school in the dorms as a matron

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forged her way through and made it. She's a real dedicated employee and we really appreciate what she does for the school."

However, Fischer says she has not "really done much since I retired. That's why I wanted to go back to Chemawa. I was involved with the kids. I liked being there."

Fischer started working for the school in the dorms as a matron, she said.

"I went back to college and got a degree in Special Education in 1990, and then worked in the Special Ed Department," she said.

Being somebody who knows the school, the staff and students as she does, Fischer seems a perfect fit for the position. Still, she said that when she was selected, "I was very surprised (to get position)."

Tribal Council supported Fischer's efforts with a letter to the school, a requirement of the appli-

cation process.

Fischer said she appreciated the support.

"I did go in and thank the council," she said. "They get all the complaints, but never get compliments for what they do; or very rarely. I thought that would be very nice to let them know that I appreciated it."

"We know that she will represent us well as she has a deep passion and commitment for the children of Chemawa," said Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom.

In addition to the business of budgets, the board this year also will be working with a new Parent Committee, a five-member board that will advocate for the students, Fischer said.

"When Ellen was there," said Claymore, "she always was a woman with integrity and always very professional. I'm looking forward to working with her as a school board member."

Fischer has lived in Grand Ronde for the last 25 years. ■

## Disaster practice



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Melinda Rial is tended to by Spirit Mountain Casino Security Officers and First Responders Julie Boswell and Jeff Hanes during a Fire Brigade/Security Mass Casualty Incident drill at the casino on Tuesday, Oct. 11. The drill's scenario involved a pickup crashing into the Playworld building, rupturing a natural gas pipe, releasing gas and causing an explosion in the kitchen area of the building. Rial was a volunteer who played an injured passenger in the pickup and other volunteers had injuries of varying degrees from the kitchen explosion. Also, REACH, an air ambulance helicopter based in Corvallis, flew in to take part in the drill and teach the fire brigade members and first responders about their services.

## Writing competition seeks Native entrants

The 2011 Native Women & Youth in Ag Annual Writing Competition, sponsored by the Department Agriculture and Intertribal Agriculture Council, is seeking essays from Native youths on "What Should Indian Agriculture Look Like 25 Years From Now?"

The competition is open to Native youth in ninth through 12 grades in the fall of 2011, as well as high school graduates between May and August of this year. Entrants must be members of a federally recognized Tribe.

Essays can be three to six pages in length, include three to five sentences about the author, be typed with one-inch margins and double-spaced, have 12-point font and three to five sources.

They will be judged on creativity, quality of sources and grammar, spelling and punctuation, organization of information, length and documentation of sources.

Entries must be accompanied by a separate sheet containing the student's name, address, phone number, e-mail, school and Tribal affiliation.

Three finalists will be announced in November and provided with a paid trip, including one chaperone, to the 2011 Intertribal Agricultural Council annual meeting to be held in Las Vegas, Nev., Dec. 5-9. Finalists will receive other special prizes and be required to read their essay at the awards luncheon.

Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 4 or e-mailed to Native Women & Youth in Ag, c/o Vicki Hebb, Executive Director, P.O. Box 217, Cherry Creek, S.D. 57622, or Vicki.hebb@indianaglink.com, RE: NWWYA essay contest. ■

## CULTURAL GATHERINGS

- NOV. 5: **YONCALLA POWWOW AND CULTURAL GATHERING.** Yoncalla High School, 292 5th St. **YONCALLA, OR.**
- NOV. 19: **RESTORATION CELEBRATION POWWOW.** Chinook Winds Casino Event Center, 1777 N.W. 44th St. **LINCOLN CITY, OR.** 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1230.
- NOV. 22: **28th CTGR RESTORATION CELEBRATION.** Former Grand Ronde Middle School. **GRAND RONDE, OR.** 503-879-1418.
- DEC. 3: **LCC POWWOW.** Lane Community College Gym (Bldg. 5), 4000 E. 30th Ave. **EUGENE, OR.**

If you or anyone you know has information on cultural events happening, Smoke Signals would be glad to list it in our Cultural Gatherings. Please e-mail news@grandronde.org or write to Smoke Signals, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.