

Lots coming for summer and beyond for youth

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

New Youth Education Manager Tim Barry has a big summer planned for Native and community youth.

Hired in May after more than 10 years managing the Monmouth/Independence YMCA, Barry says that much of his summer will be "learning about Grand Ronde, the existing Youth Ed programs and getting my feet wet in the community."

He is filled with ideas for the years ahead, with a special focus on wellness issues, but he wants community input to be sure he is on the right track.

The Monmouth/Independence YMCA Web site (www.miyymca.net), however, is a window into many of the programs he has already built and successfully sustained in recent years. Among them are pee-wee sports for 4 to 6 year olds, cheerleading, karate, gymnastics, T-ball, track and field, and tennis for starters.

He says he's "a big promotion guy," so the community will be hearing about existing programs in *Smoke Signals*, but also on Facebook



Tim Barry

(Grand Ronde Youth Ed), on the Tribal Reader Board, by e-mail and direct mail and also through fliers that staff will hand out to every child who might want to participate, and every parent whose child might want to participate.

Also coming soon will be an update of Youth Ed programs on the Grand Ronde Tribal Web site at www.grandronde.org.

At the same time, he said, the programs already in place are as popular as he could hope for, with the K-5 Summer Day Camp program already filled and building a waiting list.

Among the programs already set for summer:

- Golf Camp (Grades 6-12);
- Volleyball Camp (Grades 6-12);
- Nike Camp (Grades 6-12);
- Basketball Camp (Grades 6-12);
- Art Camp (Grades 6-12);

- Geology Camp (Grades 6-8);
- Middle School Boys Night-Out Camp (Grades 6-8);
- High School Boys Night-Out Camp (Grades 9-12);
- Middle/High School Girls Lock-in Night (Grades 6-12);
- Media Camp (Grades 6-12);
- High School Boys Night-Out Camp (Grades 9-12);
- Culinary Camp (Grades 6-12);
- (School) Credit Recovery Program (Grades 9-12);
- Student Youth Employment (Grades 9-12);
- Tribal Canoe Journey;
- And Chinuk Family Retreat.

All are first-come, first-served, and the Nike and Culinary camps also have a competitive application process through which Youth Ed staff will select participants.

Contact Youth Ed in person or call with questions at 503-879-2101, but the sooner the better. Classes not already filled are doing so quickly.

"I want to emphasize," said Barry, "we have great staff and great programs, so when parents sign their children up, they need to make a commitment for the entire

program. There's a lot of planning, and supplies are purchased for these programs that we don't want to waste.

"The sign-up sheets are already out there, so don't wait. It's up to the parents and kids to fill out the applications and turn them in."

In addition to Barry, Youth Ed has hired Matthew Mosley as recreation coordinator, Tiffany Mercier as secretary, and soon, a new K-5 tutor will be named. In February, Jacintha ("Jay") Stanley came on as Youth Recreation assistant. And during the summer, the department will have many college and high school interns filling any number of roles in the department's many programs.

The Youth Recreation assistant position and a small part of other positions have been funded by a two-year, 2011 Association for Native Americans grant, said Kim Rogers, Tribal Planning and Grants manager.

"I'm excited about serving the youth and families in the community, and strengthening Grand Ronde families as a whole," said Barry. "We're here to serve!" ■

We need your feedback

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recreation Program needs your feedback. We are conducting a community survey to help us formulate an improved, comprehensive Recreation Program that will benefit everyone (Youth, Adults, Elders and Families) in our community through assessing the needs for day, evening and weekend use of the CTGR recreational facilities and assist in developing programs to better serve you. Be on the lookout for our upcoming mailings, e-mails, postings on Facebook and links to the survey on the CTGR homepage.

Who can take this survey? Tribal members (Youth, Adults and Elders). We encourage members of your household ages 10 years and older to complete the survey.

When can I start taking the survey? Thursday, May 31.

Deadline to complete survey? Tuesday, June 26.

Please complete the survey and mail or turn in to the CTGR Youth Education building weekdays (8 a.m.-5 p.m., 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347). You can also take the survey online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/CTGRYouthRec. Your name and contact information you provide will be kept confidential and only will be used for the prize drawings.

Have questions? Call Matt Mosley (CTGR Recreation Coordinator) 503-879-1369 or Jay Stanley (CTGR Recreation Assistant) at 503-879-1921

PRIZES FOR TAKING THE SURVEY!

Fill out and return your survey for a chance to win one of several prizes including a Kindle Fire Reader or a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card. All you have to do is return your completed survey and you will be entered to win (one entry per person over age 10 years old).

We thank you for your participation in this survey. If you have any questions, feel free to contact CTGR Recreation staff and we would be happy to assist you in any way. ■

Informational session set

An informational session to learn about the new Chemeketa Community College Cohort group in Grand Ronde will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, in Adult Education Building Classroom 126.

Those attending will learn about the new associate degree cohort group starting in September and receive assistance with getting started in filling out the Chemeketa admission application and scheduling a placement test.

Dinner will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, call 503-879-2275. ■

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In 2012, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board will launch a companion website: www.wefnative.org. The site is being designed for Native youth, by Native youth, to encourage healthy behaviors, share youth-friendly media and current events, increase cultural identity and pride, and share the positive impacts Native youth are having on their communities.

Funded by the National HIV Program

For more information, please contact:
Jessica Leston | jleston@npihb.org or visit us at: <http://www.npihb.org/epicenter/projectprojectcredit.htm>



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