

Board seeks Indian arts and crafts for exhibitions

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board will host a juried arts and crafts competition for Native youth at each of its three regional museums in the spring. The theme of the competition will be “Where do we come from? Where are we going?”

The competitions will be open to enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes between the ages of 13 and 18. Official written documentation verifying the youth’s enrollment and written parental or guardian permission will be required.

The competition will provide Native youth with a realistic juried art show experience; encourage the development and expansion of their production and marketing skills; and enhance youth interest in culture, history and the possibility of an artistic career.

Submissions will be judged by an independent jury of artists, artisans and art professionals. Awards will be \$100 for first place, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.

The three museums operated by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board are the Sioux Indian Museum in Rapid City, S.D., the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko, Okla., and the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning, Mont.

Artwork must be submitted by March 1. Winners will be announced in April. Exhibition of selected works will be held from April 15 through May 31.

For more information, including official contest rules and procedures, contact Conor McMahon, chief curator, Indian Arts and Crafts Board, at 605-394-2381. ■

Ceremonial Hunting information

We have started the 2014 ceremonial hunting season. Deer tags have gone out and they will be good for one month and then rotated if not filled. We will be having the game meat processed at Willamina Meat Processing this year. They will take in game seven days a week. All meat is taken in and hides taken to Natural Resources.

New for this year, we will be giving out \$25 gas vouchers for each harvest. All hunters who harvest their first animal will receive a knife with the Tribal logo and the year of the harvest on the blade.

Returning hunters are eligible for a \$100 Cabelas gift card to replace lost or broken hunting gear or update their gear with something new. These are one per person per year.

We want to reward hunters for all their time and effort in some way.

New also is we now have the right to hunt the tags with a bow. We are very excited about this opportunity.

We are still recruiting for new members who have the time to help. It is an honor to provide meat for our funerals and ceremonies so we can have traditional meals.

Lastly, we get three bear tags a year, so we especially need hunters willing to hunt those tags. Also, we will have a few tanned deer hides available soon. Applications for those can be picked up at Natural Resources. Thank you. If you have questions about ceremonial hunting, call Marline Groshong at 503-474-7000. ■

Bernando teaches Wawa in Portland office

Tribal member Eric Bernando teaches Chinuk Wawa language classes from 5:30 to 8:20 p.m. Wednesday at the Portland office, 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd., Suite 101. For more information, contact Bernando at ChinukWawa@gmail.com or 503-709-3017. ■

Elder Bingo moved to Saturday afternoons

Elder Bingo will be held at 12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Saturday of the month at the Elders’ Activity Center.

For more information, contact Elder Activity Assistant Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233. ■

‘Every child deserves a quality education’

EDUCATION continued from front page

ing through federal and state rules and are targeted for intervention representing the bottom 15 percent of state schools. For instance, all three schools attended by students who live on or near the Warm Springs Reservation in central Oregon are ranked in the bottom 5 percent of Oregon schools based on their 2011-12 test scores and graduation rates.

- Three out of four Tribal students in the seven Tribes are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, which means their households have incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Tribal students pass the state math and reading assessment tests at rates 13 to 20 percentage points below the statewide average, depending on grade level.
- Eleven percent were suspended from school, compared with 7 percent of Oregon students overall, and 11 percent changed schools at least once during the 2011-12 school year.
- Fifty-five percent of Tribal students in the seven Tribes in the class of 2011 graduated on time with a traditional high school diploma compared to 72 percent of all Oregon

How the study was conducted

ECONorthwest and the Chalkboard Project have an arrangement with the state Department of Education that provides the research firm with access to confidential student records.

Leaders of the seven Tribes provided the Department of Education with the names of their school-age children. The department then informed ECONorthwest researchers which Oregon student ID numbers belong to an enrolled Tribal member.

Researchers were then able to compile a statistical portrait of how Tribal students fare in Oregon public schools without disclosing the names of individual students that corresponded with the ID numbers.

students.

The seven Tribes that participated in the study were the Burns Paiute, Cow Creek Tribe of Umpqua Band of Indians, Klamath Tribes, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The Coquille Tribe and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw did not participate.

In addition to the disheartening findings, the study revealed that identifying students who are Native American is a difficult task.

Oregon tracks students as Native American if they or their parents say they are. For instance, 67,172 Oregon public school students were identified in Department of Education records as American Indian/Alaskan Native in 2011-12. Of those students, only 4.4 percent were enrolled in one of the seven

Oregon Tribes analyzed.

Seventy-four percent of enrolled Tribal students were identified as Native in Department of Education records while another 18 percent were identified as American Indian in combination with another race or ethnicity. But 8 percent were not identified at all as American Indian in state records.

In general, enrolled Tribal students had below-average attendance, achievement and graduation rates, and the performance gaps exceeded those for other students who self-identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native.

“These complications make it difficult for Oregon Tribal governments to direct their resources to meet the needs of their students,” the study’s press release states. “There is currently no on-going way for the Tribes or the state to evaluate Oregon Tribal member student outcomes accurately.”

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Kathleen George said the fund is committed to turning this data into “real action” to help Oregon’s Tribal children.

“Every child deserves a quality education and it is clear that too many Tribal kids are out of sight and out of mind in our education system,” she said. “We need to act quickly and decisively to help Tribal students. These kids cannot wait any longer to get an effective education.”

She also said that Tribes and Tribal families need to “foster a change in culture to help our children understand that showing up for school every day is the path to success in school and later in life.”

A full report based on the analysis will be released this spring and is expected to include recommendations to help improve outcomes for Oregon’s Tribal students.

“This analysis is a step forward in understanding the challenges facing the student members of seven of Oregon’s Tribes,” said Sue Hildick, Chalkboard Project president. “We fully expect this report to open up important conversations and lead toward community-driven solutions.”

The Chalkboard Project acted as a catalyst and collaborator with the Community Fund and ECONorthwest for the study. ■