

# Student Spotlights

## Ava Fagundes

This month, the Youth Education Department would like to recognize Ava Fagundes for her outstanding work ethic and academic success.

Whenever we see Ava at school, she is working hard and on top of her classes. She has a great attitude and never shies away from a challenge.

Ava attributes her successes to paying attention in class and making sure to ask questions so she can always be informed about what is going on.

Ava is also involved in athletics. She plays volleyball and basketball, which is her favorite. After high school, Ava would like to either be an author, because she loves to write, or a forensic scientist, because she finds the field very interesting.

She would like to attend Western Oregon University because it is a good school close to home and she has enjoyed tours and activities there with the K-5 program.

Her advice to other students would be to pay attention in class, don't be embarrassed to ask questions, try not to talk or get distracted, and get help if you need it.

Ava is kind, hardworking and an excellent role model for her peers. We are so proud of all that she has accomplished and know she will continue to be successful. Keep up the good work, Ava!

— *Dominique Olson*



Ava Fagundes

## Josh Henry

Willamina High School sophomore Josh Henry is Youth Education's Student Spotlight for the Month.

Josh has worked tirelessly to improve his grades and his overall approach to academics. Josh is the son of Anthony Henry of Grand Ronde and Terry Huber of Oakdale, Ore. He credits his grandmother Marion Mercier as being an inspiration to him and improving his academics.

Josh says his academic approach has improved because he has increased his desire to succeed this year. He also utilizes all the resources available to him and other Tribal students, and has worked hard in Guided Study with Kaylee Oakes and Kevin Simmons.

Kaylee Oakes, Guided Study instructor at Willamina High School, says, "Josh worked extremely hard all first semester and even wrote a novel during November with over 9,000 words for his English class. He has developed positive relationships with other classmates in Guided Study and we love having him in class."

Josh's future plans include working in forestry in one capacity or another. He enjoys the solitude that comes from being in the forest and someday hopes to be able to enjoy this every day.

In his spare time Josh likes to ride his bike and read. Josh's favorite book is "It" by Stephen King and also recommends "Between Shades of Gray" by Ruta Sepetys and another King book titled "Dark Tower."

Josh provides this wisdom to other students, "Put your mind to what you want and can do" and "Don't wait to do anything that you can do now," and "seek help where you need it."

— *Kevin Simmons*



Josh Henry

## Trey Danforth

Within the pages of a book, one can get lost in an imaginary world filled with wizards and dragons, or perhaps get the feeling of being transported to a future land of zombie terror.

These are just a few of the reasons why Tribal member Trey Danforth loves to read books, especially if they are in the Fantasy genre.

The Willamina Elementary School fifth-grader enjoys art, reading and language arts classes during his school time, and has scored in the top 95 percent of his class in reading. He claims to not be the biggest fan of math, but has shown exceptional work ethic with the extra time he's spent out of class working on raising his level of understanding.

Trey dreams of one day being an archeologist or paleontologist, and knows that attending a university will have to be in his future plans to attain his goals.

The 11-year-old states that his mother is his hero because "she's there for me when anything bad happens." Trey loves nachos, popcorn and bacon, and his hobbies include writing and playing video games.

On weekends, Trey's favorite thing to do is visit his grandparents because they take him out to eat at many different restaurants, and sometimes his grandfather takes out his classic green pickup truck that Trey loves to ride around in.

— *Matt Bucknell*



Trey Danforth

## Police Department has non-emergency text line

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has created a non-emergency text line.

"We learned in our last school meeting that kids would like a different way to communicate with the police if they have a non-emergency situation," Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight said. "We all know kids love to text so my officers and I decided this would be a great tool to utilize."

The new text number is 541-921-2927.

"Even though this is mostly designed for children, I don't want adults thinking that they can't use it as well. If you have a non-emergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line. When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time."

McKnight said that emergency situations still require people to call 911. For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■