

## Natural Resources slates Hunter's Education Field Day

The Natural Resources Department's Parks and Recreation Program will hold a Hunter's Education Field Day on Saturday, June 18, at the Natural Resources office, 47010 S.W. Hebo Road.

Registration for the class must be made online at the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife website.

Cost is \$10 per student. The class is open to Tribal and nonTribal youth ages 9 to 17 by the beginning of the 2022 hunting season.

The class is the only field day and students must have attended either a conventional course, online course or completed an at-home workbook.

In Oregon, all youth 17 or younger must pass a certified hunter's education class before hunting unless they are participating in the Mentor Youth Hunter Program for youths 9 to 14 years old.

The minimum age to hunt big game in Oregon is 12 and hunters age 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older when hunting unless on land owned by a parent or legal guardian.

To register, visit [myodfw.com](http://myodfw.com) and search for how to register for hunter and bow hunter education field days. ■

## 'I gave up on being a mom for a while'

PRISON continued  
from page 10

my dad. He was using drugs, I was still partying but in school, and my sister was using meth and living at my dad's as well."

She recalls a time when her mom was at the house and her dad "freaked out."

"He was attacking her and I jumped on his back and tried to get him to stop," she recalls. "He ended up shoving me into a counter and punched me. ... My dad was never a dad to me. He was in and out of jail, and never paid child support."

Soon after, both parents went to jail and Courtney moved in with her older sister and her sister's boyfriend. She found herself immersed in a world of drug use and dysfunction, all while trying to go to high school. Eventually, it became too much.

"I was riding Tri-Met every day to go from Milwaukie to Oregon City High School," Courtney says. "It was bad. One day I came home and found a giant bag of meth in my bed and eventually my sister lost the apartment and I dropped out of high school my sophomore year. It was just too much for me."

Despite everyone that she lived with using hard drugs, Courtney avoided those. However, after she had her daughter at 19 she was given OxyContin for pain and ended up becoming addicted. She recalls using her "21 Money" to buy large amounts of the drug after she couldn't get it via a prescription anymore. Eventually, she began using heroin, a stronger opioid.

"I wanted to get clean so badly, but no matter how much I wanted it, it just didn't work," she says.

"I gave up on being a mom for a while and didn't get to see my kids a whole lot."

Then came arrests for various drug-related misdemeanors, jail time and multiple stints with inpatient and outpatient drug treatment.

The decision to quit for good came after she was arrested in April 2019. Courtney found the strength she needed to stop using drugs. Residing in a sober house and accessing medication-assisted treatment also has helped her immensely.

"It's good support," she says. "I had gotten tired of the drug life and lost the desire for it. I will never do it again."

Now, she has full custody of her 6-year-old son, a full-time job at Nordstrom and is going to court to enforce visitation rights with her 8-year-old daughter, whom she hasn't seen on a regular basis since she was 3 despite a court-ordered parenting plan.

"I've only seen her twice in five years," Courtney says as her mom sobs next to her. "It sucks. She doesn't know my family and my son doesn't remember her. I didn't even get to talk to her on Mother's Day."

Nichelle carries a heavy burden as a result of that.

"I have had people tell me my daughter made her own choices, but I blame myself a lot for all of this," she says. "My kids were around drugs a lot and a horrible divorce."

Courtney's advice to other Tribal youth who have had parents incarcerated and have started using drugs themselves is not to give up on life.

"Eventually if you want it bad enough, you will get it," she says. "Just keep working at it and find a good support system. That is crucial." ■

## Mental Health walk



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Youth Empowerment & Prevention Grant Coordinator Angey Rideout goes over the routes with Sydney Clark and her 13-year-old daughter Clara

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS  
Find us on   
SmokeSignalsCTGR

West during the Mental Health Awareness Walk held at the old powwow grounds on the Tribal governmental campus on Saturday, May 21. Walkers choose from two different routes — a 5K and a 3K. The walk was sponsored by Youth Empowerment and Prevention, iLaunch and Children and Family Services. Approximately 50 people took part in the walk.



Angela Schlappie joins her grandson, Bennett Schlappie-Guerrera, 1, and Bennett's father, Jared Guerrero, during the Mental Health Awareness Walk held at the old powwow grounds on the Tribal governmental campus on Saturday, May 21.

## Willamina Fourth of July Committee seeking donations

WILLAMINA — The Willamina Fourth of July Committee is seeking donations for the annual fireworks show, which generally costs between \$10,000 to \$13,000 to fund.

The committee also is responsible for raising an additional \$5,000 for the cost of the mud drags, trophies, T-shirts, dash for cash, paying for portable restrooms and other expenses.

The committee is a 501(3)c organization, which means donations are tax deductible. Donations can be dropped off either at a fundraiser or mailed to P.O. Box 1081, Willamina, OR 97396.

The committee also is seeking vendors for Saturday, June 25, and Monday, July 4. The mud drags are held June 25 at the corner of Adams and Lincoln beginning at 10 a.m. Vendor fee is \$40.

July Fourth vendors begin to set up from 7 to 9 a.m. with non-electrical vendors on the north end of B Street and those needing electricity located on the south end of B Street. Non-electric fee is \$30 and electric vendor fee is \$40.

For more information and to have an applications mailed to you, contact Jency at 971-237-3230. ■



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?  
Do you have questions about diabetes?  
Do you need help managing your diabetes?  
If so...  
Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002