

Stoudamire wins national award

The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Patrick Stoudamire, Jr. from Portland has been named a United States National Award Winner in Football.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Stoudamire, who attends Centennial High School, is the son of Tammy and Patrick Stoudamire, Sr. of Portland, and the grandson of Neal and Loretta Dill of Vernonia. He was nominated for the award by Chris Knudsen, a coach at the school. Stoudamire will appear

in the United States Achievement Academy's official yearbook, which is published nationally.

"United States Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, founder of the Academy.

The Academy's criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a qualified sponsor.

Enter Congressional Art Contest

Congressman David Wu is soliciting entries for the 25th annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students. This competition provides students a unique opportunity to showcase their artistic talent at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The winning student will be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship to the Art Institute of Portland, as well as an invitation to the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, where the art will be displayed.

The Congressional Art Competition was first launched in 1982. Since then, thousands of contests have been conducted around the country, involving more than 650,000 high school students. Each member of

Congress sponsors a local art competition in their Congressional District and selects one winning entry. The winning piece of art from each district is displayed in the Capitol for one year.

The competition is underway and entries must be submitted no later than Friday, April 21. Entrants must be high school students from the First Congressional District of Oregon. Letters soliciting artwork were sent to all high schools in the District this month. To participate, each student must fill out an application and follow guidelines set by the U. S. House of Representatives.

The winner will be announced May 4, at the First

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Host families are needed for exchange students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is seeking local families to host high school boys and girls from diverse countries around the world! These students are 15 to 18 years old and are coming to the area for the upcoming school year or semester. Exchange students arrive from their home country shortly before school begins and return at the end of the school year or semester.

These friendly and academi-

cally exceptional students have fine English skills, are bright, curious and excited to learn about the U.S.A. by living as part of a family, attending high school and sharing their culture and language with you, your family, and the community.

Each ASSE student is fully insured, brings his or her own personal spending money and expects to contribute to his or her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in everyday family and

community activities, celebrations, and adventures.

All students are thoroughly screened and qualified by ASSE. Host families may select the youngster of their choice from extensive student applications, family photos and biographical essays.

To become a host family or find out more about ASSE and its programs, call 1-800-733-2773.

Annual spelling contest now running

Public, private and home school students in Columbia County are urged to participate in the 30th Annual Spelling Contest for the State of Oregon. The contest is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts. Cynthia Jaeger-Sash of the NW Regional ESD coordinates the Columbia County contest.

Competition is held at the local school district, county and state levels. At each level, students are expected to write all

spelling words. An oral spelling bee is not part of this program. Local school districts will be responsible for conducting and coordinating their own contests. Home-schoolers should contact their local district to participate at the district level. Students have to compete at the district level in order to compete at the county level. Local districts should complete their competition no later than May 5, 2006.

The County Spelling Contest will be conducted at Clatskanie District Office on May 17, be-

ginning at 9:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome to view the competition at the county level. Students will be competing for the opportunity to go to the state competition held during the Oregon State Fair on September 2, 2006.

The contest at both the county and state level is divided into three divisions: Division I is for elementary students through grade 5; Division II is for students in grades 6-8; and Division III is for students in grades 9-12.

Prize money increased in essay contest

Oregon teens will have the opportunity to bring home more cash in this year's Financial IQ Essay Contest, sponsored by the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Division of Finance and Corporate Securities.

The division is adding a third-place prize and increasing the amount of money high-school students can win for their essays about the importance of investing safely. The prizes are \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second place, and \$500 for third place. All Orego-

nians aged 14 to 18 are eligible to enter essays.

The third-annual contest is part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services' financial-literacy outreach to young Oregonians.

"The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness among young Oregonians about the risks and rewards of saving and investing," said Eric Kleinman, investor information coordinator for DFCS. "Learning to make informed investment decisions at an early age is important to becoming a savvy in-

vestor."

The contest will take place throughout April, in conjunction with Financial Literacy Month. The three-page essays must be submitted to DFCS by Friday, May 5, at 5:00 p.m.

In their essays, students should answer the question: "How can good investment

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Kindergarten round-up time

Kindergarten round-up for the Vernonia School District will be on Friday, April 7, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., then from noon to 2:00 p.m. at Washington Grade School.

Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2006, can enroll at this time.

To pre-register bring the child, the child's immunization records and birth certificate. The round-up provides a small taste, for the child, of kindergarten and their new school.

For more information, call 503-429-7941.

Happy Easter

Look for the 70 eggs with prizes in them at the Easter Egg Hunt on April 15

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