

Sentinel



Partly Cloudy.
High of 88
and a low of 56
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The Flower Basket
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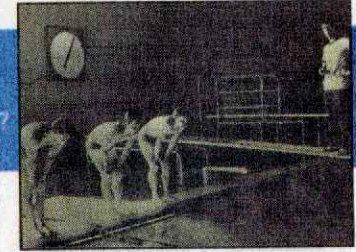
Lifestyles

Car show dazzles spectators
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Sports

Best coach in CGHS history?
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\$2.00

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Number 29 • 135 years

Summer camp connects children with tribal traditions, heritage



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Confederated Tribes of Grande Round member Deltz Peters shares a tribe item with the children. See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Prospector's Park in Cottage Grove was used as a culturally-sensitive location for children to connect with Native American culture.

"It is really important for the native American children and also for children who are non-native to learn about all their own cultures, and all the difference cultures of Oregon. Those cultures are here.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Confederated Tribes of Grande Round member Deltz Peters prepares tribal items for the demonstration at the summer camp. See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

They have been here for a long time. It's important to have respect and to be inclusive of cultures," Karen Rainsong said.

Rainsong, an art teacher, is also the founder and executive director of Singing

Creek Educational Center, which was established 17 years ago.

"We've been in Cottage Grove for approximately five years and we also travel all over Oregon," she said. "I have been doing



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Children at the camp had the opportunity for hands-on discoveries of the tribal items. See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

this for almost 20 years. I love working with children. It is something that I love to do. I run all kinds of programs all year long about living history. I find living history fascinating and I really like making it

come alive for kids." The Earth Ways Summer Camp, held at Prospector's Park, was conducted July 22-26. The

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park is a natural setting for the camp.

"It's just a wonderful location for this camp," she said. "It offers a beautiful shelter with big wooden beams and having the river nearby is just gorgeous. The children get a chance to wade in the river. There's also wildlife. There is just so much to offer right here in the park."

The camp is grant-funded and offers hands-on engagement for children.

"This is a history-focus camp. All of our activities are hands-on," Rainsong said. "The do all kinds of fun games and different projects, from crafts to story and mask making and

in this Earth Ways camp, we have special guests that come out that are indigenous, so they are sharing their knowledge and their culture directly with the children."

Confederated Tribes of Grande Round member Deitz Peters joined the small group of camp participants.

"I hope the kids here take a way a little bit of the heritage of native culture," Peters said as he prepared to address the children. He came to explain to the children about the tribal flutes, the songs, how they originated, the spiritual meaning of eagle feathers, and the regalia, native items worn to celebrate tradition and cultural.

"It's not a costume, because when we take it off, we are still native people. All the meaning of the items comes from the center, yourself," he said.

Peters said the camp gives the children the opportunity to see beyond book-learning.

"I want people to understand native culture instead of just reading it from a book, but to actually see, be a part of, and participate in learning about native culture that is still surviving," he said. "It may not be for everybody but little kids need to know where that history comes from, and later on they'll be able to pass on what they learn to others and to respect the tribal heritage."

Understanding native heritage and culture is all about the beginning, according to Peters.

"We want them to learn the culture of what it takes to do all these things and that's where we come it," Peters said. "We want to support that idea of remembering the culture for everyone. That's our beginning. The beginning of everything. We take care of the land. We take care of our people, and it turn this takes care of us."

For more information, contact Singing Creek Educational Center, at 541 968-1986, or at SingingCreekCenter.org