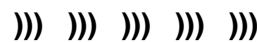




A WIN-WIN: CDHH RESTRUCTURING SOLVES FUNDING CRISIS

Faced with the necessity of making severe cuts in state spending, in December Governor Butch Otter recommended phasing out funding for several small agencies, including the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A solution has been found! By merging CDHH with Vocational Rehabilitation, it will be able to receive federal match dollars, which will actually increase the funds available to it while requiring less in state funding. The Council's offices will stay at the current location, and it will retain its independence with its budget being tracked separately. Executive Director Steven Snow is looking forward to new opportunities as a result of this arrangement, and has this to add:

"I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all members of the deaf and hard of hearing community and the public for their gigantic support. Numerous letters and/or messages were sent to the legislators and the Governor's office and I believe every single one of them made a difference. They were great substantiations of the need for the Council."



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

March Story Times sponsored by Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind and the Meridian Library, 10:00 am March 17 and 24 at the Meridian Library, 1326 Cherry Lane. Stories, songs and a chance to make new friends for 18 month to 5 year olds; a sound field system and sign language support will be provided. For more information contact April Nelson, 963-0111.

Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Deaf Center of Idaho Saturday, April 3, at Storey Park (Franklin Rd and Main St, Meridian) 9:00 am to noon. The hunt starts at 9:30, so don't be late! All ages welcome! To donate candy, prizes or volunteer help, contact Tara Adams at tarainboise@yahoo.com.

A Signing Easter Bunny will visit the ISDB Library March 23 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Deaf and hard of hearing children and their families are invited to the Easter Bunny's story time at 10:00, followed by time to visit with the rabbit at 10:30. Treats included, and bring your camera to take a picture of your child with the Easter Bunny. Please RSVP to Janice Finch, 208-539-2936 or janice.finch@isdb.idaho.gov. Sponsored by Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind and the Deaf Center of Idaho.

Cache Valley Sound Beginnings Summer Camp for children with hearing loss aged birth to 13 and their families at Sherwood Hills Resort (Wellsville, Utah, near Logan) June 9-11 2010. This is for families who are emphasizing spoken language; for more information contact Liz Welker at 435-797-1374 or lizwelker@usu.edu.

Camp Taloali information for 2010 is now available at www.taloali.us. Several Idaho kids have enjoyed a stay at this camp, located in Stayton, Oregon. They can go for one, two or three weeks; the first week is only \$50. If more than one family contacts us to say they're interested in a carpool, we'll put you in touch with each other. (see contact information on following page)

Young Eagles Fly Day upcoming in late April or early May (no date set yet.) Private pilots donate their time, planes and fuel to provide free flights up and around the town of Gooding to ISDB students, and to any students served by IESDB Outreach. Must be age 8 or older. Contact your Outreach Consultant and/or call ISDB (934-4457) and ask for Chris Allison to receive more detailed information.

We're starting a new series for *Wavelengths*, "Fun Stuff to Do with Your Kid." With these stories, we want to go beyond hearing aids, implants, speech therapy, sign language, etc. and focus on activities that have little to do with hearing loss and everything to do with developing new skills, learning, and time spent doing things together. A child's hearing loss may require a special consideration or two, or may even be an asset, as when a signing father and daughter took up scuba diving together.

Send us ideas for your stories! We'll be happy to interview you and/or your child about your experiences and write the article and let you preview and make changes or additions before publication. (The series is currently two stories long, so it won't be much of a series unless we get some help.)

The following story comes to us from Chuck and Micah Cram, interviewed by simultaneous phone and videophone:

HUNTING WITH DAD

It was the most natural thing in the world for Chuck Cram to introduce his son Micah to hunting. Chuck has been an avid stalker of just about anything with fur or feathers for the past 32 years (he started hunting at age 14, and as he says, you can do the math....) He started introducing Micah to the concepts of firearm use and safety a few years in advance of enrolling him in the hunter safety class required for a license in Idaho and virtually everywhere else. In a reversal of the usual state of affairs, at age 12 Micah took his official hunter safety class at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind under a Deaf instructor; an interpreter was provided for the hearing parents attending the class with their children. (The classes are offered throughout the state and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will provide interpreters when requested.) Chuck found this to be a good way for him to learn the specialized vocabulary he would need as Micah's hunting buddy.

Two springs ago, Micah was introduced to Chuck's favorite pursuit, spring turkey hunting. They did not get a turkey that year or the next due to weather and other factors, but are going to try again this year. Last fall was Micah's first deer hunt. Chuck made arrangements for the two of them to go hunting on private property near Grangeville, armed with extra doe tags. It was an "any deer" area with a healthy population of whitetail (which had destroyed the landowner's garden, so she said "kill them all!") and Micah quickly had both his first and second buck. Neither was a trophy, but as any hunter knows, the young ones are better eating. Chuck bagged two does, so the Cram family has meat to last a while, even with three hungry children to feed.

The rest of this fall and winter were devoted to grouse, pheasant, quail, ducks and geese. Chuck says that Micah is becoming a terrific shot. Asked what he likes best about hunting, Micah says it's going out and doing things with Dad. Dad accused him of coming up with a cheesy answer, when they both know he just likes killing things! His least favorite parts of hunting are the recoil from the gun, and getting up early. "Hard to rise with the roosters when you stay up with the owls," adds Chuck.

Micah doesn't know yet whether his love of hunting and the outdoors may lead to a career, or just a life-long hobby. It does mean many more years of shared hunting trips with Dad, and you can judge for yourself whether that is a cheesy sentiment or not.

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To contribute to the newsletter, share an activity announcement, etc, contact Lorna Irwin at 208-324-7544 or niwri2@msn.com.

--and don't forget to send in your membership renewal and family directory update! Check the November issue for forms, or contact Lorna.