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IDAHO HANDS & VOICES September 2011

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SUDDENLY, WE'RE FUND-RAISING

Fund-raising is an area we've struggled with as an organization, and for some time we've been parsimoniously limping along. Recently, two great opportunities dropped into our laps. Jo Mysinger offered to organize (with Tara Pichette's help) a golf scramble to benefit our organization, and we were asked to co-sponsor the Raptor Run. The more support we get from you, our membership, especially if you live in the Boise area, the more successful these will be. We're hoping to use the funds to support more Hands & Voices activities in this state, and to help more parents attend the 2012 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference, which will be "close to home" in Oregon. More information is available at our website.

Golf Scramble, Saturday October 8, Boise Ranch Golf Course, 6501 S Cloverdale Road, Boise. Participation is \$400 per 4-person team and includes green fees, a cart, and lunch. Don't golf? We're also looking for hole sponsors--for \$50 or \$100 you can sponsor a hole and have your name on a sign at the green. A good advertising opportunity for a local business; if you know a business owner, there is a sponsorship form on our website.

Raptor Run, Saturday October 29. This is being co-sponsored by the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation and Idaho Hands & Voices. You can choose between a 10 K run, 3K run, or 3K walk, or you can come help run the event! Entry fees are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children (13 & under) and \$50 for families (up to 4 people.) Entry forms and registration instructions are at our website, or call Katie Jay at (208) 861-6430. (This is also the number to call if you are interested in being a sponsor, or know someone who is.) Packets can be picked up before the races starting at 7:30 am; the 10K run begins at 9:00, followed by the 3K run at 9:15 and the 3K walk at 9:30.

And one more, the **Deaf Center of Idaho Holiday Bazaar**. We plan to be there, Saturday November 5, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, at Rocky Mountain High School, 5450 N Linder Rd, Meridian. We are looking for any homemade arts, crafts, food, etc. our members can donate. Please contact Lorna at (208) 324-7544 or niwri2@msn.com if you have anything (no matter how small) to donate, or can come help work our booth on November 5th. One item we plan to have is Christmas cards featuring art from our kids; contact Shannon at (208) 869-9363 or idahohandsandvoices@gmail.com if you have a kid who likes to create.

OTHER UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

(detailed information about many of these events can be found on the calendar on our webpage.)

Introductory Cued Speech Workshop sponsored by Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind, September 16 and 17 at the ISU Meridian Health Services Center, 1311 E Central Drive, Meridian. Friday 5:00-9:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Cued Speech is a visual mode of communication that uses hand shapes and hand placements in combination with the mouth movements for speech to make the phonemes of a spoken language look different from each other. It can be used as a stand-alone communication method or in combination with other approaches to communication. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn the system or touch up on your Cued Speech skills from two of the best instructors on the West Coast, Richelle White and Shellie Burrow. Contact Paula Mason at Paula.mason@iesdb.org or (208)731-8940 if you plan to be there, please.

Sign Classes for parents will be offered by IESDB throughout the coming school year, in each region of the state. Times and places are still being finalized. Contact Paula Mason at Paula.mason@iesdb.org or (208)731-8940 if you are interested.

Community ASL classes on Tuesday or Thursday evenings , 6:30 to 7:30, will begin September 20 and 22 at the Bowl of Heaven (next door to Zamzow's), 435 S Eagle Rd, Eagle. The classes are \$30 per person and will continue for 6 weeks. All ages are welcome (use your judgment as to whether your child is mature enough to sit for an hour.) Advanced classes and private tutoring in ASL are also available. Contact Tara Adams at tarainboise@yahoo.com, or by text message at (208)891-0174 for more information.

Parent Education Series sponsored by the Elks Hearing & Balance Center, two upcoming events:

"Genetics and Hearing Loss" Tuesday, September 20, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, 510 N 2nd St, Boise. Certified genetic counselor Earin Dola will discuss causes of hearing loss, and how to find out what may have caused a hearing loss.

"Behavior Management for Children with (and without) Hearing Loss" Tuesday, October 18, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, St Lukes Meridian Medical Center, 520 S Eagle Rd, Meridian, 3rd floor conference room. For either of these presentations, RSVP to (208)489-4999.

Family Halloween Carnival sponsored by IESDB and Idaho Hands & Voices. Region 5 families, instead of doing our usual pumpkin painting party this October, we're teaming up with IESDB for a much bigger activity! The carnival is still in the planning stages, but will take place at the College of Southern Idaho corn maze and feature all kinds of fun crafts and games, including the famous pumpkin-painting. Mark your calendars for October 15, from noon until 4:00 pm--you won't want to miss this one! There will be a small cover charge of \$1 per person to cover our use of the area and the maze. More details will be coming, or contact Lorna at niwri2@msn.com or (208) 324-7544.

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Idaho H&V has a new board member. Tara Pichette has recently been elected as our new Treasurer. Tara is the mother of two children, the older child with hearing loss. She is stepping into the position previously held by long time board member Susie Jones. We want to extend a huge THANK YOU to both Tara and Susie for their hard work and dedication to Idaho H&V!

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What the Outside of a Horse Did for the Inside of a Child (and Woman)

Part of our continuing series, "Fun Stuff to Do with Your Kids." In this episode, evidence that you never know where that "stuff" might take your child. Hold onto your hats...

When Kimberly Williams Brackett was a little girl, her parents tried to keep her active by enrolling her in ballet, Girl Scouts, gymnastics and other activities. Using her hearing impairment as her excuse, she quit all of these. Things reached a climax when she started to spend a lot of time sitting in front of the television with both the sound and her hearing aids turned off.

Kimberly's mother had a favorite quote to the effect that "The outside of an animal is best for the inside of a child." Kimberly loved horses; she had had a pony named Bo since she was three, but seldom rode her. A neighbor, Angela Knapp, helped find Kimberly's first horse, an Appaloosa gelding, and gave her riding lessons. Kimberly was on her way.

She began with 4-H horse projects, then showing horses. In these early years, she used an audio trainer so that a horse trainer or announcer could talk directly into a microphone to give her instructions as she was riding in the ring. The downside of that was the darn Idaho wind! After some years at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, she mainstreamed into the Gooding schools with a full-time sign language interpreter; she would later use interpreters at Utah State University.

Two of her riding companions entered and won rodeo queen contests, and Kimberly had the pleasure of meeting Lisa Lemrick, the 1986 Miss Rodeo Idaho, at the Twin Falls Fair & Rodeo. Inspired by their example, she entered her first competition at the age of twelve. Rodeo queen competition is based on each young lady's total character--plus horsemanship--and includes a challenging judging schedule with breaks for other group activities. In competition, Kimberly relied on her hearing aids and lip-reading; she also took the direct approach with judges, explaining that she had a mild to severe hearing loss, and that they should speak up; otherwise they might get a very interesting answer to a question.

After winning a title, a rodeo queen serves as a liaison between the rodeo association and the media. She works diligently to attract potential rodeo fans and keep them coming back, and serves as a role model for youth. By participating in pageants, Kimberly developed poise and skills in interviews and interacting with others, which in turn helped her win several large scholarships, enough to attain a master's degree.

Kimberly has worn several prestigious crowns, including five local rodeo queen titles, Miss Teen Rodeo Idaho, Miss High School Rodeo Idaho (in the top ten at the National High School Rodeo finals), Miss Rodeo Idaho (top five at Miss Rodeo America), and a national title, Miss Rodeo USA. She also participated in barrel racing and goat-tying, and attempted break-away roping. She won two other titles, Miss Deaf Idaho Teen and Miss Deaf Idaho, and was second runner-up at the Miss Deaf America pageant.

As Miss Rodeo Idaho and Miss Rodeo USA she traveled to more than 30 states and spent a couple of years living out of her suitcase. Her dreams of living in a big city away from family faded into a new appreciation for her home in Idaho. After earning a bachelor's degree in journalism with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in speech communication at Utah State University, and a master's in business administration from the University of Phoenix Online, she worked as a marketing director at the Magic Valley Mall for four years. Eight years ago she married Gus Brackett; they and their four children live on a cattle ranch in Three Creek, Idaho that has been in Gus' family since 1886. She is currently working as a correspondent for the Twin Falls *Times-News* and as an independent beauty consultant for Mary Kay. She has mentored many aspiring rodeo queens, judged, and has been an instructor at the Champion's Rodeo Camp for ten years.

Kimberly's experiences with horses and rodeo were profound, and still impact her life. The best lesson she learned from all of it was NEVER GIVE UP.

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Update! The U. S. Deaf Swimming National Team (youngest member, 14-year-old Catherine Parker of Boise, a past contributor to this newsletter) went to the World Deaf Swimming championships in Portugal in August. The team from Russia was heavily favored, but the Americans managed to capture the most points overall to win the team title. Catherine bettered her own best times in her races and placed as high as 12th.

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Whatever happened to the Family Directory?

Back in 2004 we started a family directory for Idaho Hands & Voices members, as a means of helping families connect with families. It was distributed only to members, and only families who asked to be included were listed. It came as hard copy in a small three-ring notebook, with the idea that it could be updated by the removal and addition of pages. It was updated in 2005 and again in 2007, and not since, largely because the thought of compiling the updates plus complete directories for new members was overwhelming.

We'd like to revive the directory at this point. Since the listings we have now are 4-7 years out of date, we'd like to start fresh. This time around we will put the directory in electronic form and email it to our members

as a pdf file (or print it out and snail mail it, if necessary.) Whether or not you were in the directory before, if you want to be included this time around, please fill out the form attached to this email, or enclosed with the newsletter if you get it in the mail. We'll also have the form available at our website. Note that we want this to be more than just names and phone numbers; we want it to be a resource for families with questions to find families with relevant experiences.

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The next issue of *Wavelengths* will appear sometime in early September. Please send in stories, book reviews, helpful hints, whatever you have to share. To contact Lorna Irwin (editor) for any reason: niwri2@msn.com or (208) 324-7544. We're still looking for contributions to our series "Fun Stuff to Do with Your Kids."