



Having difficulty affording hearing aids?

ABC World News with Diane Sawyer is interested in doing a story on hearing aid access for children. They would like to speak with families of children who need hearing aids and do NOT yet have them due to insurance not covering the hearing aids. If this describes your family's situation, contact Karen Munoz at karen.munoz@usu.edu as soon as possible. If you've had difficulty in the past or are still struggling to afford hearing aids, contact Andrea Amestoy at AmestoyA@dhw.idaho.gov. She plans to go to the Legislature this fall to see if we can get hearing aid legislation introduced in Idaho, as several states have already done, and your stories can help!

Captioning has come to Twin Falls!

The new Magic Valley Cinema 13 at the mall has the equipment to decode captions at ALL showings; it's a device that fits into the cup holder on the seat and allows an individual to read captions on a screen. They currently have just 5 or 6 units (and will get more if there is enough demand.) For a larger group, call a couple of days in advance and they can arrange for a showing with open captions.

Not to be outdone, the Twin Cinema 12 is now offering a couple of showings of open captioned movies every Saturday. Find out what's showing at www.twinfallsmovies.com.

Thanks, Laura!

The Spring 2012 issue of the ISU Magazine profiles our vice president Laura Bainbridge as one of the "Brightest and Best." It's a very short article, but she managed to "advertise" Hands & Voices nevertheless.



Do Eagles Need Ears to Fly?

by Shanille Moosman

Will hearing sounds make them soar higher above the clouds or hear their prey in the dark of night? The story of this Eagle may answer those questions.

There lives a young man with talent beyond compare! When he gets married, His wife will be so lucky! He can whip up some mean scrambled eggs, along with the fluffiest pancakes, and the sweetest syrup, both made from scratch. He is not afraid of a pile of dirty laundry or a stack of dirty dishes. His room is organized and clean. Sound like any boy you know? Doesn't sound like an Eagle either, but read on.

This young man can also run at lightning speed (well not really, but he is fast), stand on his head for an impressive amount of time, and can swim down 10ft to retrieve goggles dropped by a child in the bottom of the swimming pool. He will impress you more when he does sit-ups or crunches and push-ups using his knuckles or even one handed! His juggling is hypnotizing, and he can do it for an amazing amount of time! This guy, 16 year old Mackenzie Moosman, just happens to be deaf, and just earned his Eagle Scout award from the boy Scouts of America. If you know the Boy Scout program, then you know that this was no simple task.

He mingled with other Cub Scouts at the age of 8-11, and his interpreter was his mom. How fun could that be having your mom with you when you were "hanging out with the guys"??? But he learned and

experienced a lot of the scouting program, and worked and accomplished each of the requirements to earn the awards at each level. He would even work toward the awards that were not as common to get. He would go to Day Camps and other events, and as usual, Mom was there. Was Mom the kind that would let him get away with anything? Could he just get passed off without putting in any effort? No way! That boy had to work and work hard. He earned his Arrow of Light which is the only award that you can wear from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts.

Mackenzie didn't stop there. He went to National Youth Leadership Training. Mom didn't follow him there, she was actually at a Hands and Voices Conference at Lake Tahoe in Nevada! Well, Mackenzie also went to Camp Bradley, which is up by Stanley, Idaho. Some of the merit badges Mackenzie earned included: Farm Mechanics, Aviation (he actually got to fly in an airplane, and not a commercial one), Veterinary Science and Traffic Safety. These were along with the typical badges of: Environmental Science, Camping, Family Life, Citizenship of the Community, Citizenship of the Nation, Citizenship of the World, and so many more.

For his Eagle Project, he had to get out of his comfort zone and go out into the community. His project was to build a storage mezzanine behind stage for the King Fine Arts Center. The area that was used previously was unsafe, unstable, and not satisfactory for the building's needs. With donations for lumber and supplies, that Mackenzie, himself, had to go out and request, he and his group of helpers (other scouts, adults, and his family) were able to build a very nice structure to store props and supplies for the many groups that use the King Fine Arts Center here in Burley. After it was all done, Mackenzie made a thank you note for each of the contributors for their donations, and it included before and after pictures.

He now wears his Eagle award with pride!

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Product Review: *The Sign, Sing, and Play Kit* by Monta Z. Briant review by Laura Bainbridge

My husband, our 5 year old son and I welcomed a new baby into our family 3 months ago. Prior to her arrival I found myself digging through boxes of stored baby toys, books and clothing sorting out which items we could reuse with our forthcoming baby girl. I dug out Baby Einstein DVDs, plastic coated story books, and many treasures I had forgotten about over the years. One special item, however, has never left my son's bookshelf in the past 5 years.

"The Sign, Sing and Play Kit," by Monta Z. Briant is a collection that includes an activity book, Baby Sign Language Basic Book with ASL signs, and a music CD that we still use today. I cannot recall if this was a gift to us before our son was born (before we knew of his hearing loss) so we could teach him Baby Signs or if it was a gift given to us because of his hearing loss diagnosis. Either way, this kit is a joyful way to introduce signing to infants -- and to a clueless parent like myself. As if it were only yesterday, I remember clearly the feelings of shock, trepidation, and worry I had about my son's future after learning his diagnosis. And for whatever reason, listening to this CD and participating in the signing activities with him brought me the calm sense of security we needed.

The beauty of this collection is that it makes signing fun without being overwhelming. The "Songs for little hands" book guides parents through 195 ASL signs they can use along with the music CD. Included are many of my childhood favorites such as "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "Old McDonald." But it also adds original songs which are sweet, have good repetition, and are catchy (without being annoying!) To this day I cannot listen to the song "Baby" without tearing up; it is precious and endearing. As soon as I start signing the lyrics "keep you safe and warm," tears inevitably fall from my eyes. (Yes, I'm a total sap.)

I seem to repeatedly suggest this collection to new families I meet. As if made for a child with hearing loss, there are sounds of a rubber ducky and bath water splashing incorporated in between songs. Perfect listening opportunities! I know this will be a favorite collection with my new hearing baby as it was for my son. It has value on so many levels. I cannot count the number of times my son has asked to fall asleep to this CD, which is why this is one "baby" item that was never packed up or stored away.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

(detailed information about many of these events can be found on the calendar on our webpage; also check the calendar for events that may not be publicized yet.)

M. A. D. (Making A Difference) Marathon July 28 in Idaho Falls, to benefit the Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund (OOPHF) and the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind. There are races of several different lengths, and fun runs for kids. Go to www.madrunderscore.com/idahofalls to sign up to run (a couple of our board members already have!), to volunteer, or just send in a donation, and to learn more about the OOPHF. *Shannon Garlitz recently announced the formation of the unofficial Idaho Hands & Voices Running Club. She and Diana Collins are the first members, having both signed up for this event. Anyone want to join them? No dues, goals, or mission statement... maybe T-shirts?*

Idaho Hands & Voices Second Annual Golf Scramble October 6 in Boise, at the Boise Ranch Golf course. More information is on our web site. Don't play golf? We can use your help anyway! Find a sponsor, donate a raffle item, come spend a morning in person at the registration or raffle table. We're hoping for a repeat of our very successful 2011 Scramble, in order to fund still more programs of interest to our membership.

ISU Language Preschools at the Idaho State University Speech and Hearing Clinic in Meridian, Idaho. Summer Communication Preschool (ages 3 yrs-5 yrs with communication as a focus) or Summer TELL Group (ages 18 months to 3 years with hearing impairment or cochlear implant) July 9 to August 1. Read Andrea Amestoy's article about TELL ("Go TELL it on the Mountain") on our website or in your January newsletter. For more information call Cally Stone 373-1723, ISU Clinic Coordinator.

Treasure Valley DHH Summer Play Group There are still two great activities planned for the rest of the summer! For more information, contact: Jill Muir 914-3728/ jill.muir@iesdb.org or Esther Brune 284-2912(text) or ruthbrune05@gmail.com.

Wednesday July 25: Discovery Center, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, 131 Myrtle St. Boise. We will receive the group discount, \$3.00 for ages 4-17, adults and kids under 4 free. Tell them you are with the DHH play group.

Wednesday Aug. 8: Jabbers, 10:00 am-noon, 1210 N. Galleria Dr. Nampa. Play center at Nampa Gateway shopping center. Owner Linda Rutledge worked at ISDB. We can get a group discount of \$5.00 for ages 4 and up, \$4.00 ages 3 and under, adults free.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival Interpreted Performances Call the box office at 208-336-9221 for tickets and let them know that you will have a person who is deaf or hard of hearing in your party. The amphitheater is at 5657 Warm Springs Avenue in Boise. Performances begin at 8:00, with a Greenshow starting at 7:30 June-August; the September performances start at 7:30 with no Greenshow. For more information about the individual plays, go to www.idahoshakespeare.org. Videos with ASL synopses of the plays and more are also available; look under "Education." Interpreted performances are: The Mousetrap, July 17; The Imaginary Invalid, July 25; The Winter's Tale, August 14; Noises Off, September 12.

Family Days in the Park with Idaho Hands & Voices (Treasure Valley.) Bring the kids, visit with other parents while they play. Starbuck's coffee provided! 10:00 am until noon on Saturdays: July 14, the new splash park in Meridian, at Fairview and Eagle Rd; August 11, location TBA.

Magic Valley Hands & Voices has a few activities planned. Please RSVP to Beth at 961-1782!

Saturday July 14 at Nat Soo Pah hot springs east of Hollister. We've reserved a picnic shelter for 11:00 am and will subsidize swimming passes for members of H&V (your cost \$2 for children ages 1-5, \$3 for older children and adults.) Bring your own picnic and a goody to share; there is also food available for purchase at the resort.

Saturday August 25, our traditional potluck supper at Story Book Park in Burley. We'll supply the chicken and beverage and table service, you bring a side dish or dessert. RSVPs needed to assure that we will have enough chicken! We'll find tables near the playground, which is at the corner of 14th and Conant.

Magic Valley's ESCAPADE (Empower Superb Children And Parents Advocate D/HH Experience) summer activities planned:

Wednesday, July 18, 12:30 – 4:30 pm, Twin Falls YMCA city pool, 756 Locust Street.
You will receive a group discount - \$3.50 for adults; \$2.50 for ages 4-17; \$1.50 for ages 3 and under.
Please tell them you are with the MV's ESCAPADE. If you are already a member of YMCA, please show them your membership ID card.

Wednesday, August 8, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Twin Falls City Park on Shoshone Street between 4th and 5th Avenue East. Bring your own picnic.

Please check out the Magic Valley's ESCAPADE on FaceBook and join the group to keep in touch with current news and upcoming events: www.facebook.com/MagicValleysEscapade

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Two Girls and Their Hearing Aids

When we held our golf scramble last fall, Resound donated a pair of hearing aids to Idaho Hands & Voices. Since we don't have a process for choosing a recipient, and since hearing aids must be fitted, not merely given away, we turned to IESDB for help. The hearing aids are now gracing the ears of 12 year old Tabitha Davis of Richfield, who will be returning to public school this fall after a few years at ISDB. She is also an active 4-H member who enjoys raising and showing pigs.

We've also received a story written by second-grader Kylie Reed. For the illustrated version, see our web site.

The Day I Got My Hearing Aids

In the first grade I struggled with spelling tests. They had me take a hearing test. I did not pass it. I had to take a lot of them. I did not pass any of them. I went to an ear doctor. They gave me another hearing test. They told my mom that I needed hearing aids.

When we found that out, my mom helped me with my spelling tests by making up cheers until I got my hearing aids.

I got to choose the colors of how they would look. I was so happy and excited for them to come. They were going to be grey and pink sparkles.

When they put them on me at first, I said, "Mom, I can hear you!" I started to hear a lot of things I hadn't heard before. I heard the dishwasher, washing machine, and some things seemed really loud. They gave me a lot of things to take care of them, and showed me how to use them. I have to keep them clean, and change my batteries.

I even got a puppet and a book about someone else who got hearing aids. At school I was so happy to be able to hear better, I didn't have to try so hard. The spelling tests were not as hard. Now in second grade, I am doing so much better. I love my hearing aids.

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No matter what your age, you can contribute to "Wavelengths!" Send material to niwri2@msn.com, or call Lorna at 324-7544. We love stories, anecdotes, tips, book and product reviews, announcements of upcoming events, whatever you have to share. Don't like to write? We can interview you and write an article, subject to your approval.