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The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools
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Bishop Elementary Student Claims First at County Spelling Bee

We are pleased to announce that Lyndsey Rowan from Bishop Elementary School won first place in the 2014-15 Inyo County Spelling Bee, sponsored by Altrusa.



Fifth-grader Lyndsey Rowan beams after earning top honors in the 2014-15 Inyo County Spelling Bee.

Twenty-two students from six local elementary and middle schools

participated in the 2014-15 countywide Spelling Bee last week at Jill Kinmont Boothe School. Sixteen students made it to the final rounds. The winners of the competition were:

- **1st Place:** Lyndsey Rowan, Bishop Elementary
- **2nd Place:** Mahdi Ayman, Home Street Middle School
- **3rd Place:** Aubrey Hart, Lo-Inyo

The winning word was: intelligence. The other elementary/middle school contestants included Chris Roberts, Trinity

Roberts and Evan Fuller from Big Pine; Brizeida Mora, Graciela Gutierrez, Jessica McGuire and AC Ray of Lone Pine; Naiya Warren, Steven Mather, Danny and Angie Mendoza, and Orion Nash of Owens Valley; Cashus Puhvel, Carter Silva and Jennifer Velazquez from Bishop schools; Rylee Arcularius, Hana Hogan, Tenaya Tordoff, and Braeden McGrale from Round Valley. Several students also joined the

preliminary competition as alternates to get practice for next year: Kaitlin Hensley and Jose Dominguez from Lo-Inyo and Nichole Asher from Owens Valley. Congratulations to all the student participants.

Thank you to coaches Cheri Fendon, Lynn Lamb, Shelly Daugherty, Carmen London, Victoria Hamilton, Rory Winzenread, and Lidia Rubio for working with their students to

prepare them for the bee and for proctoring the Preliminary Written Competition.

The local Altrusa chapter sponsored the competition. Gail Swain and Robin Hastie were on hand to distribute awards to students and judge the competition. Liz McAteer graciously accepted the position as the Pronouncer for this year's competition. Pamela Jones was the Spell Master for the competition. A special thank you goes to Round Valley Parent Organization for donating \$5 to the "last person standing" from each of the five districts competing.



2014-15 Inyo County Spelling Bee winners, from left to right: Assistant Superintendent Pamela Jones, 3rd place winner Aubrey Hart (Lo-Inyo School), 2nd place winner Mahdi Ayman (Home Street Middle School), 1st place winner Lyndsey Rowan (Bishop Elementary School), Altrusa members Gail Swain and Robin Hastie

Norcross Hired as Chief Technology Officer

Justin Norcross has been hired by the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools as the Chief Technology Officer for Inyo Schools. Norcross, a former Bishop School's employee, has been the Network Administrator for Northern Inyo Hospital for the past seven years. Over the years, Norcross has worked as a consultant for the schools



helping to transition all schools onto the Digital 395 network.

"I'm delighted to be back in the educational arena because so much is happening regarding instructional technology," said Norcross. Norcross will help oversee the county-wide high school one-to-one laptop initiative along with providing a

transition to a new internet based phone system throughout all of Inyo schools.

"The educational community is thrilled to have Justin help lead Inyo Schools toward being the most technologically advanced schools in the state," noted Terry McAteer, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools.

Norcross is a 1998 graduate of Bishop High and of Cuesta Community College. He has received scores of Industrial Certifications regarding technology.

High School Students Preparing for Poetry Out Loud

Inyo County's high school students are among thousands across the state working hard to interpret, memorize, and recite classical poetry in preparation for the 2015 county and state finals of Poetry Out Loud, now in its tenth year. The competition is organized through the California Arts Council and was created with the help of the National Endowment for the Arts to engage high school students in the presentation of poetry through memorization and performance. This is the fifth year that Inyo county students will be participating. Harold McDonald, the local POL school coordinator and retired Owens

Valley English teacher, is currently in classrooms in Bishop, Big Pine, and Owens Valley High School working with students on poem selection, articulation, tone, and overall performance. Last year's Inyo County winner from Big Pine School, Robert Hamilton, delighted the audience with his recitation of *Invictus*, by William Henley, and *Ode*, by Arthur O'Shaughnessy. Inyo Council for the Arts will again be hosting the finals for its county competition on Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. Members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Inyo County is one of approximately 35 counties participating in this statewide competition, with more than 40,000 high school students throughout California competing in their school competitions. County winners will move forward to the California State competition, to be held in Sacramento on March 15th and 16th. Each state-level final competition will award \$1,000 in cash prizes. Each champion at the state level will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC, to compete for the national championship held April 28 and 29.

February 7: Lone Pine Library Grand Re-Opening

Lone Pine Public Library is having their grand re-opening on Saturday, February 7th from 11 to 3 pm with live music, free lunch and many activities. The Library has doubled in area and has been completely remodeled with new computers, and expanded reading areas. Next door to the

Library was the Sheriff's substation which had vacated the premises which allowed the Library, with help from the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools Office, to remodel and expand into the space.

"Libraries are key indicators about the health of a community and Lone Pine

students and community members can now be doubly proud of their hometown library," said County Superintendent Terry McAteer. At the opening, McAteer will be cooking hotdogs and County Librarian Nancy Masters be giving tours at the facility located at the corner of South Washington and Post Streets.

Community Reads: *Uncertain Path* by William Tweed

Kick-off Event: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 5-6:30 pm, ICA; Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7-8:00 pm, LPFHM

Help kick off the 2015 Community Reads celebration of our National Parks with an evening with William Tweed, author of *Uncertain Path* and the unveiling of the newly renovated Inyo Council for the Arts! Tweed, retired Chief Park Naturalist at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, will discuss his journey into writing the book, his time on the John Muir Trail, and his thoughts on the future of our National Parks during this centennial year.

An Evening Celebrating Inyo Native Son, Horace Albright: Wed., Feb. 25th, 7-8:30 pm, ICA; Feb. 26th, LPFHM

Born and raised in Bishop, Horace Albright became the second director of the National Park System, receiving the highest civilian award - the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Presented by Supt. & historian, Terry McAteer.

Eastern Sierra Slideshow & National Park discussion with Andy Selters: Tues., Mar. 3, 7-8:30 pm, ICA

"National Parks, Our Experiments in Boundaries." Join celebrated photographer, Andy Selters, with an illustrated lecture on how "America's Best Idea" unfolded and how it's faring in our region.

Eastern Sierra and Buttermilk Photography Workshop with Vern Clevenger: Saturday, Mar. 7, 1-5 pm, Cerro Coso College Campus, Bishop

Join premiere photographer of the Sierra Nevada, Vern Clevenger, in this in-depth starter class: "Introduction to your Camera." This free workshop class will meet at the Bishop campus of Cerro Coso and then move up into the Buttermilk and surrounding area to photograph.

"The Spirit of John Muir": Thurs., Mar. 12, 7-8:30 pm, ICA

Renowned actor Lee Stetson brings to life one of this country's most beloved and famous naturalists, John Muir. This production, with Mr. Stetson in the title role, has been presented in Yosemite since 1983. **Seating limited. Call ICA for Ticket: 873-8014**

Crater Mountain Geology Hike: Saturday, Mar. 14, 10-12

Join Darla Heil as she leads a walk in the Crater Mountain area south of Big Pine, discussing the geology, history, and lava tubes prevalent in the area. Group to meet at Big Pine school parking lot.

The Legacy of John Muir: Wed., Mar. 18, 7-8:30 LPFHM; Thurs., Mar. 19, ICA, 7-8:30

Join Robert Hanna, great, great grandson of John Muir, as he journeys through the life of his ancestor, John Muir, and the impact and legacy he has left on America's National Parks.

Wildlife of the Sierra Nevada; Saturday, March 21, 10:30 am, ICA

Join Cindy Kamler as she brings in some of the Sierra's rescued feathered friends and reptiles to discuss the habitat and on-going problems faced by these various species. **Great Event for Kids!**