

## 2011 ART CONTEST AWARDS

### Local students earn gambling awareness art awards.

Two Tillamook County students earned first and second place awards for their artwork submitted to the 2011 Tillamook County Middle School Student (grades 6-8) Problem Gambling Awareness Art Contest sponsored by Tillamook Family Counseling Center.

**Morgan Dally**, a seventh-grader at Tillamook Junior High School, earned first place (\$50).

**Jessica Dally**, a seventh-grader at Tillamook Junior High School, earned second place (\$25).

**Sabrina Shelby**, a sixth-grader at Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School, earned third place (\$25).

Morgan Dally's award-earning entry features poker chips, dice, cards and paper money bearing the word Job, Friends, Family and Life. Her message on the entry is, "Is money all you lose? You can lose your job, friends and even family – in other words, your life. So, stop gambling, now, before gambling stops you. Call 1-877-MY-LIMIT for help."

Jessica Dally's award-earning entry features cards, dice, poker chips, and this message, "Ask yourself: Is it worth it? Is it worth the chance of losing your job, your friends, your family, your money – your life? Don't take a chance at gambling. Take a chance at changing your life. Call 1-877-MY-LIMIT."

Shelby's entry features a little girl crying and a dog looking hungry, and this message, "Mommy, the dogs out of food. Could you get some? ...And I mean go get some from the store, not the machine." With the mother responding, "I'm so sorry!"

Two other students submitted entries that earned honorable mention:

Kaylah Bridges, a sixth grader at Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School, submitted an entry that included a picture of a gambling machine = no-fish and a boat = YUM, with the message, "Gambling is like fishing. It's a lot of fun, but only one puts food on the table when the day is done. Help yourself and others at 1-877-MY-LIMIT or [www.1877mylimit.org](http://www.1877mylimit.org)."

Tyler Kirkpatrick, a sixth grader at Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School, submitted an entry that included a picture of a two hands on the nobs of a gambling machine, with this message on the machine's screen, "Gambling Causes problems."

TFCC sent all of those entries on as entries in a statewide ART SEARCH for middle school student art to be featured in the annual Problem Gambling Awareness Calendar produced by the state of Oregon – and Morgan Dally's and Kaylah Bridge's entries were selected and featured in the 2012 calendar!



Morgan Dally, TJHS 7th-grader

Morgan Dally, TJHS 7th-grader, earned 1<sup>st</sup> place in the local contest and her art was also selected in a statewide contest and was featured on the December page of the 2012 Oregon Problem Gambling Awareness Calendar.

Kaylah Bridges, NKNMS 6th-grader, earned honorable mention in the local contest and her art was also selected in a statewide contest to be featured on the June page of the 2012 Oregon Problem Gambling Awareness Calendar.



Kaylah Bridges, TJHS 7th-grader

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**Why a youth art contest in Tillamook County?** The contest aims to increase awareness of problem and addictive gambling in Tillamook County and related risks – especially to youth. The contest coincides with “*Problem Gambling Awareness Week in Tillamook County*” proclaimed for a week in March by Tillamook County Commissioners this year, based on a request by Mary Ann Dearborn with Tillamook Family Counseling Center, following Dearborn’s presentation of facts:

- Gambling can be as addictive as alcohol or drugs for some people – and gambling is especially risky for youth.
- Exposing children and teens to addictive substances (like alcohol or drugs) or addictive behaviors (like gambling) increases the risks of developing addiction in adulthood, because of adolescent brain development.
- Youth gambling in Tillamook County is a serious concern: In 2008, Tillamook Family Counseling Center surveyed eighth graders in all three of the counties school districts and findings suggest that Tillamook County youth are gambling at rates equal to those of youth statewide, based on Oregon Student Wellness Survey (OSWS, 2008).

**What can YOU do to help?** Learn about risks -- share what you know – don’t expose youth to gambling. Information about the problem is available – and help for problem/addictive gambling, in Oregon, is free, confidential – and it works! Call 1-877-MY-LIMIT or visit [www.1877mylimit.org](http://www.1877mylimit.org) .

By Mary Ann Dearborn, LCSW, CPS  
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