

Trains, aquariums, libraries and parks on horizon for Head Start students

By Lori Jay-Linstrom, Parent Involvement Coordinator

April is a busy month for Head Start. Families who live in the Portland and Salem areas and have children who will be going to kindergarten have attended what is called a Kindergarten Roundup. This is the perfect opportunity for families to visit the school their child will attend, register them for the upcoming school year and meet the principals and kindergarten teachers.

In April and May, all of our Head Start centers will participate in seed planting activities with Sharla Robinson with the Tribal Healthy Traditions project. Sharla will show students how to take care of the plants. They will plant snap peas, sunflowers and edible flowers. They will be able to watch them grow when they take the plantings home.

Siletz and Tenas Head Start classrooms will go to the train station in Toledo. The classes have been studying grains and transportation – what a great way to tie everything together.

Lincoln City will go to the Oregon Coast Aquarium in April and during the last two weeks will have their swim lessons on Monday-Thursday. April 22 will be an added class day, which also will be an Easter egg hunt for them. Lincoln City staff and students are looking forward to a new student joining their classroom.

Portland will go on a special field trip to the local city library for a picnic lunch during story time with Librarian Joan, whom staff and students just love as she is very good to our program. On April 13,



Courtesy photo by Alissa Lane

Children from the Head Start morning class in Siletz and the Tenas Illahee class visit the Newport Airport on March 3.

guest artist Ken Walker will come to the classroom and help students make paper. On April 28, the class will go on a field trip to the Mt. Hood Community College fish hatcheries for a tour and picnic lunch.

Salem will study space, weather, ecology and plants for the next several weeks. The classes will take a field trip to a local park and McDonald's. Salem staff encourages families to attend the field trips or just come and have fun in the classroom. Teacher Jayne and Debbie say that their

students have really learned so many new things this year.

Raffle tickets available

We are now selling tickets for our annual Head Start raffle; we will sell tickets through April and up until the drawing. One of our two grand prizes is a dinner for two, show tickets for two and a night's stay at Chinook Winds Casino Resort. Our other grand prize is a Pendleton blanket donated by the Siletz Tribal Council.

If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact any Head Start staff. Parents can stop in at your local Head Start classroom or the Tribal administration building. Drawing will be held in May by the Siletz Tribal Head Start Policy Council.

Head Start always accepts applications; our new applications for the 2011-2012 school year now are available. We have Head Start locations in Siletz, Salem, Portland and Lincoln City.

NCAI honors Indian Country Leadership Award recipients at winter session

WASHINGTON – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) recently announced the recipients of the organization's prestigious Indian Country Leadership Awards.

Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and longtime Tribal leader and advocate Billy Frank Jr. were honored Feb. 28 for their outstanding contributions to Indian Country.

Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation who passed away in 2010, was recognized posthumously among the 2011 recipients. NCAI will honor her by naming the organization's fellowship program in her honor.

"Unwavering leadership is an important quality of a hero in Indian Country; each of the awardees have proven their commitment through actions, changing Indian Country for generations to come," said Jefferson Keel, president

of NCAI and lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma. "It is a personal honor to be able to posthumously recognize the lasting legacy of Wilma Mankiller. Her example as a Tribal citizen and Tribal leader is a standard that will live forever."

NCAI, the nation's oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization, presented the awards during an award reception held in conjunction with its Executive Council Winter Session.

Congressional Leadership Award Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii

Sen. Akaka is the only indigenous member of the Senate and has served as a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs since 1991. He has a demonstrated long-standing interest in supporting Tribal self-determination and honoring federal trust and treaty responsi-

bilities to Indian Tribes. Chairman Akaka has been the lead sponsor of the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act, which would restore self-government to the indigenous people of Hawaii. This year he became chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by virtue of his seniority and long-standing commitment to Indian issues.

Native American Leadership Award Billy Frank Jr.

Billy Frank Jr. is a peerless advocate of Tribal treaty rights and natural resources. In the 1960s and '70s, Frank was arrested more than 50 times defending the Tribes' established treaty rights to fish, hunt and gather shellfish. His courage resulted in "the Boldt Decision," a federal case re-affirming Tribal rights and establishing Tribes in Western Washington as co-managers of salmon resources. As the long-time chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, he continues to advocate tirelessly for the protection of American Indian and Alaska Native natural resources for the benefit of all peoples.

Governmental Leadership Award Tom Perrelli

Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli has made public safety in Indian Country a priority since day one. His commitment has resulted in concrete improvements in law and policy, including enactment of the Tribal Law & Order

Act, institution of a streamlined DOJ Tribal grant solicitation, creation of a new federal/Tribal domestic violence prosecution task force, creation of the Tribal Nations Advisory Council and the hiring of additional assistant U.S. attorneys to prosecute crime in Indian Country across the nation.

Public Sector Leadership Award Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has worked over many years to support American Indian and Alaska Native families through grant-making and direct services. The foundation has been a leader in the philanthropic community, providing critical resources to support programs and initiatives for Native children. The foundation's investments have filled an important gap in providing critical data on Native children and supporting Native institutions that inform effective policy making at the national, state and Tribal level.

Special Recognition Award Wilma Mankiller

In honor of the outstanding contribution of Wilma Pearl Mankiller to Indian Country and Tribal relations with other sovereign nations, the National Congress of American Indians will name its fellowship program in honor of her legacy. It will henceforth be known as the "Wilma Mankiller Fellowship Program for Tribal Policy and Governance."

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