



Courtesy photos by Alicia Keene

Rocky Gonzalez Jr., Roberto Gonzalez, Junior Gonzalez, Louis Ferguson and Jennifer Easter (above) enjoy a roller skating session at Skate World in Springfield, Ore., during spring break, along with Felisha Howell, Julia Trachsel and Bristo Bayya (below).



First Nations works with FINRA, SEC to raise awareness of investment fraud

LONGMONT, Colo. – In observance of Financial Capability Month in April, First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) is working closely with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation (FINRA Foundation) and the Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy to conduct outreach in American Indian communities to raise awareness about investment fraud.

Investment fraud affects thousands of Americans each year and American Indian investors are increasingly becoming targets of scams.

According to the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force established by President Obama in 2009, there were more than \$8 billion in securities, commodities and investment fraud losses in 2010 alone.

The FINRA Foundation and the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy both have a range of tools and resources useful for investors as they consider their investment options.

In addition to offering unbiased information and tools, the FINRA Foundation maintains a fraud center on the SaveandInvest.org website where consumers can access a variety of resources to learn to spot and avoid fraud.

The SEC's Investor.gov website includes investor alerts and bulletins to educate investors on frauds and other information relevant to investing.

Investment scams take many forms - including Ponzi schemes, advance-fee fraud and affinity fraud, where salespeople rely on their affinity with a particular group to gain trust – and investment fraud criminals use sophisticated tactics to get people to part with their money.

Some common signs of fraud include the dangling of a "hot stock tip," a guar-

anteed rate of return on a security or use of unregistered products. It is important for consumers to learn these red flags so they can spot and avoid fraud before it's too late.

First Nations conducts financial education events each year and, in partnership with the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, takes requests from Tribal leaders to help with financial education.

"First Nations is actively engaged in Native American communities across the country and they have developed direct relationships with many Tribal treasurers and Tribal investment committees," said Gerri Walsh, president of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. "Our coordination with First Nations and the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy will allow us to provide Native Americans with the tools and resources they need to help keep their money safe from fraud."

"Our efforts initially arose because of frauds targeted at those who received payouts from the Cobell Indian Trust Settlement," noted Lori J. Schock, director of the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy. "We believe it is important to share information with Native American investors so they can avoid investor fraud."

"First Nations is honored to work with national partners on this important investor education topic," added First Nations President Michael E. Roberts. "We believe this will leverage all of our resources. We look forward to working with the FINRA Foundation and the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy."

Anyone interested in a fraud awareness workshop for their Tribal investment committee, Tribal Council or community group can contact First Nations at info@firstnations.org for more information.

To the editor:

The SVFOL's (Siletz Valley Friends of the Library) fundraiser at the Little Chief on April 6, 2014, was a grand success! We raised over \$2,000.

We started serving lunch at 11:30 a.m. and continued until 6 p.m. Thank you so much to all the people in the Lincoln County communities who came out and helped to make our lasagna dinner such a great sensation! Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the day so fruitful and a huge big thank you to Rita for the use of the Little Chief Cafe and to TJ for coming in and helping us out!

We would like to extend a thank you to Larissa, Amy's daughter, for making several helpings of lasagna too, what a girl! We had a great time and again thank you to all the folks who helped us achieve our fundraising goal.

The funds raised will help pay for a permanent art display. The theme is baskets. Our display will hopefully broaden one's mind on the impact of art and its historical importance.

Baskets are more than functional, they are also artistic and they show how art can be three-dimensional. Stories can be woven through the artistry of the pieces, thereby creatively preserving a culture or historical event.

Traditionally, baskets were used for gathering and storing. Our library is not dissimilar to these baskets in that the Siletz Library serves as a vessel for people to gather and store information. Thank you again to all who came out to our fundraiser!

Audrey Casper, Siletz Valley Friends of the Library Board Member

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All letters must include the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks, or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

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