

Family Living

Board Member Recognized for Public Service

Governor John Kitzhaber, in a surprise announcement, today told State Board of Education member Susan Massey she is the Oregon winner of the "Education Hero" award sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

The award signed by U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley, recognizes those who undertake exceptional activities to help children learn.

"As you believe in Oregon schools, your friends in education believe in you," Kitzhaber told Massey. The Oregon School Boards Association, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and Oregon Department of Education endorsed her nomination.

"There are few people who can match Susan Massey's dedication to public service," said State Schools Supt. Stan Bunn. "She is a quiet but forceful leader in improving Oregon schools."

Massey, who lives in North Bend, is a former teacher. She was active in the North Bend PTA and served on the North Bend School Board for 12 years. She was appointed to the State Board of Education in 1991.

She called attention to the need to

strengthen character education in Oregon schools. As an education policymaker, Massey said, "Loneliness stalks where the buck stop. We all hunger in our schools for love, comfort and the support of others. It



Susan Massey

is vitally important, as well, to remember to do our best in providing those things for the boys and girls who will take our places in the next generation.

New Beginnings

There are currently an estimated 600,000 children in foster care and 70,000 available for adoption in the U.S. While the adoption market for infants continues to soar—private agencies have long waiting lists and charge up to \$30,000 for a newborn—older children have a much harder time finding homes. To counter the high costs and difficulties of traditional adoptions, there has been a growing trend to organize group gatherings that introduce children ages 3 to 17 to prospective parents. THE ADOPTION PICNIC chronicles the weeks leading up to, and the months following, one such event when the poignant "CINEMAX Real Life" documentary debuts THURSDAY, APRIL 8 (6:30-8:00 P.M. ET).

Otherplaydate: April 21 (10:45 a.m.). The emotional journey for the hopeful parents begins six weeks before the picnic in Tylertown, Mississippi, when couples attend "parenting sessions" run by Sylvia Sessions, an adoption specialist and organizer of the picnic. The couples are apprised of the joys, trials and realities of parenting in general, and specifically of children who may come burdened with problems requiring special patience and love. The couples see photographs and learn a bit about the children they will meet at the picnic.

Of the 45 children at the adoption picnic, 30 find families. Critics



Photo: Kristine M. Anderson

The poignant documentary *The Adoption Picnic* visits a summer's day picnic in Mississippi where foster kids available for adoption meet prospective parents.

call these gatherings "meat markets," and contend that some children may sustain serious emotional damage when their hopes for finding new homes are dashed if they are not picked. Defenders emphasize that such picnics may be the

best chance for older foster children to meet interested parents, making it worth the emotional risk.

Joanna Head, who also directed the America Undercover documentary, directs THE ADOPTION PICNIC. "Calling Dr. Kevorkian: A Date with Dr.

Death." The producer is Adam Bullmore; editor, Andy Netley; camera, Stephen Standen; associate producer, Romaine Lancaster. For CINEMAX: executive producer, Sheila Nevins; supervising producer, Nancy Abraham; supervising editor, Geoff Bartz.

MINORITY YOUNGSTERS TO 'Reach For Success'

EUGENE—Minority middle school students will get a firsthand look at college life on a major university campus during this year's "Reach for Success" visitation day on Saturday, April 17, at the University of Oregon.

About 150 students of color, their parents and school counselors from all over Oregon are expected to attend the free event, which is sponsored by the UO Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Student Retention Programs and the Office of Admissions.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the ballroom of the Erb Memorial Union (EMU), 1222 E. 13th Ave. on the UO campus. Participation will be limited to the first 150 students on a first-come, first-served basis, with a March 26 pre-registration deadline.

Each year, the UO offers "Reach for Success" to encourage and support African-American, Asian-American or Pacific Islander, Chicano or Latino and Native American students in pursuing their educational goals. The program gives students and their families the chance to experience firsthand the many opportunities available in higher education.

Jose Romero, director of special project for the Woodburn School District and an UO alumnus, will deliver the keynote address at 9:30 a.m. in the EMU Ballroom. GANAS-

students from Eugene's Kennedy Middle School who are involved with a partnership-tutoring program with the University of Oregon will provide entertainment.

UO faculty, administrators and graduate students will teach mini-classes on 14 different subjects, including art, science, business, law, the Internet and journalism. Campus tours and sessions about

admission requirements, financial aid and housing also will be available for students.

Workshops for parents will address topics such as paying for college, admissions options, campus and community resources, and "helping your child succeed in school." These workshops will be offered in Spanish as well as English. Those parents who request

assistance in other languages at the time of registration will be provided interpreters.

ChildCare will be available for children ages 30 months to six years. Free bus transportation will be provided from central locations in Portland, Salem and Woodburn on a space-available basis.

For more information, or to pre-register, contact the UO of Student Retention Programs, (541) 346-1152.

SAFE KIDS Week Starts with Children's Safety Fair at the Zoo

Children, parents and grandparents are invited to the Oregon SAFE KIDS safety fair at the Oregon Zoo in Portland from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 1. In keeping with this year's theme of Helping Every Generation Care for Kids there will be interactive safety exhibits for kids

and the adults of all ages who care for them. Safety checklists good for discount Zoo admission are being distributed through area schools and other locations. For information about other activities during SAFE KIDS Week, visit the website at <http://www.osp.state.or.us/SAFEkids>.



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Sneak Peek

To All 4 & 5 Yr. Old Children!! You and your parent/guardian are invited to a "Sneak Peek" preview of Fall classrooms.

Bring 4 & 5 yr. Old friends and neighbors. Don't forget their parent/guardian.

We'll meet in the Boise Eliot library, 620N. Fremont, on Friday April 2 at 9 a.m. You will be able to visit classrooms and see students learning, working and having a great time!!

For your parent/guardian there will be an overview of Pre-K and Kindergarten programs.

If you are not registered please bring: Birth certificate • Immunizations • Proof of address •

We have 40 openings for Kindergarten and approx. 60 for Pre-K See You Soon!!!!

Questions will be answered!! 916-6171