

A Head Start farewell after 32 years

Leah Henry has worked with a couple of generations of Warm Springs youth. She started working at Head Start almost 32 years ago.

She has a picture of herself from the 1980s receiving her Child Development Associate certificate. In the picture are young Head Start students. One of the children, a 3-year-old, would grow up to be the mother of Leah's grandson.

"I never would have thought at the time that this child would grow up to my grandson's mom," Leah was saying the other day.

She decided to retire from Head Start last week. The Early Childhood Center staff held a retirement part for her. She'll miss her co-workers, she says, "And I'll really miss the children, and the families."

Leah thought about retiring on July 5, which would be the thirty-second anniversary of



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

MayAnne Mitchell gives Leah Henry the certificate of appreciation for 32 years of service. The Pendleton jacket was a gift from her co-workers.

her joining Head Start.

But circumstances were such that she decided to retire on March 11. She's going to use her free time helping her 18-year-old granddaughter raise Leah's new great

grandson, who is 3 months old. And she is focusing on staying healthy.

Leah started working at Warm Springs Head Start in 1983, when the Warm Springs founder program

Coty Soules was the director.

"She gave me a good work ethic," Leah says. "She taught us how to work with children."

Coty also taught her teachers to encourage parents to be advocates for their children, a philosophy Leah still lives by. "We have to speak up for our children," she says.

Leah mentions one of her memorable accomplishments: "I'm a college graduate because of Head Start," she says.

She took classes at Central Oregon Community College, and graduated in 2002, walking with her classmates at the graduation ceremony. "I didn't graduate high school—I got my GED—but I'm a college graduate," Leah says.

Leah was a Head Start teacher for many years. Her most recent job at ECE was as the family-child service coordinator.

Dave McMechan

Cultural Night at Academy

The first Cultural Night and Fair at the Warm Springs Eagle Academy is set for this Thursday, March 19.

This is an opportunity for students and families

to learn about the culture of Warm Springs.

A light dinner will be served at 5 p.m., with activities until 7. There will be a dance performance at 7 p.m.

Head Start closing for week

Head Start at the Early Childhood Education Center will be closed Monday through Friday, March 23-27 for spring break. This will also be a time when workers will be replacing the heating,

ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at ECE.

The system had not been working properly for some time, requiring closure on some days this past winter.

Spring break Fun Camp coming up

Warm Springs OSU Extension, Family and Community Health, and 4-H are hosting a Kids Fun Day Camp next Wednesday, March 25, during spring break.

The camp will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This is for ages 8-12. Please arrive early to complete paperwork. There is a limit of 15 youth. To learn more call 553-3238.

April training, seminar on abuse prevention

A nationally known expert on child abuse prevention will visit the Confederated Tribes in April.

Corey Jewell-Jensen, M.S., will provide training for the local professionals who work with children and families. This will be at Kah-Nee-Ta on April 10 from 8:30-5 p.m. A seminar for the public will be from 6 to 9 p.m. that day.

Jewell-Jensen is the co-director of the Center for Behavioral Intervention in Beaverton. She has worked with adult sex of-

fenders for over 25 years, and has provided training and consultation to numerous organizations include law enforcement and child advocacy.

She has testified as an expert witness in state and federal courts, received crime prevention awards and was a featured guest on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*.

One in four girls, and one in seven boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. "By taking the time to lea about sex offenders, you will be joining a growing num-

ber of parents and professionals who are becoming better educated about child molestation and the ways in which we can stop this crime."

The April 10 training and seminar is titled, "Protecting You Child: Advice from Child Molesters." There is some graphic content, as the presentation includes videotaped interviews with convicted sex offenders, and graphic discussions about sexual crimes.

Participants with personal history of abuse are encouraged to have support avail-

able. Children and teens should not attend.

To register to attend the professional training or the parent presentation, please contact the Warm Springs Community Counseling Center at 541-553-3205.

If you have questions, please contact Sonia Amlin at the center.

The training and seminar are sponsored by Community Counseling and the Portland Area IHS. Transportation options are available. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

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Activities bus: back in service

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The Tribal Council has been working on a permanent solution to funding the activities bus. Councilman Carlos Smith is an advocate of having the school district fund the bus.

There is a question at the school district about whether the district could fund just a

Warm Springs activities bus, without also providing buses to Metolius, Ashwood and other outlying communities, said school district superintendent Rick Molitor. There is no funding for that many buses, he said.

Tribal attorney Howie Arnett reported to the Tribal Council that in his opinion

there would be no legal reason why the school district couldn't fund the activities bus for Warm Springs.

The number of students from Warm Springs who attend the high school is significant—about one-third, Arnett said. The distance is also relatively far from the high school to Warm Springs, justifying the activities bus, he said.

In past years the Johnson O'Malley Committee provided funding for the MHS-Warm Springs activities bus, but Johnson O'Malley funding is no longer available for this service.

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