

Summer reading club opens at valley libraries for youngsters

To help foster a love for reading and to develop children's reading skills, the Yakima Valley Regional Library is sponsoring "Summer Safari," this year's summer reading club.

"Children who read over the summer are better prepared to enter school in the fall," stressed Karen Dirkse, the library's youth services coordinator.

In addition to improving skills, reading is also a fun activity to fill summer hours, Dirkse said.

Children, from reading age to 12, may join the club anytime after the last day of school. Registrations will be accepted at the headquarters library, 102 S. Third St.; the Summitview Branch at the Chalet Mall; at any of the community libraries; through the mail services program; or at a mobile library stop.

When children join the club, they receive a Safari Fun Booklet of puzzles, jokes, riddles and games. With each library visit, the child may also select a game sheet dealing with African culture, geography and animals.

For every completed book, the child may fill out a Safari Hat form, each good for a chance at winning book prizes, Dirkse said.

In addition, each of the 18 community libraries will host an hour-long program of traditional African stories, chants, games and crafts. The program will be offered at Apple Valley Tuesday, June 19 at 2:30 p.m.; Buena, Thursday, July 26, 3 p.m.; Glee, Thursday, June 21, 3 p.m.; Granger, Thursday, July 12, 2:30 p.m.; Harrah, Friday, June 29, 2 p.m.; Mabton, Friday, July 20, 3 p.m.; Moxee, Wednesday, July 27, 3:30 p.m.; Naches, Thursday, July 19, 2:30 p.m.; Nile, Wednesday, July 25, 3 p.m.; Selah, Thursday, July 5, 2 p.m.; Summitview Branch, Wednesday, June 27, 10 a.m.; Sunnyside, Friday, July 6, 3 p.m.; Terrace Heights, Wednesday, June 13, 2:30 p.m.; Tieton, Thursday, June 14, 2 p.m.; Toppenish, Tuesday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m.; Union Gap, Tuesday, July 31, 2 p.m.; Wapato, Friday, June 22, 10 a.m.; White Swan, Thursday,



Students in Pete Sotelo's art class at Union Gap Middle School work on a safari poster which will hang in the library to announce the summer reading club.

June 28, 2 p.m.; Zillah, Wednesday, July 11, 3 p.m.

The library will also offer crafts programs, puppet workshops, film specials and preschool story hours offered at various times during the summer.

Five new segments of "Reading Rainbow," a reading program for children, will be aired on KYVE-TV beginning July 16. A total of 20

episodes, hosted by LeVar Burton, will be aired. Dirkse said the library has obtained extra copies of the books and will assist children participating in the program.

Dirkse said the safari theme was selected to indicate to children that reading is a vehicle for adventure. "You can take off to anyplace through your imagination and books," she added.