



WOODMEN • EDITION

Life, Business, News in Rockrimmon, Peregrine, Pinecliff, Woodmen Valley, Yorkshire, Brookwood, Briargate, Pine Creek and Wolf Ranch

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Helping with Career Transitions



A new, free class series is focused on the details of looking for a job.

See Story Page 2

D20 Fifth Graders Battled over Books



Teams of School District 20 kids showed off their reading skills at a regional competition where four of the local teams took top awards.

See Story Page 3

Improvements Ahead



Work beginning to give 'no man's land' west of Old Colorado City a facelift.

See Story Page 5

Thousands Celebrate Earth Day in Garden of the Gods



About 3,000 people attended the Earth Day celebration Saturday, April 18 at Garden of the God's Visitor and Nature Center.

By WILLIAM J. DAGENDESH

"It's great interacting with the public, and the falcons are always a big hit with the kids," said Air Force Academy Cadet Bailey Desaussure who helped show off the live U.S. Air Force Academy Falcons, Apollo and Oblio, at last Saturday's Earth Day celebration.

Held at the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, the 18th annual event promoted community action in protecting the environment through educational activities and cleanup efforts at the Garden of the Gods Park.

About 3,000 citizens attended the day-long celebration at the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center where planting trees, children's arts and crafts, a chemical magic show and live animal presentations figured in the attractions. Citizens also planted trees at the adjacent Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site and 91 volunteers filled two trucks with park trash, said community relations coordinator Dolores Davis.

"The focus of the event has always been teaching youth to connect to nature by giving back," Davis said. "Partner-

Continued on page 12



Timmy, a South American red-footed tortoise, was a hit with Patrick Snodgrass, left, and Woodmen area resident Rayanne Wireman, middle, as Cheyenne Mountain Zoo representative Anna Miller held on to the celebrated guest.



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Job Seekers Getting Help through New Career Classes



Aaron McKinney, center, is one of several volunteers who help guide free weekly Career Transitions classes at Woodmen Valley Chapel.

By JEFF HOLMQUIST

As an experienced human resources professional, Aaron McKinney recognized that many people at his church were struggling to find a job. He also noticed that others were attempting to land a different job that better matched their passions, but they often found the search process daunting.

That's when McKinney felt God lead him to get involved in a ministry to assist those in a transition period of their career.

"I wanted to just serve and love on people," McKinney explained. "There's a genuine need out there, and I knew I could help."

That's why McKinney helped launch the Career Transitions ministry at Woodmen Valley Chapel in early February. He said the volunteer team took the framework for a previous program at the church and developed a new curriculum aimed at guiding people through a step-by-step process of finding meaningful employment. Since the weekly classes started, more than a dozen people have found employment and many credit the help they received from the program.

"We can't guarantee that people will find a job because of the class. But we can help them deal with the emotional roller coaster of a career transition,

and we can help them build their self-confidence and be proactive about their job search," he explained.

The first round of classes included presentations on effective resume writing, networking strategies, interviewing techniques and job search ideas as well as free access to an online job-seeker tool. A second round of classes started Tuesday, April 7 with an expanded list of course offerings such as "Catchy Cover Letters" and tips about being a Christian in the workplace. This session runs through the end of June. Participants can join in for any or all of the free classes.

Ron Wich, who has worked in management for 35 years, said he attended Career Transitions reluctantly at first, expecting it wouldn't be much of a help to him. After all, he'd hired and fired dozens of employees through the years and figured he knew it all.

"I quickly learned how little I knew and know about the world of jobs, resumes and interviewing as it now exists," he admitted.

Mark Stempko, who attended the class along with his wife Kathy, was skeptical at first, too. But after being unemployed for nearly a year, he decided it was time to take a different approach to finding work.

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Academy International Elementary Wins Battle of the Books

A Host of D20 Fifth Graders Read Their Way to Competition



Students from School District 20's The da Vinci Academy Elementary School participated in the regional Battle of the Books on April 16 at Colorado College. There were a total of 143 teams representing 86 schools from across the Pikes Peak region competing at the event.

By MELISSA ROLLI AND PATTYE VOLZ

Fifth-graders from four D20 schools earned top honors at the annual Battle of the Books competition at Colorado College last week.

Students from Academy International Elementary took first place at the event which involved teams of four answering questions about a set of 40 pre-selected books in a series of three elimination rounds.

One of Mountain View Elementary School's two teams took second place. Antelope Trails and Woodmen-Roberts elementary schools each had a team take third place. There was one first-place winner, five second-place awards and five third-place awards, based upon the scores achieved by the 143 teams representing 86 schools

from around the Pikes Peak region.

"This is the first time the school has won this award. It's a big deal for the school and the kids," said Academy International's 'Battle' coach, Lucy Westenburg. She said three of the five students on the winning team read all 40 books, one read 38, and the other read about 30.

"They not only read the books but re-read them," she said, recognizing the self-discipline and dedication it took for the students to accomplish all of that reading. Westenburg said that over the past seven years of coaching a Battle of the Books team she has noticed "students almost always walk away with a new favorite author or genre."

"The academic students have very few opportunities at this age to compete...It's great!" said Westenburg. She believes

the activity teaches the students to "work together as a team" and she was excited to watch them learning to collaborate and work together. She was also impressed with the grace of the winning students, noting that one member of that team turned to the other Academy International team and said, "If we win, we all win, because we worked so hard together."

More than half of the elementary schools in Academy District 20 participated in the competi-

Continued on page 8

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OBSERVATIONS

BY HENRY WALTER

What's Wrong with Our Election Cycle?

There is a most absorbing cartoon by Andrew Rae in the April 18 Wall Street Journal that comes so very close to depicting the state of the union in the 21st Century, it's worth framing. It shows the back of a political campaigner speaking to an audience. The audience is expressing almost every known emotion possible on the impressionable faces of the human race.

The cartoon is in all four "primary" colors; red, yellow, black and white with enough blue to show the mood of the audience.

There is anger, disgust, woebegone, impatience, disbelief, skepticism, surrender, et al. displayed in those faces, ostensibly are responses to what the politician is saying. It makes me think of a people who have lost their horizons.

The only positives reflecting the moods are one grizzled old man who might resemble Moses in a denim shirt, with eyes closed and in prayer. Otherwise, the cartoon might well be included in Dante's Inferno with so much disappointment represented in those dour visages.

Those four score caricatures so plausibly mirroring the discontent in our country's political system make one wonder why so many immigrants desire our lifestyle. It's like winning a free ticket to the World Series and finding you're seated in the row behind a rambunctious of giant NFL defensive linemen; you'll know how the game is played but you won't have much to cheer.

The cartoon was placed above a story about how our election campaigns seem to go on forever; so very often resulting in two years of hoping rewarded followed by four years of dismay. Campaign promises so adroitly dissembled to fuzzy henhouse doo doo by the elected to make them abstract memories.

This is not an aberration in the social spheres of the salt-of-the-earth dwellers here that must carry a fear that the U.S. is losing its viability in the world. In fact, it's entirely scrutable to those who remember the myth "Government of the People" of the fading past.

But why is it that government is the only entity in the universe that can fabricate that infernal eternal scowl on its subjects' faces? Even God gave us the muscles to smile, good times and bad. Government thrives on its ability to use citizens' muscle to sew weakness in our thought as well as in our character.

Doesn't it seem rather curious that Mother Nature, over time, heals herself from disaster, yet government disasters create such bad precedents that may outlive human kind?

Those scowling faces in the cartoon just serve as a reminder of what government does best: make good producing citizens into grumpy Grinches. But at the same time, creates big smiles on those who receive monthly "paychecks" from that same government. There's an old saw that says those who rob Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the goodwill of Paul.

And that goodwill grows and grows until someday, it may be up to Paul to repay the Peters...but with what? Government-printed money made with wood pulp from Canada that still allows paper making? Conservationists have made it unprofitable in the U.S., meaning higher prices for U.S. consumers.

There are some things we could do to rid ourselves of the national scowl. One might be to scrutinize the political election cycles. Two and one half years of campaigning—at great expense—to provide two years of Congressional mangling—at great expense—is not a good use of time. Might even increase smiling.

My Muse just tapped me on the shoulder to point out the real indignity displayed by the cranky cartoon. For years and years, we pundits have pounded on the ideal that we have a government of the people. In fact, just the other day a columnist made the remark "the government is us." Alas, that is not so true anymore. It ain't us; it's the lobbyists, the lawyers, the regulators, and the activists who hold sway over what our government representatives throw at us. Maybe it is what we have to swallow that makes us so peevisish.

Hc2walter@comcast.com See my blog at www.observationsofanoldnewsman.com

Thank You for saying "I saw it in The Woodmen Edition"

Peregrine Parks And Open Spaces

Spring Projects in Peregrine Parks and Open Spaces

Improvements Coming in Blodgett Peak and Woodmen Valley Areas

Guest Column From Peregrine Parks And Open Spaces

By Melissa McCormick
Park Ranger for Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Spring time is here and many of us are eagerly looking forward to trading the comfort and shelter of our homes for the fresh air and wildness of open spaces, greater opportunities for exercise and introspection, and simple enjoyment of the great outdoors. While wildflowers are emerging and migratory birds are returning to northwest Colorado Springs, the City Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department is working with friends groups and volunteers on several conservation projects to protect neighborhoods and natural areas, as well as enhance visitors' experiences this season.

Two major projects are taking place in Blodgett Peak Open Space. First, the Forestry division has hired contractors to complete a fire mitigation project near the Peregrine and Ponderosa Trails. A small crew will be thinning vegetation and spreading the wood chips in the area southeast of the water tower. Work is expected to take place from mid-April through the end of June.

Another very exciting project underway is the construction of a new trail in the southeast section of Blodgett Peak Open Space. The new trail will stretch from the intersection of the Wagon Wheel and Red Squirrel Trails east to Woodmen Road, near Blodgett Ranch Trail. This trail will offer hikers access to areas affected by the Waldo Canyon fire, providing the opportunity to watch the area "rise from the ashes" as flora and fauna return. The new trail will offer beauty and novelty, however it is recommended for experienced hikers only

as trail users will encounter steep side slopes, sinuous grades, and very little shade. If this sounds enticing, please be patient and refrain from hiking through the area until the trail is complete - which is tentatively planned for early May.

Trail improvements are also planned for Woodmen Valley Open Space. The current trails through the open space are primarily along the ridgeline - an alignment created by foot traffic but generally despised by trail planners as it contributes to significant erosion. With the help of two local scouts, we plan to reroute a short section of trail on the western side of the open space leading to Woodmen Roberts Elementary School. One scout will close and restore the steep section of trail while the other creates a more sustainable trail route to the faculty parking lot.

Colorado Springs residents have unparalleled access to unique open spaces within city limits. Managing and maintaining these open spaces is truly a community effort. Staff, contractors, and volunteers make a significant contribution, as do trail users. In fact, trail users are a key to helping maintain these beloved places - by staying on designated trails, keeping pets on leash, taking waste to the trash can, or reporting issues to the Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space division via the GoCoSprings mobile app. We truly appreciate everyone's participation in keeping our parks beautiful!

If you would like to get involved in volunteer work in Peregrine area open spaces, please contact Jim Klever of the Friends of Peregrine Parks and Open Spaces at 238-5414 or jrklever@comcast.net. The Friends schedule projects throughout the spring and summer, and are always looking for new volunteers.

Venezia Park Groundbreaking Thursday

A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for the John Venezia Park at 9330 North Union Boulevard at 10 a.m., Thursday, April 30. Plans call for a ranch theme on the 110 acres at the southwest corner of Union Boulevard and Briargate Parkway, including picnic pavilions, playgrounds, fruit trees and sports fields and courts.

Rampart Hosting Game Convention

A citywide gaming convention is taking place at Rampart High School from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday, April 25. The GameCon IV will include role-playing, trading card, board and chess games for any interested middle and high school students. There will be morning and afternoon sessions for tournaments and games. Lunch is included in the \$10 entry fee. For a full schedule and registration, see <http://d20gamecon.weebly.com/>.

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Makeover Beginning for No Man's Land



El Paso County work crews started surface maintenance along Colorado Avenue between Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs last week. The county is now taking over maintenance responsibility for the previously neglected area.

By PATTYE VOLZ

Road work initiated on Colorado Avenue west of Old Colorado City marks the beginning of changes for the unincorporated area east of Manitou Springs.

Long known as "No Man's Land" with a hodgepodge of jurisdictional boundaries, an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is now in place between Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, El Paso County and the Colorado Department of Transportation to fix up the area, according to a press release from El Paso County.

The first step is that the county has taken over ownership and maintenance of 1.3 miles of Colorado Avenue from 31st Street west to the U.S. 24 overpass in Manitou Springs. Last week, the county started minor repair work which should continue for the next several weeks.

"Later this year construction of the new and improved Colorado Avenue will begin with the relocation of utility lines which are currently located in the middle of sidewalks and in the road right of way," according to the release which notes that the start date on the larger project is still months away.

Drivers should expect flaggers, construction zone signs and reduced speed limits in the area while road work is under way.

A final public meeting is expected this summer to discuss detailed improvement plans for the area.

Free Bike Tune-ups Saturday

Bike Pro Mobile will be doing free bike tune-ups from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 25 at Cave of the Winds, 100 Cave of the Winds Road. The event will include a kids' bike parade, face painting, and balloons.

Registration for Inaugural Birding Festival

The first annual Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival runs from Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10 with almost 40 different opportunities at various locations including 19 field trips. Leaders will take participants to the prairies, foothills and even up Pikes Peak to see a variety of birds, each adapted to its specific habitat. The collaborative event includes multiple speakers, bird banding demos, a John James Audubon painting exhibit and birds behind the scenes at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. For more information and to register, see www.pikespeakbirdingandnaturefestival.org.

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Area Resident to Lead CASA



Jenny Bender will take over leadership of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Pikes Peak Region in June. The School District 20 resident is currently executive director of the local nonprofit Newborn Hope. According to a press release, Bender previously worked in resource development for The Navigators. CASA's longtime leader, Trudy Strewler Hodges, left the organization this year to become CEO of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation.

State Park Cleanup Sunday

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is organizing a work day to help keep Cheyenne Mountain State Park in good condition beginning at 10 a.m., Sunday, April 26. Volunteers should bring gloves, water and sunscreen, and meet at the visitor's center off of Highway 115 at the southern end of Colorado Springs. For more info, call 576-2016.

Shrek The Musical Showing at Liberty High School



Mitch Donohue appears as Lord Farquaad but the ogre is the hero in "Shrek The Musical" being staged this weekend and next at Liberty High School Theatre, 8720 Scarborough Drive. Shows take place at 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, April 24 and 25, and May 1 and 2, as well as at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 30 and at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 2. Tickets (\$12 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors and \$5 for children) are available at www.libertytheatre.org/box-office.html.

Applications Open for TOPS Working Committee

The Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is seeking applicants for three vacancies on the TOPS Working Committee which determines spending priorities for the Trails, Open Space and Parks sales tax. The one-tenth of a percent tax was approved by voters in 1997. The positions are for a three-year term and the group meets at 7:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Applicants should send a one-page resume with a one-page explanation of why interested to Chris Lieber, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services; 1401 Recreation Way; Colorado Springs, CO 80905 or email to clieber@springsgov.com. For more information, contact Lieber at 385-6530.

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The Colorado Springs School: Excellence Every Day

By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS FOR THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL**

Imagine a school environment where students experience joy in learning, creating, innovating in every class, every day. At The Colorado Springs School, students are engaged and energized by a stimulating educational environment full of academic rigor, athletics, the arts, and experiential learning. But the true distinction of The Colorado Springs School is in the relationships created there—the day-to-day interactions that instill confidence, character and collaboration that prepares them for a lifelong journey of learning and success, whether individually or as part of a team.

“Student academic and social development are the center of our work and extra-curricular activities are not considered “extra” at all—but rather serve our mission, whether on a court, in the field, or on a stage,” said Aaron Schubach, head of school. “Students graduate here knowing themselves and are able to live full lives in community and conversation with others, while also having the integrity to lead.”

What differentiates The Colorado Springs School is the understanding that education is more complex than mastering the “three Rs” or preparing for a state exam; it’s about providing integrated experiences, enriching interaction with people and places, that expands a child’s capabilities and perspectives in and outside of the classroom.

“At The Colorado Springs School, we teach to a higher standard,” said Lisa Kleintjes



Colorado Springs School Pre-K students study plants in biology

Kamemoto, director of admission and marketing. “Our students are discovering the real world through experiential seminars that develop critical thinkers, not just test takers.”

Their philosophy is that learning is best instilled by providing students with a link between their intellectual endeavors and life experiences, enabling them to apply classroom academics with direct, active participation. Each student is encouraged to develop their talents and skills while exploring new disciplines and activities, which they may have otherwise never attempted.

“We moved our children from the public school, where they were excelling academically, but were not particularly challenged. Further, they encountered social dynamics that were distracting,” said John Edwards. “The Colorado Springs School has been transformative, both intellectually and socially, developing our children in multidimensional ways. Their knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills are blossoming, preparing them for future success in college and throughout life.”

Project and experiential learning happens every day at The Colorado Springs School, both on campus and through in-depth, field exploration. Teachers are always finding intersections between disciplines. They may infuse a science based experiment with an art activity to truly deepen a students’ knowledge, or travel to a remote destination for cross-cultural service projects. The Colorado Springs School sparks an intrinsic joy of learning, motivating their students to make purposeful effort toward achieving high academic standards.

Learn more about The Colorado Springs School by contacting Lisa Kleintjes Kamemoto at lkamemoto@css.org, or visit www.css.org.

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Career Transition Classes

from page 2

Stempko said the classes taught him important skills and helped him dramatically improve his resume. It also taught him how to network more effectively, and those skills eventually landed him a job at a national ministry office based in Colorado Springs.

“I have been so impressed with the ministry team and their

unselfish giving of time and resources,” he said.

DiAnna Steele was unemployed for nine months before she started attending the program. She said the encouragement and tips she received as part of the class helped her land her dream job in a few short weeks. She is now a vice president for a national Christian non-profit organization, and she’s still receiving job offers from other employers.

“A career transition can be a very trying and frustrating experience,” she admitted.

Local employers also are singing the praises of the ministry. McKinney frequently scouts out and emails job opportunities to class participants. On several occasions those emails have led to employment.

Victoria Harley, a church member and a management employee at local company, said she contacted McKinney about several job openings and immediately received resumes from qualified candidates. She eventually hired one of the students from the class and has been pleased with the results.

“I would definitely recommend the ministry to other organizations,” she said.

“I’m amazed at how well it’s gone,” McKinney said. “People are reporting real results because of the class. I’m honored and privileged to be a part of this.” He said the free class is open to anyone needing help with a job search and people are welcome to come at any point during the current session. He notes that the process for finding meaningful employment has changed considerably in recent years and the class presenters reveal current strategies for job seekers of all ages.

Career Transitions is offered on Tuesday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. in the lower level of Woodmen Valley Chapel’s Stone Chapel building, 290 East Woodmen Road. The ministry outgrew its original meeting place and often touts attendance of 30-50 job seekers. McKinney said an eventual goal is to be able to pass this program along to other churches.

For more information and a list of upcoming classes, visit <https://www.woodmenvalley.org/careertransitions>.

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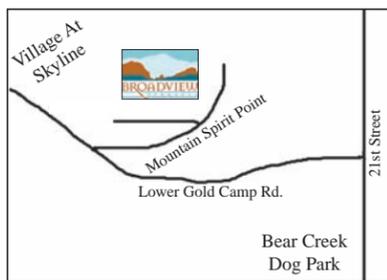


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Book Battle

from page 3

tion with many bringing two teams of four students with a possible alternate. In addition to the schools noted, D20 participants included The da Vinci Academy, Chinook Trail Elementary, Discovery Canyon Campus, Douglass Valley Elementary, Edith Wolford Elementary, Explorer Elementary, Frontier Elementary, High Plains Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Prairie Hills Elementary, and Rockrimmon Elementary.

The Battle of the Books “encouraged students to read books out of their comfort zone,” said Stacy Guerin, who coached The da Vinci Academy team. She said she “felt that it gave children who don’t

participate in competitive-type activities, like sports, the chance to participate and excel in an organized competition.”

According to Lisa Busch who helped organize this year’s regional event, more than 572 fifth graders participated. She said the list of 40 books changes a bit each year with two voted off the list and two new ones added.

“Students have commented on how much their self-discipline has developed because they had to balance their regular fifth-grade lives with reading, and they learned to respect others to work on a team,” said Busch about the value of the competition.

New Fire Station Plans Moving Forward

Mayor Steve Bach signed a contract last week clearing the way for construction to begin on Fire Station 22 at the intersection of Voyager Parkway and Copper Center. The facility should improve response times for the Colorado Springs Fire Department in the northern parts of the city such as to the Flying Horse, Copper Ridge and Northgate developments. Construction is supposed to begin on or before August 1 with use of the facility planned by March 31, 2016.

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The Woodmen Edition weekly circulation is **15,500**
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Colorado Cracking Down on Drunk Driving

As spring ushers in longer days and warmer weather, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Colorado State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies are increasing patrols to stop Driving Under the Influence (DUI). The spring enforcement campaign started last weekend and runs through Sunday, May 17, coinciding with functions where people might be celebrating, such as graduations and sporting events. During this enforcement period last year, more than 1800 people were arrested for DUI. Efforts will include additional law enforcement on duty conducting sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.



Humane Society Pet of the Week
Kovu (1079445), 3, needs your help to feel mighty! This neutered brown tabby is pretty shy, and he hides around children and dogs, so he might do better in a mature, cat-only home.



Humane Society Pet of the Week
Greg (1164719), 7, is a sweet, easy-going miniature pinscher. We gave Greg a dental, and now he can't stop showing off those pearly whites!

Extension Class on Jellies and Jams

The Colorado State University Extension is offering a two-hour class on how to safely preserve fruit as jelly or fruit spread, including a demonstration of water-bath canning. The class is set for 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 2 at the extension office, 17 North Spruce. The cost is \$15 and pre-registration is required at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/el-paso-county-extension-3307519696> or 520-7690.

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SENIORS AND ASTHMA

For the elderly, asthma can present a difficult challenge. Because seniors are more susceptible to respiratory failure, even a mild asthma attack can pose the same difficulty breathing as a severe attack does to a young individual. If developed at a later age, asthma may go unidentified and untreated since its symptoms mimic those of a host of other illnesses. In addition, the sedentary lifestyle of many seniors reduces the occurrence of symptoms triggered with regular exercise and movement. Many elderly asthmatics require more medication to maintain normal breathing, and medications necessary for other health issues may worsen asthma symptoms or cause a reaction when treating asthma symptoms. Cognitive issues may require help to maintain a consistent asthma treatment plan.

When asthma develops at an advanced age, the symptoms are similar to those among young adults. One way in which asthma differs at older ages, however, is that greater amounts of medication are needed to maintain normal breathing in older patients. **For more information or to schedule a consultation, please call THE WILLIAM STORMS ALLERGY CLINIC at 719-955-6000 or visit us at www.stormsallergy.com. Our clinic is centrally located at 1625 Medical Center Point, Suite 190.**

P.S. The diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of asthma in an elderly person are critical.

SUMMER PROGRAMS



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Private Lessons in instrumental music, theory, composition, vocals, dance and theater

Earth Day

from page 1

ing with incredible educators and local environmental organizations has been the key to the success of the event. Park cleanup efforts were a major success this year but there is always more work to be done.”

“It was nice to see so many folks out despite the weather. Everyone had a wonderful time,” said Andy Morris, park operations administrator at Rock Ledge Ranch. He said about 500 people helped or watched with planting of one pear and four apple trees at the historic site.

While the weather prompted some acts to cancel, it didn’t dampen the participation of School in the Woods, a District 20 institution that studies sciences in a natural setting. Students braved the chill and rain to discuss the school’s mission and

a wildlife display, and conduct an aquatic wildlife demonstration to outdoor enthusiasts.

“I want people to get away from their computers and interact with the real world,” said instructor Jonathan Wuerth. Student Sophie Kincaid, who explained the school’s mission, added, “I want people to share our information with family and friends.”

Park interpreters Jan Whitman and Jane Eisenbach fashioned planters out of cardboard bathroom tissue holders which children filled with marigold or mountain garland seeds for planting at home. One boy dug an imaginary hole with an imaginary shovel and planted an imaginary tree. One girl asked passersby to, “Water me, I’m a turnip.”

While the educational exhibits, wildlife art, and animal pelts and skulls commanded attention, it was a South American red-footed tortoise named Timmy who stole the show.

“Timmy loves these events because he gets lots of attention, especially from children,” said Cheyenne Mountain Zoo representative Anna Miller as Timmy inched his way across the floor to an adoring crowd.

Denim Ramirez attended the celebration with his daughter, Emma, who made friends with the canine representative of the Peterson Air Force Base Fire Department.

“I want Emma to learn as much as possible and have a great time,” said Ramirez as his daughter showered attention on her new friend.

Woodmen area resident John Cawood added, “This event gives people many opportunities to appreciate our planet.”

Visitor & Nature Center proceeds support maintenance and improvements to the Garden of the Gods Park. The event was sponsored in partnership with the Rock Ledge Ranch Living History Association. To learn more visit www.gardenofgods.com or www.rockledgeranch.com.



Two Mayoral Forums Ahead

Ballots Being Mailed

Two events are planned to hear the two Colorado Springs mayoral candidates Mary Lou Makepeace and John Suthers discuss their views for leading the city.

The first forum will focus on conservation and transportation issues, including topics such as parks, open spaces, water and bicycling priorities. This will take place at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 27 in the Celeste Theater of Gaylord Hall at 825 N. Cascade on the Colorado College campus.

The second event is a debate set for 6 – 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 5 in the Garden Pavilion of the Penrose House, 1661 Mesa Avenue. Those who wish to attend the May 5 debate should RSVP to Samantha Barlow at sbarlow@elpomar.org or 577-7033.

Both events are free and open to the public. The city’s communications office said this week that the all-mail ballots should be sent out to active, registered voters beginning Tuesday, April 28. To be counted, all ballots must be received by Election Day, Tuesday, May 19.

parkside medical offices now open grand opening saturday april 25 1:00-3:00 pm

Join us for a community grand opening celebration at our new Parkside Medical Offices, located at 215 Parkside Dr. in Colorado Springs. Enjoy refreshments, activities and a chance to meet our care team and tour the facility. Let us show you how you can thrive with Kaiser Permanente.

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