

City's Easter Egg Hunt Set For April 23

Prospector Park— Kids will find more than 5,200 eggs

The City of Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department is hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23. Residents are invited to find more than 5,200 prize-filled eggs.

This egg hunt is open to all ages and is free to the public. The hunt is divided up into separate age groups: 2 and younger, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10 and "Big Kids" ages 11 to adult.

Special prizes will be given to those who find a token in the egg during the hunt. There will be other activities and games sponsored by local nonprofit organizations available during and after the egg hunt. Most activities will cost a small fee to participate. There will be opportunities to take photographs with the Easter Bunny

The first egg hunt will begin at 9 a.m. for kids 2 and younger. The remaining hunts will begin immediately after the first in order of age.

A 7 a.m. pancake breakfast, sponsored by Mountain Health and Wellness, will cost a donation of \$3.50 per adult and \$1.50 per child.

The hunt and breakfast will take place on the softball fields at Prospector Park, located at 3015 N. Idaho Road. The park is about an eighth of a mile north of Lost Dutchman Boulevard (also known as Brown Road in Mesa).

Local nonprofits wanting to sponsor a booth at the Easter Egg Hunt, or those interested in volunteering at the event should contact Chrystal Sawyer at (480) 474-5159.

For more information about this program or other programs and services, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (480) 983-2181 or visit its website at www.ajcity.net/parks.



The Easter Bunny will make a guest appearance.



A pancake breakfast will be served starting at 7 a.m. and the "Hunt" begins at 9 a.m. with 2 year-olds and younger.

Authors Visit with CCJHS' Top Readers

Students told to read, read, read



Author Claudia Gray encouraged students interested in becoming an author to read anything they can get their hands on.

By Betty Swanson
The News

Top performers in Cactus Canyon Junior High School's (CCJHS) Accelerated Reader program recently had two special visitors—published and accomplished authors.

Cameron Stracher, spoke to the students about the writing process and his recently released book, "Water Wars."

A graduate of Harvard Law School and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Stracher has previously written three other books and is the recipient of a 1998 fiction fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

"Water Wars" is the first teen

fiction book for the New York City resident, portraying a world without clean drinking water and its effect on people and society. The book raises serious questions as to whether or not this scenario could actually happen on our planet and asks students to reflect on the possibility, and what could become of earth if it did.

Claudia Gray was in Phoenix recently to promote the release of "Afterlife" the fourth book of the "Evernight" series—a supernatural love story written for young adults. She spoke to them about what goes into creating strong plots and characters.

Gray attributed her resume of books involving the para-

normal to an interest in anything "creepy" as a child and, even now, as an adult.

She encouraged students interested in becoming authors to read anything they can get their hands on, because "you never know what will spark your interest and inspire new ways of thinking."

The Accelerated Reader program is used by more than 75,000 K-12 North American schools. Using computer software, students log the number of books they read, are given quizzes to test their comprehension of the book, then are awarded points for number of books, reading level and their understanding of the material.

ATHS Visits Microsoft Store

Honored students chosen to travel to Scottsdale

Twelve students from Apache Trail High School visited the Microsoft store in Scottsdale earlier this month. These students were chosen by their teachers as "Wolfpack of the Block" recipients.

ATHS functions on a block system and every nine to 10 weeks, students are selected by their teachers for showing strong character and for having consistent motivation to succeed.

This block's honorees are: Joe Young, Natalie Medrano, J. Tyler Mathis, Wendy Medrano, Angel Ortiz, Ashley Tschilor, Ryan Mason, Gabby Wheat, Del Mathews, Mariabel DeSantiago, Ed Walters, Kris Stein and Andrew Jones. These students had the opportunity to explore what Microsoft had to offer and get some hands-on experience with some new technology.

Apache Trail High School, located at 945 W. Apache Trail, is a tuition-free, NCA accredited public charter high school and has been serving the Apache Junction Community since 1997.

For more information about the school, call (480) 288-0337 or e-mail ATHSInfo@leonagroup.com.



J. Tyler Mathis and Ed Walters explore the Microsoft store.

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