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# El Paso County & Fountain Valley

...the voice of the Fountain Valley since 1958

## ADVERTISER & NEWS

32 Pages Issue No. 6 — February 5, 2014 — In Our 56th Year — Your "Hometown Newspaper" Published Every Wednesday

### Mesa Ridge High School's NJROTC Legacy Continues

For the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (NJROTC) at Mesa Ridge High School has won the Navy state drill meet. It's like the Super Bowl of Navy competitions.

"This is the most difficult competition. It includes drill, academic and physical fitness events," said instructor Don Pletcher, a retired Navy lieutenant commander. He and Tony Cook, a retired Navy senior chief, are instructors at Mesa Ridge.

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Mesa Ridge High School's NJROTC State Champions show the trophies they have won. Back row: Erin Portillo, Chase Frankford, Justin Seyfarth, Starson Jason, Austin Steward, Jordan Jones, Zac Padilla, Dylan Oaks and Gerald Acevedo; Front Row: Sierra Uballe, Ashlyn Brecker, Gabby Harrison-Purnell, John Lightner, Tyler Fuller and Jacob Walker See page 16 for additional photos.

COURTESY OF SAMANTHA BRIGGS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION, WIDEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 3



### Molding Creativity... Family Place Opens at Fountain Branch Library

A Grand Opening for the Fountain Branch Library's New Family Place took place recently. Shown above are Isabel McNemor and her son, Samuel, playing with molding clay at the event. See related photos on page 17.

NEWS PHOTOS BY GEOFF CLARK

### Relay for Life Kickoff Postponed

A kickoff rally for the Relay For Life of Fountain Valley event, which benefits the American Cancer Society, which was scheduled for Friday, was postponed due to the bad weather.

No makeup date has been set yet. Keep watching this newspaper for further updates.

### Appletree Golf Course May Reopen in 2016

BY KAREN JOHNSON

Residents from the Peaceful Valley area hoping to see the revitalization and reopening of the Appletree Golf Course filled the Fountain City Council chambers during the Jan. 28 city council meeting.

After listening to numerous residents speak in favor of the project, the council unanimously approved a resolution for an option agreement with Res Co One, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company specifying the terms and conditions for the donation of the property known as the Appletree Golf Course to the city of Fountain.

continued on page 2



### Broncomania Sweeps City Hall

Broncomania swept Fountain City Hall Friday as staff members donned their favorite Denver Broncos garb to show their support for the home state team in Sunday's Super Bowl. Unfortunately for these and other Denver fans, the Broncos lost to Seattle's Seahawks, 43-8. NEWS PHOTO BY GEOFF CLARK

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## Grand Opening Held for Fountain Branch Library's New Family Place

A Grand Opening for the Fountain Branch Library's Family Place was held recently at the library located at 230 Main St.

The Fountain Branch Library and the Briargate Branch are the only Pikes Peak Library District facilities to offer the Family Place. PPLD received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Family Place Libraries to help pay for the new program.

Family Place is for newborns to age 5 with a focus on newborns to age 3 and their parents. Family Place works to expand the traditional role of children's services and builds on the knowledge that good health, early learning, parental involvement and supportive communities play a critical role



Sean McNemar, left, and Camden Dover play with water and sand. Looking on are Darlin Burrous, left, Camden's grandmother, and Okema Shults, Camden's aunt. Sean is the son of Isabel and John McNemar of Widefield while Camden is the son of Cassie and John Jones of Fountain.



Winter Tyrrell, the daughter of Alanna Robertson and Clint Tyrrell of Fountain, plays with some toys as her mother, left, visits with Erin Bowles, Children's Specialist for the Pikes Peak Library District.

in young children's growth and development, according to Jessica Freeland, Children's Specialist for the Pikes Peak Library District.

There are two main parts to being a Family Place library, Freeland said.

The first is the children's area. The Fountain library staff is incorporating developmentally appropriate toys and activities for children. They are also adding a collection of parenting books and brochures on childhood topics such as toilet training and nutrition.

The second aspect of Family Place is the Bright from the Start Parent Child Workshop. This is a five week series for children age three and under with an adult. Topics include: Early Literacy, Speech/Hearing/Language Development, Child Development, Nutrition, and Music/Play/Health.

The workshops will run from 10:30 a.m. - Noon Wednesdays from Feb. 19-March 19. Persons can register in person at the library located at 230 South Main Street.

According to Freeland, this program emphasizes parents as the child's first teachers and teaches strategies for healthy child development and early literacy. The program also creates a setting where parents can get to know each other and gain support systems while children are able to interact with others their ages while playing with educational toys.

"During this time, parents are also able to engage a community professional who is able to speak with them in an informal and relaxed setting regarding the topic for that week, which can facilitate early intervention and connect parents with resources," Freeland

said. "We have been able to partner with several wonderful local organizations which are providing us with our community professionals for the first workshop."

These organizations include the El Paso County Health Dept., Woman Infant, Children (WIC), the Fountain Arts Center and the Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD).

For more information about the Family Place, contact the library at 382-5347.

The Family Place is not the only addition for children at the library.

"In addition to our regular Storytimes and Toddler Times, Fountain Library will now also be offering Baby Time, a special storytime for babies and their caregivers," Freeland concluded.



Above, Austin Mandolene, son of Nathan and Jennifer Mandolene of Fountain has his face painted by Melody Philbrick, Children's Specialist for the Pikes Peak Library District.

NEWS PHOTOS BY GEOFF CLARK

*Valentines for your Sweetheart!*

*For Luciana*

Today's a day for love  
And our love is one that  
You know that you'll never  
No matter how far or where  
I'll be there for you  
The moon and the stars will shine  
I'll try to make you smile  
Just as long as I can  
**SAMPLE \$24**

*Love, Frank*



Plan Ahead!  
Once again, you will have the chance to tell your sweetheart how much you love them with a Valentine's Message in your community newspaper! Sample sizes are shown here, with other sizes available. All will be published in our Feb. 12 issue.

Happy Valentine's Day to my love  
**SAMPLE \$6**  
Cynthia and Kristina  
*Love, Mom*

Happy Valentine's Day  
**SAMPLE \$12**  
I Love You  
Jason

Call us at (719) 382-5611 and arrange for your Valentine's Day Message!



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