



ROBERT REGAN/Standard-Examiner

While Hillary Perkins holds a speaker converted to microphone use, Mike Harris teaches the physics of sound, showing High teacher, visits area elementary schools to explain basics of science.

Honor students pitch in, clean up Fernwood Park

By DONNA BROWN
Standard-Examiner correspondent

LAYTON — Fernwood Park is one truckload full of junk cleaner, thanks to the North Layton Junior High Honor Society.

Advisor Ellen Thompson said on Nov. 10, 30 of the group's 70 members and six advisors hiked through the park, a part of Wasatch National Forest, picking up broken glass, aluminum cans, "and just stuff people threw out of their cars," she said.

"We were looking for something we could do this time of year quickly," Thompson said.

"The kids all love that park and they go up there and enjoy it."

The service project was part of an overall program to help exceptional students get a more complete education.

In order to be a member of the school's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, students must carry a 3.75 grade point average or higher.

The group focuses on areas of citizenship, academics, service and leadership.

Each year, the chapter tries to complete a fall and spring project.

In addition, each member comes up with a community service project on his or her own.

"It works to try and make them well-rounded," Thompson said. "Most of them are really grassroots, just little things that help out the area around them."

Next spring, the group plans to give puppet shows for patients at McKay-Dee Hospital in Ogden, she said.

Scouts to sell Christmas trees on base

LAYTON — Boy Scout Troop 55 and Cub Scout Pack 55 will hold a Christmas tree sale at Centennial Park on Hill Air Force Base beginning Friday, Nov. 30. Trees are usually sold

out in two weeks, said a Scout leader.

Tree lot hours are, weekdays, 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m.

Teacher works wonders with physics

Layton High educator tells elementary school children science is everywhere

By DONNA BROWN
Standard-Examiner correspondent

WEST POINT — Science is everywhere. If you don't know the reason behind what's going on in the world around you, all of the sudden it looks like magic, Mike Harris told West Point Elementary students Wednesday.

At the beginning of a 1½-hour science show, the Layton High science teacher asked students to define science. Several hands popped up in a second-grade audience and with a child's honesty, a little girl named Sarah said, "It's boring."

Harris took no offense to the innocent attack on his profession of more than 10 years. He said he

understood how she might feel that way. "But, Sarah, you can't go anywhere where there isn't science," he said. "I like to define science as the study of rules...If you don't learn the rules, if you don't know science, the world does get boring."

Harris set out to show the children an exciting side to a complicated subject with what seemed like magic tricks. Magnetic force, static electricity, the miracle of gravity and a laser light beam that carries sound held the children's attention captive.

Harris first started taking his science projects to elementary schools when his fourth-grade son Michael was in first-grade. He

found the younger children's response refreshing. Harris says high school kids can be enthusiastic about science, but as people get older inhibitions get in their way and they become less inquisitive.

Younger children ask fascinating questions, "Dumb things that we don't think of like, 'How come the birds have to flap their wings to fly and airplanes don't,'" Harris said.

Harris loves the questions and wants to provide as many an-

swers to young children as possible. That is why he will use a \$31,200 once-in-a-lifetime grant from the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Foundation this year to travel throughout Utah to various elementary schools to give children a chance to reach out to science and touch it.

Whenever possible, Harris will concentrate his efforts on rural schools that have little opportunity to experience the same learning advantages available in cities.

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Your Health
Dr. Joseph V. Bowden



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