



Anita Wolberd, director of Caspari Montessori Institute, answers a student's question at the teacher training school on South B and East Geysler streets, Thursday.

Enterprise photos by Angela Schneider

School trains teachers for Montessori careers

By Wes Venteicher
 Enterprise Staff Writer

At the Caspari Montessori Institute on Thursday, Director Anita Wolberd knelt beside a mother of four and offered gentle guidance on pronunciation:

"Let's listen with our ear," she instructed Rebecca Despain, of Billings, arranging large plastic letters on the floor to form the word "fan."

Despain is one of nine women training at the institute to become a Montessori teacher. Seeing lessons demonstrated, such as Thursday's language exercise, is an important part of the training, Wolberd said.

Some women in the course traveled hundreds of miles to acquire Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education certification at the institute's East Geysler Street location in Livingston.

"I came here for the authentic training program, from Montessori herself," said Nada McClellan of Hawaii.

Elisabeth Caspari, the institute's namesake who died in 2002 at age 102 in her Paradise Valley home, was a student of Maria Montessori in India, Wolberd said. Wolberd was a friend and student of Caspari.

Maria Montessori was a scientist more than a teacher, Wolberd said. Montessori found children ages 3 to 6 to be most receptive to her unique method of social and academic training. She developed an individualized approach to education, where children develop according to their own curiosities with the help of teachers.

Children want to be independent and do what grown-ups do, Wolberd said. The four Montessori categories of education are practical life, sensorial development, language and math.

All of the four categories utilize high-quality, hands-on educational materials, she said.

Practical life materials offer children a chance to learn basic skills such as buckling, buttoning and zipping. More advanced practical life activities include making tea or orange juice, peeling bananas, dusting and washing clothes by hand.

"Children want to do these things, to act like adults," Wolberd emphasized.

Most of the educational materials are standard for Montessori education and many are special-ordered from Montessori suppliers, she said. All are designed to make education



Wolberd, left, helps Rebecca Despain, a Montessori teaching student, with a spelling activity that is used with Montessori children.

interactive.

Children learn to spell by building words with individual letters. Sensorial activities such as arranging graduated cylinders provide a tactile introduction to numbers, forming a basis for more advanced mathematics.

"This age group is the heart of the program," Wolberd said. "From here, the program expanded up and down to include infant programs and high schools."

There are more than 5,000 Montessori schools in the United States, according to a study published in the Sept. 29 issue of Science magazine. Of those, 300 are public schools.

The study suggests Montessori programs produce children who are socially adept and proficient in academics.

In their third week of the intensive six-week certification program, the teachers in training remained enthu-

siastic about the course.

"It's a lot of information and a lot of work, but I'm really enjoying it," Despain said.

Despain sent two of her children, who are the younger of her four, to a Montessori school.

"It made a huge difference," she said. "They were more stable, more independent and trustworthy."

Caspari Institute student Theresa Ajzen, of Emigrant, called the Montessori program the most beneficial way for a child to start their life.

"It's a beautiful thing to watch a child so focused," said Joshua Zacha of Hamilton. "When you match need and work, kids love it — it's a beautiful, magical moment."

After the six-week course, the women need to complete a year-long internship at a Montessori school to obtain certification. Ajzen and McClellan plan to complete internships in Livingston.

Deep Creek Bench

Wedding chapel road is public, judge rules

By Camden Easterling
 Enterprise Staff Writer

A Park County judge has concluded that a portion of a Paradise Valley road in legal question is not private, meaning the citizens plus the owners of a wedding chapel there are free to use a portion of Deep Creek Bench Road and that the county must resume maintaining it.

In an order issued June 30 from Sixth Judicial District Court, Judge Nels Swandal made a determination on a civil lawsuit that began in 2008 when a Park County couple filed a complaint about their neighbors' use of the road.

Deborah and Andreas Luder, who own property in the area of Deep Creek Bench Road, filed a suit regarding a spur off Deep Creek Bench Road. The spur is commonly called Lower Deep Creek Bench Road.

In their complaint, the Luders alleged that the historical use of the spur was "exclusively for egress and ingress for residential and agricultural purposes."

The Luders took issue with nearby property owners Pat and Marla Wagman and their son Ryan building a facility that they rent out for weddings and receptions. The facility, built a few years ago and called Deep Creek Range, "resulted in an extensive and heavy increase in the usage of and vehicular traffic upon" Lower Deep Creek Bench Road, according to the complaint.

The couple argued that the road was not public but rather was an unrecorded easement not to be used for the kind of commercial traffic that the Wagmans' venue was creating. The Luders noted that area property owners Tim and Cindy Bowers operate a commercial guiding service but have not historically used the road for their business.

The suit named as defendants Bowers and other area property owners, plus Park County commissioners serving in their capacity as representatives for the county, who would have a stake or interest in the road being considered public.

Swandal held a bench tri-

al on the case in late April. In his June 30 conclusions, he wrote that information presented in the case showed that Park County maintained the road since 1976, although it had performed some maintenance there as early as the 1930s. Swandal also wrote in his findings of fact that the county has accepted the road as public since 1985.

In his order, Swandal also declared that Park County will resume maintenance of Lower Deep Creek Bench Road "in accordance with its standard practice."

Swandal wrote that evidence presented in the case established that the road is public and that its "scope of use" includes "residential, agricultural and commercial purposes" and that all the defendants in the case may use the road accordingly without interference from the Luders.

"We're disappointed in the verdict, and the Luders are considering an appeal," Mark Hartwig, the Luders' attorney, said Thursday.

Todd Stubbs, a Bozeman attorney who represented several defendants, including the Wagmans and the Bowers, was out of the office Thursday and Friday could not be reached for comment. Pat Wagman could not be reached Thursday.

In his order, Swandal also declared that Park County will resume maintenance of Lower Deep Creek Bench Road "in accordance with its standard practice."

Shannan Piccolo, civil deputy attorney for Park County, said the county has not done maintenance work on the road since the Luders filed their suit. The county will comply with the judge's order and will assess the road to determine what level of service or maintenance it needs, she said.

Auction features remains of Roy Roger's horse

NEW YORK (AP) — An upcoming New York City auction will feature the belongings of movie cowboy Roy Rogers — including the preserved remains of his famous horse, Trigger.

Christie's in Manhattan held a preview Friday for next week's auction. The items are from the now-closed Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum in Branson, Mo.

Rogers had his faithful companion preserved with taxidermy in 1965. The presale estimate for the dead horse is \$100,000 to \$200,000.

The auction also will offer another kind of horsepower — Rogers' 1964 Bonneville convertible, adorned with collectible silver dollars. It's estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Hand-drawn music for the theme song "Happy Trails" has a presale estimate of \$300 to \$500.

Cold War redux: US, Russia swap 14 spies in Vienna

MOSCOW (AP) — The U.S. and Russia orchestrated the largest spy swap since the Cold War, exchanging 10 spies arrested in the U.S. for four convicted in Russia in an elaborately choreographed diplomatic dance Friday at Vienna's airport.

The exchange was a clear demonstration of President Barack Obama's "reset" ties between Moscow and Washington, enabling the U.S. to retrieve four Russians, some of whom were suffering through long prison terms.

At least one of the four — ex-colonel Alexander Zaporozhsky

— may have exposed information leading to the capture of Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames, two of the most damaging spies ever caught in the U.S.

The talks leading to the spy swap began when CIA director Leon Panetta approached Mikhail Fradkov, the head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, with a proposed deal, a U.S. official said Friday. Following the FBI arrests of the Russians, the U.S. intelligence agency reached out, making it possible for Panetta to suggest the exchange, the official said on condition of anonymity to dis-

cuss sensitive intelligence matters.

Moscow avoided having 10 spy trials in the United States that would have spilled embarrassing details of how its agents, posing as ordinary citizens, apparently uncovered little of value but managed to be watched by the FBI for years.

The handover allowed Vienna to add yet another distinctive event to its long history as a key site for diplomacy, the capital of neutral Austria being the preferred place to work on treaties and agreements to reduce U.S.-Soviet tensions during the

Cold War.

After not commenting for days, the U.S. Justice Department finally announced a successful completion to the spy swap after the two planes involved touched down in Moscow and London.

This image taken from the Russian social networking website "Odnoklassniki," or "Classmates," shows a woman identified as Anna Chapman, one of several people arrested in the U.S. on espionage charges.



AP photo