

SCIENCE: Speaker kicks off Sisters Science Club series

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NASA’s Disability Awareness And Action Working Group improving the work environment for personnel who are differently abled; and a member of NASA’s Speakers Bureau for the last 10 years.

Known as “Gabe” to all who meet him, his job as an engineer programmer was to identify solutions for repairs to bridges, roads, mechanical systems, roofs, and elevators.

“The greatest part of this job was it gave me access to everything ... launch complexes, Launch Control Center, the Vehicle Assembly Building, the Orbiter Processing Facilities, the Space Station Processing Facility, the Mars Simulation Testing Area ... NASA and

the Kennedy Space Center are simply magical,” Gabe says, brimming with enthusiasm.

Gabrielle uses that “magic” to encourage his listeners to dream big dreams, to inspire them to embrace life, and to show that learning can be more fun than they ever imagined.

Dedicated to promoting the STEAM curriculum – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Gabrielle uses his NASA experience to promote creativity in science in the United States and around the world.

“In March I was invited to Brazil, supporting a weeklong event by participating in Science Fairs and Expos, promoting STEAM,” Gabrielle reports. “It was simply amazing. We spoke with close to 7,000 students and their parents over a 6-day period. I found the Brazilian students and their parents to



PHOTO PROVIDED

Gabe Gabrielle.

be awesome. So caring, so enthusiastic, so kind, and so giving...full of questions, hugs, and smiles.”

His travels have taken him to Qatar, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Trinidad, and South Africa – and now to Central Oregon to inspire local students and kick off the annual Sisters Science Club lecture series.

Social hour at The Belfry begins at 6 p.m., with the lecture following at 7 p.m. Students, teachers and Science Club members free; others, \$5 donation at the door. For more information, contact Kathy Campbell, Sisters Science Club Program Planning, 541-912-0750.



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The Space Shuttle blasts off.

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PET RESCUE: Northwest is a sanctuary for unwanted pets

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the other dogs grew silent.

Why do unwanted pets in California stand a better chance at adoption in the Pacific Northwest?

Chrissy Mattucci, the executive director of Rescue Express, said there is a different culture between the two regions.

For example, there's more community support in the Pacific Northwest for animal shelters that provide education about the importance of spaying and neutering pets to prevent overpopulation, she said. As a result, shelters in the region more often have space to accept homeless animals, she said.

According to Amber Minium, a volunteer at Lucky Paws in Eugene, the number of animals they took in tripled when Rescue Express began operation. The rescue now takes in between 10 and 20 animals a week.

The credit for Rescue Express goes to Mike McCarthy, a retired software engineer who founded Rescue Express when he was living in Eugene. He has since moved

to California, but he remains active, coordinating Rescue Express.

After working in animal causes for many years, McCarthy said during a recent phone conversation that he noticed the pet overpopulation in California and shortage of animals for adoption in the Pacific Northwest.

McCarthy also noted that sometimes pet transport volunteers lacked the proper equipment and resources to transport animals in safety and relative comfort.

His solution was to buy a former school bus, paint it bright red, and add photos of animals to its exterior. Inside, several air-conditioning units keep animals cool for the trip through the triple-digit heat in California's central valleys. The back of the bus is lined with 93 animal carriers.

The weekly crew of two employees — a driver and a transport supervisor — make the trip every weekend from Eugene to San Fernando, California, before heading back up to Burlington, Washington, which usually is the last stop before the return to their Eugene headquarters.

Each weekend's transport costs between \$3,500 and \$3,800. The average transport cost for each animal is between \$25 and \$35.

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