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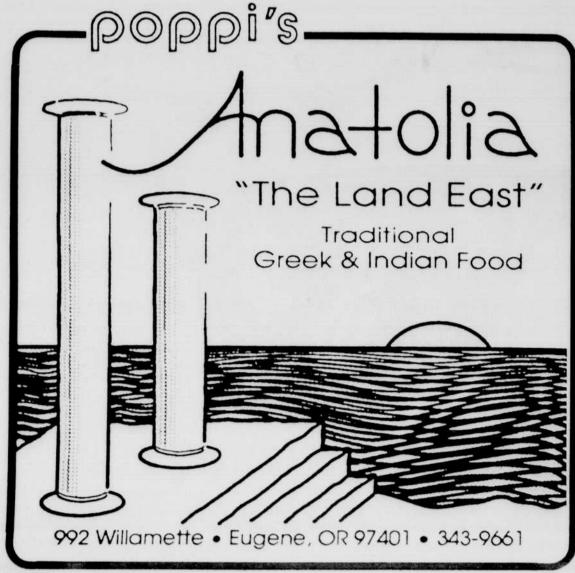
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City parks departments offering many activities

By Mary McMahan

People do not have to be in the Eugene/Springfield area long to discover there is an endless supply of recreational activities at their disposal.

Easily accessible mountains, rivers, lakes, bike routes, and numerous area parks are all part of what brings people to the Willamette Valley. If you are new to the area or if you have not taken advantage of what is available, there is an easy way to get involved.

Eugene and Springfield parks and recreation departments have created a quarterly calender of events to guide people of all ages to the available resources in the local area.

There are five community centers in the area: Amazon Center. 2700 Hillyard St.; Petersen Barn, 870 Berntzen Road; Sheldon Center, 2445 Willakenzie Road; Westmoreland Center, 1545 W. 22nd Ave., and Willamalane, 765 N. A St. in Springfield.

Each center provides similar programs, with categories of activities divided by age group and focus of interest. A sixth center has recently opened with programs tailored to the interest of the disabled citizens of our community.

In plans for the new center, the architect included ideas provided by people who have some form of disability. These people were asked what barriers they encountered in buildings on a daily basis.

Due to their input the building has no hallways, counter tops are low in all the rooms, and there are cues on the walls for the blind who use canes.

The completely accessible center facilitates programs similar to that of the other local centers but in addition it provides specific assistance for a range of disabilities. Each center will continue to operate an integrated facility, and encourage those with disabilities to continue to join in the programs that they provide.

Each community center provides a variety of classes available to specific age groups.

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