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NEWS

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Note to Editors: At 8:30 a.m. on April 17, representatives from the Colorado State Forest Service and the Colorado Tree Coalition will reveal the name of the 2007 National Arbor Day Poster Contest winner at a school assembly in the gymnasium at Bea Underwood Elementary School in Parachute. Teachers, parents and the school principal will make remarks about the winner, followed by a brief educational activity pertaining to National Arbor Day.

Parachute Student is Colorado's 2007 National Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

PARACHUTE, Colo. — S.N.E. Whiteley, daughter of Eileen and Bryen Whiteley and a student in Elaine Callister's 5th grade class at Bea Underwood Elementary School in Parachute, is the 2007 Colorado state winner of the National Arbor Day Poster Contest. Representatives from the Colorado State Forest Service and Colorado Tree Coalition recognized Whiteley for her winning poster at a surprise announcement during an Arbor Day/Earth Day school assembly on April 17.

The state contest is part of an annual program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and coordinated by the Colorado Tree Coalition. The theme of this year's contest was *Trees are Terrific...and forests are too!* The National Arbor Day Foundation will announce the national poster contest winner on April 30.

Chosen from more than 1,300 posters created by 5th graders throughout Colorado, Whiteley's poster depicts an aspen grove and wildflowers bordered by pine trees.

Whiteley's poster, accompanied by the other 54 posters forwarded by Colorado teachers for the competition, will be on display at the Colorado Capitol from April 17-19 and again from April 24 until noon on April 30. They also will be on display at the Borders bookstore at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton on April 21-22.

During a ceremony at the Colorado Capitol on April 30, Whiteley will present a framed print of her poster to Colorado Representative Al White, Colorado Senator Josh Penry, Colorado State Forester Jeff Jahnke and a representative from The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Following the presentation of the posters, Rep. White will introduce Whiteley and her family, teacher and principal to the House Assembly.

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Dignitaries from the Colorado Tree Coalition; Ralph Campbell, community forestry division supervisor, Colorado State Forest Service; Donna Davis, state poster contest coordinator, Colorado Tree Coalition; and family and friends also will be present for the ceremony and will accompany Whiteley on a tour of the Capitol.

In addition, as the teacher of the winning student, Callister will receive educational prizes from Toyota, the National Arbor Day Foundation, the Colorado Tree Coalition and the Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Teachers of all 54 school winners also will receive books, tree cards and bookmarks from the National Arbor Day Foundation. And all 1,336 students who participated in the poster contest will receive a Colorado blue spruce seedling tree from The Shops at Northfield Stapleton.

To view Whiteley's winning poster, visit the Colorado Tree Coalition website at www.coloradotrees.org.

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