

Butte Creek students test out tech.

Christena Brooks Special to Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

This year, elementary and middle school students at Butte Creek School have entered a world typically reserved for their older peers – the world of computer-aided design.

On a recent Wednesday afternoon, the school's computer lab hummed with activity, long after the bell had rung and most kids had gone home for the day. Inside, a handful of designers, grades 4-8, labored over projects ranging from banners, to T-shirts, to a prosthetic limb for a hedgehog.

The new Technology and Manufacturing Club meets twice a week to design products for real customers. By far the most unusual customer so far, the hedgehog – belonging to club adviser Stacy Boost – unfortunately died before its new peg leg was complete.

But student Wyatt Heath was finishing it up anyway. Using the modeling program Rhino, he designed a cone-shaped leg and planned to bring it to life using one of the school's 3-D printers.

"The new plastic leg would've fit over his hind leg like this," Wyatt said, demonstrating on a stuffed animal sitting next to his keyboard.

On screens around him, other projects were in various states of completion. Alyha Sanarov was tweaking a "Butte Creek Bobcats" logo for P.E. class T-shirts. Greyson Glivinski and Aubrey Leao were making vinyl banners. And Georgey Zenuhin was creating a shirt for the club itself.

"Georgey, stand back and look at your design like you're seeing it for the first time," Boost instructed. "If you have to look too hard, keep working."

Georgey nodded and backed away from the screen, squinting. He'd done this all before, and his confidence was palpable. In fact, everyone in the room had completed at least one project, resulting in a workplace-like environment.

"There is a level of excitement and energy that comes by physically doing the actual thing being learned," said Boost, now in her 11th year of teaching at Butte Creek.

Boost's students will make T-shirts, hats signs and bumper stickers for real, paying clients, including teachers, fellow students and school district staff.

"For \$10 anyone can give us a drawing that they have done, and our student will use the program to make that design into vinyl that is heat-pressed onto a T-shirt of their choosing," Boost said.

Heat presses for shirts and hats were donated to Butte Creek by Lanette Willig, who, with her late husband Eddie, ran a T-shirt shop, Mo Shirts, for many years. Boost also personally bought out the couple's T-shirt inventory at a steep discount.

The last necessary pieces to an operational "shop" at Butte Creek were a vinyl cutter, secured via a grant, and a 3-D printer and software, purchased by the district.

Boost was thrilled to discover at SuperQuest, a summertime training for computer science teachers, that she quickly picked up design skills, after years of robotics and coding training. Her personal love for crafting came in handy too.

"I have done computer design for years to make embroidery designs for my quilt making and was shocked to see how similar the program was," she said. "As far as I know, it is not being used with children this young ...



Scarlette Leiterman uses the heat press to finish her own shirt, something Technology and Manufacturing Club students get to do once they've done projects for clients.

CHRISTENA BROOKS/SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

but I figured that, if I can learn to use it, I can teach it."

Boost's long-term goal is to make the Technology and Manufacturing Club self-sustaining. She's patched together a collection of fundraisers that pay toward Butte Creek's after-school robotics clubs, and the school's parent-teacher club and Oktoberfest have been very supportive too. But this latest effort has the potential to pay for itself, an outcome she's hoping for.

Anyone interested in supporting Butte Creek students by placing an order can email stacy_boost@silverfalls.k12.or.us or drop by the school 3-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Silverton H.S. dodgeball tourney registration open

Christena Brooks
Special to Salem
Statesman Journal
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Anyone 14 and older is invited to register for the Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive & Donate Dodgeball Tournament during the month

of February.

Registration for this annual tournament, a fundraiser for Silverton High School, will close March 1 or once 64 teams have registered.

The event itself is set for April 7. Teams compete for prizes, and most

of all, bragging rights. This is a blind draw, double elimination tournament, with a consolation bracket. Matches will be played in the best 2 out of 3.

The tournament raises funds for Silverton High School's all-night, alco-

hol-and-drug-free graduation party. Information can be found online at www.silvertondodgeball.com.

Silverton High Junior Dance Camp planned

Justin Much
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Silverton High School Dance Team is holding its Junior Dance Camp from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 13-15, in the high school's

commons.

The camp will culminate with a halftime performance during the Friday, Feb. 16, Silverton basketball game.

Camp cost is \$30 per attendee, \$50 for two, and includes a camp T-shirt and entry into the

Friday night game.

Registration forms can be dropped off at Silverton Ballet Studio, 209 Oak St., or sent to Silverton High School, Attn. Bookkeeper, 1456 Pine St., 97381. For information, call Brittany Zurcher, 503-931-5954.

Silverton Senior Center hosts Alzheimer's class

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Oregon Care Partners will host a free, instructor-led class at the Silverton Senior Center titled, "Positive Approach to

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care" on Feb. 21.

The three-hour class is designed to help anyone who cares for an aging Oregonian develop positive approaches to behavioral challenges common in those affected by Alzheimer's and dementia.

It's free of charge, thanks to funding from the State of Oregon and partnerships with nonprofits.

The class runs from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 115 Westfield Street or call 503-873-3093.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS



If you're caring for someone with dementia, there's help.

Taking care of a family member or loved one with dementia such as Alzheimer's can be challenging. But you don't have to do it alone. Oregon Care Partners can help.

In our free, online or in-person classes, you'll learn:

- How to create a positive environment, including activities to stimulate memories and interaction
- What to expect as their condition progresses
- How to manage medications safely and effectively
- How to handle common challenging behaviors

Visit OregonCarePartners.com to get started today. A little help can make a big difference – for your loved one, and for you.

Classes offered online and in-person at NO COST to you
Funded through the State of Oregon

COMING SOON TO SILVERTON

Positive Approach to Alzheimer's and Dementia Care (PAC) Workshop

February 21, 1:00pm-4:00pm • Silverton Senior Center

Learn more and register for this free class at OregonCarePartners.com. Family members, all levels of caregivers and walk-ins welcome. CEUs offered for professionals.



www.OregonCarePartners.com
1-800-930-6851 • info@oregoncarepartners.com

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FINANCIAL ADVISOR
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Michael Wooters

FINANCIAL ADVISOR
South | 503-362-5439

Caitlin Davis

FINANCIAL ADVISOR
West | 503-585-1464

Jeff Davis

FINANCIAL ADVISOR
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