



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

The cast of "Oklahoma!" pauses for a big finish after singing the musical's namesake theme song about the territory.

Take a trip to the Wild West

Large, high-energy Central High cast to stage 'Oklahoma!'

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Hannah Boyack leaves her heart on the stage in Central High School's performance of "Oklahoma!" which opens Thursday night.

Boyack's character, Laurey Williams, is joined by a high-energy cast of 50, all singing, dancing — and occasionally fighting — in the 1906 Oklahoma Territory.

The result of so many doing so much onstage at the same time is an emotion-packed experience for the audience member, with laughs, gasps, surprises and maybe even some tears. Performers also go through a realm of emotions during the production.

For Jacob Eschette, who plays Jud Fry, "Oklahoma!" has been exhausting.

"This is not my first time



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Hannah Boyack and Sterling Sykes, as Laurey and Curly, leave the box social arm in arm after Curly wins a heated auction showdown with Jud, Laurey's would-be suitor.

playing a villain," the CHS junior said. "But it is the first time playing a real villain."

His previous villain role was playing Gaston in Central's fall production of

"Beauty and the Beast." Gaston is "cheesy and fake" compared to Jud, Eschette said.

"It's a real difference," he said. "It's tiring in every way

— mentally, physically. He's so hateful and mean all the time."

Eschette said he doesn't let that hateful attitude follow him offstage, adding that he acts the part, and doesn't let the part act him.

The show has drama, with an intense fight between Jud and Curly, played by Sterling Sykes, resulting in a death. Eschette said "Oklahoma!" might not be appropriate for some young children if they're afraid of death.

"It's a good show, though, don't get me wrong," he said. "It's tiring, but I love every second of it or I wouldn't be here."

The musical also has love, with multiple couples trying to find their match-up, as evidenced through the opening of the second act at the box social.

See 'OKLAHOMA!', Page 19A

SCHOOL NOTES

School robotics event set Saturday

DALLAS — Dallas High School and LaCreole Middle School are hosting the second-annual Dallas Robotics Tournament Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The high school event will host more than 30 teams from Oregon and Washington, including six from Dallas High.

New this year, and held in conjunction with the high school tournament, is LaCreole's VEX IQ competition solely for middle school robotics teams.

Community members are welcome to attend both competitions, to be held in the DHS forum and cafeteria, 1250 SE Holman Ave.

For more information: 503-623-8336.

MVCA spelling bee placers named

MONMOUTH — Mid-Valley Christian Academy has announced its contest winners entered in the District Spelling Bee sponsored by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) on Jan. 16.

The winners are: Makenzie White, second grade, first place; Roman Robbins, second grade, fourth place; Isaac McIntyre, third grade, fourth place; Heidi Kershner, fourth grade, second place; and Levi Schrock, fifth grade, third place, and participant in the second round for those with first- through fourth-place awards in grades 5-8.

The district competition included six Christian schools, both small and large in enrollment.

The next ACSI district event for MVCA is the speech meet on Feb. 27 at Sonshine Christian School in Salem.

For more information: MVCA, 503-838-2818.

Medical scholarships are available

DALLAS — Applications for West Valley Hospital Foundation scholarships, for students in medically-related fields of study, are now available.

Applicants must live in Polk County or be a current employee or family member of a current employee at West Valley Hospital, and must have applied to a college in their field of study before applying for this scholarship.

Applications must be returned by March 27.

For more information: 503-831-3456; www.salemhealth.org/scholarships, and click the West Valley Hospital Foundation Scholarship link.

Dallas Lions offering scholarship

DALLAS — Dallas Lions Club is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school student who is a resident of Dallas.

The funds are to be used for tuition at an accredited university, college or vocational school. Students graduating from Dallas High School, Morrison Campus, an accredited home-school program or online school program are eligible to apply.

Applications are available at the Dallas High School guidance office or by going online and visiting <http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/dallasor/index.php>. For consideration, all information must be received by April 1. Completed applications can be submitted to the Dallas High School guidance office or Teresa Ozias at Shetterly Lick & Ozias, located at 189 SW Academy St., Dallas.

For more information: 503-623-6695.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Local student garners recognition

STAUNTON, Va. — Wendy Deptula of Monmouth has been named to the fall 2014 honors list at Mary Baldwin College. Students named to the honors list earned grade-point averages of 3.75 to 4.00. To be eligible, a student must be a degree candidate and must have earned at least 12 semester hours for the grading period. Deptula is a 2012 graduate of Central High School.



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DSD eyes facility use policy update

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas School District Board is in the process of revising its policy regarding community use of its schools and facilities.

At issue in the revision is the longstanding policy — adopted in 2002 with just minor amendments since — was in need of clarity, especially with a new superintendent taking over in July.

"There was some confusion related to the current policy," said Interim Superintendent Dennis Engle, adding it left too much open to interpretation.

The policy has been discussed at a number of board meetings since the beginning of the school year and will continue to be discussed over the next few months.

Another part of the discussion is the cost of allow-

ing outside organizations to use facilities, and possible fees to compensate for that. The board is also considering how the district should address requests from organizations that clearly benefit students or offer activities the district doesn't have the funding to provide itself.

Examples are the Dallas Mat Club or Dallas Basketball Association, among other similar organizations serving Dallas-area students.

Engle presented the board a new draft of the policy, entitled "Community Use of School Facilities and Equipment," on Jan. 26.

The draft included a list of "guiding principles" for facility use.

"The school district desires to provide the opportunity for community use of specific district facilities," the first "guiding principle" read. "This use should come with minimal impact on the facilities or fiscal resources."

The policy also stated use includes fixed and in-place equipment, but not "use of services, supplies, and non-

fixed or stored equipment" and organizations that have the use fee waived "will not have custodial, other service fees or equipment fees waived."

"Use fees cover only services provided at a minimal level," defined as "ensuring the space is clean, available, and secured by on-duty staff following use."

Engle said the board won't be working on the policy at its next meeting on Monday, but it will be on the agenda again soon.

He added the district welcomes input from the public on the process and what will end up being the new policy adopted by the board.

"I just want to make sure people have plenty of time to see this," Engle said.

To view the entire current draft of the policy, see the Jan. 26 Dallas School Board meeting packet available at www.dallas.k12.or.us/school_board.htm.

For more information or to comment on the draft policy, call the district at 503-623-5594.

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