

Student egg contraptions put to 80-foot test

Central High physics class tries to minimize impact, collision through design, materials

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — If Humpty Dumpty had protection from the young physicists in Greg Craven's class, he may have survived his fall from the wall.

Or maybe not. Many of the 35 eggs dropped from roughly 80 feet did not survive. Jello, peanut butter and flour all were unsuccessfully used to help lessen the impact of the fall.

The unfertilized embryos were dropped in contraptions designed by Central High School juniors in Craven's physics class on March 9. Polk County Fire District No. 1 assisted at the scene with its ladder truck and firefighters doing the actual dropping.

Not all were sacrificed. In fact, 10 made it through unbroken. The first egg of the day to come out unscathed was cushioned by a corn starch and water mixture.

Isaac Mitchell created his device in two parts. One part had fletching to help guide the fall. The second part was



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Teacher Greg Craven holds the first uncracked egg of the day. Only 10 survived.

supposed to spring out upon impact, Mitchell said.

Even though it didn't work exactly as designed, it was enough to save the egg inside.

"Inside the capsule was corn starch and water, sort of a flubber substance," Mitchell explained. "The harder you hit it, the more solid it is; the softer you hit it, the squishier it is."



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Volunteer firefighter Austin Champ, right, counts down to dropping a "naked" egg to serve as the reference for how fast an egg will fall compared to those with devices.

Rachel Conway took time to test her device, a deceleration tube, weighted at the bottom to ensure it would fall right-side-up.

She looked up at the top of the ladder and grimaced — it was much higher than the top of her stairs where she'd tested it.

"Conway's 'Egg-Pollo 13' performed spectacularly," Craven said. "It fell faster than the reference (naked) egg, and performed just as

designed, sticking the landing completely vertical and then gently toppling over with the egg open to the air and as whole as the day it was laid."

Kaylea Howard did not have as much luck with her "Eggy Pudding."

She filled a soda bottle with pudding, including rocks in the bottom to control the direction of the fall.

"I'm hoping it (the pudding) will cushion (the egg) so it doesn't break," Howard said. "I'm hoping it hasn't broken already. I was afraid if I tested it, it would get pudding everywhere."

That is exactly what it did when dropped from the towering heights of the ladder truck, resulting in an unappetizing paste of raw egg and pudding.

The exercise was more than just the sheer pleasure of watching things splat in spectacular fashion, but a lesson on momentum and collision, Craven said.

"They (the eggs) need to fall fast; this is not about slowing it down," Craven said. "It's about fast and hard."

Johnstone ready to take reins of district, make Dallas home

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — When Michelle Johnstone, Dallas School District's soon-to-be new superintendent, drove into Dallas for her interview earlier this month, it was love at first sight.

"I thought, this place feels like home," Johnstone recalled Friday of her introduction to town.

Johnstone, currently the superintendent of Brush School District in Brush, Colo., said that first impression was only confirmed when she was given a tour of all six of the district's schools and met with administrators and district office staff.

Mid-way through that long day of introductions and interviews, Dallas Mayor Brian Dalton took her on a tour of town — taking special care to hit spots related to her fa-

vorite hobby, horses. That further cemented her feeling that Dallas was going to be a good fit, she said.

Johnstone said after the tour March 5, she was impressed with the district's collaborative nature and focus on students.

"What a delight to be selected by such a great district," she said.

The feeling was mutual, as Dallas chose Johnstone out of 18 applicants to lead the district.

"What we set out to find was an instructional leader, and she is someone who has those credentials," Dallas District Board Chairman Mike Blanchard said. "Through the process, she was considered a very strong candidate.

When she came (and met) with our staff, the focus on learning, we were impressed with that."

Now Johnstone and Dallas Interim Superintendent Dennis Engle are

preparing her to hit the ground running on her first day, July 1. The two are in contact at least weekly, and Johnstone will be in town house hunting and attending a board meeting in the next few months.

She said she will be watching from Colorado the debate over school funding in 2015-17 in the Oregon state Legislature. Like many other school officials in Oregon, she has hopes of seeing lawmakers approve a budget larger than the \$7.25 billion first proposed.

Once the 2015-16 school year begins next fall, Johnstone said she will spend as much time as possible in schools, meeting and talking to students, staff and parents.


Johnstone said she is ready to make Dallas her home, perhaps for a long time.

"It seems like a good place to retire in about 10 years," she said.




JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Dallas Police Chief Tom Simpson speaks with Michelle Johnstone during a meet-and-greet at Dallas High School on March 5.

Congratulations!

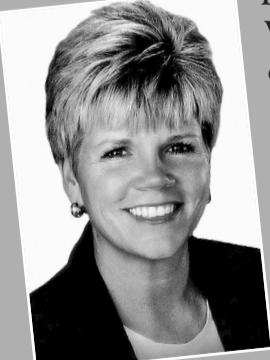


Sandra Paoli of Windermere Western View Properties, Monmouth has been recognized in the Portland monthly as a five star professional for delivering outstanding service and client satisfaction. (March 2015)



Amber Archibald

Both Donna Graham and Amber Archibald of Windermere Western View Properties, Dallas have been nominated as Best in Mid-Willamette Valley 2015 Home and Garden category in the Statesman Journal as professional Realtors. Windermere encourages all their Realtors to have a high degree of integrity and professionalism.



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