

SCHOOL NOTES

'University night' set at Dallas High

DALLAS — The Oregon Public University Spring Tour will make a stop at Dallas High School on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Representatives of all eight public universities in Oregon — Oregon State, Oregon, Portland State, Eastern Oregon, Western Oregon, Southern Oregon, OSU-Cascades and Oregon Institute of Technology — will be on hand. This is an opportunity for any college-bound student to hear about programs and schools in Oregon.

"University night" is open to students in all grades and parents. Students will hear a general presentation from all the universities in Bollman Auditorium, and then be able to attend small breakout sessions with at least two schools of their choice. There will be information to pick up and time for questions.

For more information: Dobie Long, Dallas High School counseling office, 503-831-1975.

Education forum planned Tuesday

WEST SALEM — Chemeketa Community College President Julie Huckestein and State Rep. Paul Evans of Monmouth will host an education forum Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Chemeketa Eola Viticulture Center, 215 Doaks Ferry Road NW.

The forum is specifically designed for both Evans and Huckestein to have an opportunity to hear any concerns or needs of parents, teachers or those organizations who work with children in the community.

For more information: 503-986-1420.

Tickets for KVCS fundraiser on sale

KINGS VALLEY — Tickets are now on sale for Kings Valley Charter School's annual fundraiser, this year titled the Great Outdoors Dinner and Auction, scheduled May 2 at the Corvallis Elks Lodge.

Tickets cost \$16.50 per person and can be purchased through Glenda Bush or Jennie Wilder at the Kings Valley Charter School main office, 38840 Kings Valley Highway, located between Dallas and Philomath.

For more information: 541-929-2134.

LaCreole educator receives honor

DALLAS — Blake Shinn, sixth-grade math teacher at LaCreole Middle School, was named Dallas School District's Distinguished Educator for March.

Kimberly Noack, a parent of one of Shinn's students and colleague at LaCreole, nominated him for the honor, which was presented on March 13.

"He believes that students and their learning should always come first," Noack said. "He is dedicated to current and former students, and willing to help all in gaining math skills."

Shinn's students noted: "He doesn't flip out if we don't get the answers right" and "He helps us understand problems." The Distinguished Educator Program recognizes "excellence in teaching and learning" in Dallas School District schools.



Shinn

ACADEMIC HONORS

Local pair earns COCC recognition

BEND — Two Polk County residents, Kelsey Ford of Rickreall and Cody Manzi of Monmouth, have qualified for inclusion on the 2014 fall term dean's list at Central Oregon Community College in Bend. The COCC dean's list is based on enrollment in 12 or more credit hours and a grade-point average of 3.60 or higher. Ford is a 2014 graduate of Perrydale High School, while Manzi is a 2013 graduate of Santiam Christian High School in Adair Village.

Melanie Meador uses a talking globe game made by Leap Frog to test her world geography knowledge. The globe is a fun way for youths to get started in geography, Meador said. She and Timothy Fairchild will represent Polk County school districts — Central and Perrydale, respectively — at the state National Geographic Bee at Western Oregon University on Friday. The bee is for youths in grades 4-8.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Ultimate world trivia test

Two local students qualify for state geography bee competition

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — What is the city on the east coast of China that is the most densely populated where people mainly ride bikes? The answer: Shanghai.

"That was the eighth question tie-breaker," said Timothy Fairchild, an eighth-grader at Perrydale Elementary School. "I got it right, so I won the school geography bee."



Fairchild

Fairchild and Melanie Meador, a Talmadge Middle School seventh-grader, will represent Polk County at Friday's State National Geographic Bee, which takes place at Western Oregon University.

Learn More

• For more information or to test your geographic knowledge: www.national-geographic.com/geobee.

Meador doesn't remember her winning question, just one that she got wrong about a lion reserve in Kenya.

"The other person got all (three) of them wrong," Meador said.

Not everyone who wins the school geographic bee gets a ticket to the state competition. Meador and Fairchild both had to score well on another test, one that included multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

"In the test to get to state, I was nervous because there were a lot of science questions I didn't expect on a geography test," Fairchild said.

Specifically, one essay question asked students to name an endangered animal, what it eats, where it lives and what efforts are being made to save it.

"It doesn't seem right for geography," Fairchild said.

The second essay question asked students to wear the hat of a city planner.

"They told you that you had just bought a basketball team, and you had to build an arena in that city," Meador explained. They were given maps of four different cities with markers for train stations, hotels and parking lots. "You had to choose one of the four spots and then explain why you chose it."

For both students, maps and geography is a family affair.

Fairchild's father spent time studying atlases for fun, he said.

"On a rainy day or whatever, he would sit down and

pull out an atlas and start looking at it," Fairchild said. "In class, I'll flip to the back of the history book and study the maps. I've always been interested in the world and seeing where things are."

Meador picked up interest in the subject from her brother, Brett, and father, Walt, who always had a map on his lap on road trips across the Northwest, Midwest and to the South.

Learning about exotic new places — and how to pronounce them and spell them properly — is something Meador enjoys. Through it all, she has found a few places she'd like to visit.

"Someday I'd like to go to Italy," she said. "I'd like to see the Kentucky Derby someday."

Fairchild's dream destinations center around history and genealogy.

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