

A good time and a good cause

Saturday's Mr. and Ms. Central Pageant will benefit fellow youths

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Prepare for laughs, tears and a general good time at the annual Mr. and Ms. Central pageant Saturday at 7 p.m. at Central High School's auditorium.

"It's a great night," said contestant Taylor Ashton. "You're going to have a ton of laughs. It's very comedic."

Ashton, one of five female contestants for Ms. Central, said there were some tears when she wrote her personal letter, which will be read during the formal wear part of the pageant.

The pageant is a fundraiser for two purposes: \$1,000 will go to help fellow Central student Courtney Rhodes.

"She had some sort of bacteria and lost several of her fingers and several of her toes," said Jeff Witt, CHS leadership adviser. "It affected her speaking capacity."

The money will purchase an iPad and mount for her wheelchair, along with software to help Rhodes communicate, Witt said.

Ten students — five boys and five girls, all seniors at Central High — were picked and voted on by staff to compete in the year-long fundraising campaign.

The group got to decide what the pageant would benefit, Ashton said. In addition to Rhodes' new communication tools, Mr. and Ms. Central will donate event proceeds to Duffels for Dignity, a Polk County Department of Human Services program that provides duffel bags to foster children who are moved from home to home at the last minute.

Witt said he hopes the event



Daniella Diaz, Taylor Ashton, Paula Tamayo (left to right, back row), Ryanne Huffman and Mandi Desmarteau (front row) will compete for Ms. Central High School on Saturday at 7 p.m.

DENISE ROBINSON/for the Itemizer-Observer

Come See the Show

What: Mr. and Ms. Central, with the theme of "America."

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.

Where: Central High School, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence.

Admission: \$10. Tickets are available at the CHS front desk, from contestants or at the door.

Of note: Contestants compete in four categories: talent, personality-wear — which includes an act with a "mini-me" version of themselves — athletics wear and formal wear. Each student is judged based on performances and on fundraising totals.

Mr. Central Contestants: Kaj Bansen, Lucas Castanon, Max Lydum, Riley Olsen and Branson Wallace.

Ms. Central Contestants: Taylor Ashton, Mandi Desmarteau, Daniella Diaz, Ryanne Huffman and Paula Tamayo.

can provide "hundreds upon hundreds" of duffel bags for the program.

The fundraising goal for Mr. and Ms. Central is \$15,000. Ashton said she isn't sure she's raised

her \$1,500 share of that total, but she has held some successful fundraisers, including a See's Candy sale during the holidays.

However, Ashton said perhaps the most successful efforts were by Riley Olsen, with his toilet fundraiser.

"You may have seen it," she said. "He got a toilet from Mr. Witt and painted it red, black and white. It costs \$30 to remove it; \$40 to remove it and decide where it goes next; or \$50 to remove it, decide where it goes next, and make sure it doesn't come back — toilet insurance."

Students are a third of the way to their goal, having raised \$5,000 so far, Witt said.

Approach: Meeting set for April 13

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Being a public charter school, DCS still would be accountable to Common Core state standards and accompanying Smarter Balanced Assessments, but Sparks said that will not influence learning plans.

"The idea (with Common Core) is to get these kids on an even playing field, but the idea with personalized learning is we do that over a scope of time and we achieve those standards over a scope of time," Sparks said.

She said teachers — or educational guides — will not be evaluated based on test scores. The tests will simply measure how the school is performing on standards. Sparks said if results reveal the school is deficient in any areas, it will be addressed.

DCS is in the process of hiring licensed teachers to serve as educational guides and finding a location in Dallas to offer its morning and enrichment sessions. Sparks said the school and the district will address offering kindergarten later this month.

She credits the district with supporting the board's vision — and helping make it a reality.

"These people have been absolutely open, totally willing to sit down with us knowing that we don't have a strong background in school administration," Sparks said. "They've taken it on and created something that is actually going to work."

An informational session is scheduled for April 13 at 7 p.m. Those interested in attending are asked to email info@dallascommunityschool.org to RSVP. For more information: www.dallascommunityschool.org.

GOT NEWS?

Have an idea for a story?
Submit your tip to ionews@polkio.com.
Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Dallas
FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Easter Service

April 5th at 10:00am

Join us from 9:00 to 9:30am for a free pancake breakfast before the service.

976 SW Hayter St. Dallas, OR 97338 503.623.8277 dallasfour.com

JESUS SAVES
ACTS 1:17

MCC 9AM AND 11AM
mymcc.tv

Faith Lutheran Church
200 Monmouth - Independence Hwy
The Church on the "S-Curves"
Monmouth • 503-838-3459
Pastor Dallas C.R. Dubke
www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org

Tenebrae: 7:15 pm
Service of Darkness

Easter: 7:30 am - Sunrise Eucharist
9 - 10 am - Easter Breakfast
10:30 am - Festival Eucharist

Good Friday Prayer Vigil:
8am - 7 pm and
8pm - Midnight

Please Join Us!

Dallas First Christian Church
1079 SE Jefferson St.

April 2 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday potluck and worship. Includes a Tenebrae service where we will walk with Jesus through the events of His last day on earth.

April 3 7:00 am to 7:00 pm Prayer Vigil. Can be done at home or at the church.

April 5 Easter Sunday
8:30 am Live Wire Contemporary Service
9:30 am continental breakfast
10:30 am Easter Sunday worship

Come join us to Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Services start at 10 am
April 5th
Starting the day with
9:00 am Breakfast
10:00 am Worship Service

All are Welcome!

Calvary Chapel
628 SE Jefferson St.
Dallas • 503-831-1074

First Baptist Church of Independence

Easter Breakfast
9:30 am - 10:30 am
Easter Service
11 am

He isn't here!
He has risen... Matthew 28:6

1505 Monmouth St., Independence, Oregon 503-838-1001
(across from Central High School)

Ministries include: AWANA, youth, men, women, small groups and an active Senior's Ministry.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE RESURRECTION?

Pancake Breakfast 9-10 AM
Easter Service 10:30 AM
Easter Egg hunt for toddlers-4th grade

FAITH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
2290 East Ellendale Ave Dallas, OR
503-623-8034 • faithfreechurch.org

Join Us! Sunday, April 5

EASTER

CELEBRATE RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Worship Gatherings at 9 & 10:45 am

GRACE CHURCH
Worshiping God by Making Disciples
598 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas
503-623-4961
www.graceindallas.org
[Facebook.com/graceindallas](https://www.facebook.com/graceindallas)

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
...welcomes everyone!

Maundy Thursday, April 2
7:00 PM Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3
Noon - Solemn Good Friday Liturgy
7 PM Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 5
10:00 AM Festal Eucharist
Children's Easter Egg Hunt Following the Service

1486 SW Levens Street, Dallas
(at the corner of Levens and Cherry)
www.stthomasdallasor.org
stthomasdallasor@gmail.com