

Dallas actors take stage at state

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Thursday Dallas High School's brightest acting and technical theater performers will test their skills against the state's best at the Oregon Thespians State Festival in Salem.

This year, Dallas' contingent consists of three students: Selena Harris, Rachel Tilgner and Alicia Scherer.

Harris and Tilgner will be showcased in the duo dramatic acting division, performing a scene from the one-act play, "Miss Polly's Institute for Criminally Damaged Young Ladies Puts on a Show," by Don Zolidis. Tilgner also is competing in the stage management division for her work on DHS' production of "Our Town." Scherer will be competing in the short film division for directing her film, "This Kiss."

The partnership between Harris and Tilgner arose from DHS drama teacher Blair Cromwell's suggestion. She saw something in their work ethic that made her think they make a good match.

"They approach the work with the same level of commitment and discipline," Cromwell said. "They want to work really hard."

Cromwell's hunch was correct. The duo scored in the top 10 percent in February's regional competition in Redmond to move onto state.

"I feel like we performed really well and the thing about that was, our piece was pretty unique compared to all



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Selena Harris, Rachel Tilgner and Alicia Scherer will be representing Dallas High School at Oregon Thespians State Festival this week, competing in acting and tech divisions.

the other ones we saw," Harris said. "I feel like all the other ones had a shock factor, like language or shouting. Ours was sort of a quieter sort of thing. I think ... we stood out from the others."

State is a highly competitive atmosphere. The pair will perform with no props in a conference room in front of their fellow competitors.

The intimidation factor notwithstanding, they believe they are ready.

"We don't want to make too many changes at this point, because we feel confident with what we came up with," Harris said last week. "It's just minor little things."

Tilgner's day will not be done after running the scene the final time with Harris.

She will then move to her "Our Town" entry, consisting of submitting her notebook from the play and a presentation of her process.

"I liked having the opportunity to explore this mysterious other side of doing productions," Tilgner said of her first venture into stage management.

Scherer's "The Kiss" was her second time behind the camera and her first time entering a competition.

"The first film was just experimental, for fun," Scherer said. "I decided that I liked it."

Scherer also had glimpsed the competition at last year's state festival.

"Last year I had the opportunity to sit in on the judging rounds for short film and I decided it was something that I could do," Scherer said.

Cromwell said she believes all are primed to perform well at state — and if they do, they have accomplished a rare feat.

"Nationally, I'm told, that we are one of the most competitive, highest-standard states," Cromwell said. "If you do well here, you know you are doing really good work."

SCHOOL NOTES

WOU technology center turns 100

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University's Hamersly Library will host a spring 2015 exhibit reception from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday (today).

The exhibit, "100 Years of Service: Never Cease to Learn," celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Information Technology Center and will be on display through June 12.

The building originally opened as a model school facility for local elementary students and for preparing teachers. It served this purpose until 1986.

Once the elementary school was moved off campus, the building gained new life as the center for teaching technology and computer services.

The exhibit includes a brief history of normal teacher training in Monmouth and the diverse uses of this prominent building during its lifetime.

For more information: Hamersly Library, 503-838-8149.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Local students make OSU honor roll

CORVALLIS — Oregon State University has announced names of students who are included in the scholastic honor roll for winter term 2015. To be on the honor roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

Dallas: 4.0 — Megan L. Mahoney, sophomore, digital communication arts; Kaden Z. Montague, junior, elect and computer engineering; and Andrew J. Pfau, senior, chemical engineering; Mitchell J. Senger, senior, physics, 3.5 to 3.99 — Alexander L. Bird, junior, civil engineering; Serena D. Chiellini, senior, biohealth sciences; Katharine E. Crawford, senior, psychology; Matthew T. Dimick, senior, forest management; Callie A. Instenes, senior, graphic design; Emily A. Lund, sophomore, pre-public health; Caleb T. Naughton, freshman, environmental sciences; Joseph P. Orton, freshman, biology; Michael Polander, senior, mechanical engineering; Alyson N. Steckley, senior, human development and family science; Logan G. Stewart, senior, elect and computer engineering; Zacheriah A. Tucker, senior, psychology; and Mychal P. Westendorf, senior, forest engineering.

Independence: 4.0 — Melissa R. Whitaker, junior, pre-civil engineering, 3.5 to 3.99 — Justin T. Bruntmyer, junior, computer science; Carlos Falcon, senior, exercise and sport science; Megan R. Marchand, sophomore, university exploratory studies; Luis A. Meza, senior, renewable materials; Emma J. Miller, senior, agricultural sciences; and Trevor A. Whitaker, sophomore, pre-mechanical engineering.

Monmouth: 3.5 to 3.99 — Erica B. Brown, junior, biohealth sciences; and Sean R. Maroney, freshman, university exploratory studies; Travis J. Rice, senior, public health; Nicholas A. Silva, senior, chemical engineering; Peter J. Teague, senior, civil engineering; and Ryan F. Wruck, senior, liberal studies.

Rickreall: 4.0 — Angela J. Porter, senior, liberal studies; and Audrey R. Regan, senior, English, 3.5 to 3.99 — Bridget H. Regan, sophomore, zoology.

VEX: Team ramRod on their way to pit their robot against best in world

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Team ramRod has plenty of support on its mission, receiving donations to pay for the trip to Kentucky, most notably from the DHS leadership class, which donated \$3,000.

Reimer said he hopes the team's success will help the DHS robotics program in the future. Jones said the pro-

gram relies on donations and sponsorships to buy robotic kits and practice fields, which change every year with the season's theme.

"They don't get a lot of money," Reimer said. "We hope it draws a little more attention to the program."

Shryer and Rounds said robotics gave them a glimpse into their future. Shryer, who

wants to be an engineer, now has experience in the field and knows he likes it.

Rounds, the team's programmer, changed his mind about his college major after one year in robotics. Now he's looking to get a degree in computer science.

"I want to continue doing this," Rounds said. "I enjoy it."

They encourage anyone interested in science or engineering to give competitive robotics a shot.

"I think it's a great hobby to have," Shryer said. "If this is what you are interested in, it's a good opportunity."

Common Sense Tip FOR PEDESTRIANS

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