

An introduction to middle school



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Next year's sixth graders and their parents got a glimpse of what next school year will be like on Thursday night at LaCreole Middle School during the sixth-grade introduction. The preview consisted of meeting sixth-grade teachers, seeing the hall and classrooms where they will attend class next year and enjoying a root beer float.

CLASS OF 2015 GRADUATION SCHEDULE

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — The Class of 2015 is about ready for its official send off at graduation ceremonies across the county starting this week. All ceremonies are free and open to the public.

Here's the list of local school graduations:

- Falls City High School — Thursday, 7 p.m. in the Falls City High School gym, 111 N. Main St., Falls City: 503-787-3521.

- Central High School — Friday, 7 p.m. at Panther Stadium (Panther Pit if it rains), 1530 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-0480.

- Dallas High School — Saturday, 2:30 p.m. at Gallapsy Stadium (tickets are required to sit in grandstand; field seating is free), 1250 SE Holman Ave., Dallas. 503-623-8336.

- Perrydale High School — Saturday, 5 p.m. in the new gym at the



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

Dallas High's Class of 2015 will graduate at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday at Gallapsy Stadium.

- Road, Amity, 503-623-2040.
- Morrison Campus Alternative School — June 11, 7 p.m. at Dallas High School gym, 1250 SE Holman Ave., Dallas. 503-623-8480.

- Western Oregon University — June 13, 11 a.m. at McArthur Field (seating opens at 9 a.m.), 345 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth. 503-838-8000.

SCHOOL NOTES

Central volunteers, staff to be honored

INDEPENDENCE — Lyon Masonic Lodge No. 29 AF&AM will host a recognition dessert June 10 at 6 p.m. at the Independence Masonic Center.

The event will honor outstanding parent volunteers and classified employees of schools in Central School District. Superintendent Buzz Brazeau and school principals will be in attendance to help recognize honorees.

The Masonic Memorial Scholarship winners will also be awarded. The event is open to the public.

RSVP to Howard Haynes, 503-838-0791; or email to hhaynes@minetfiber.com.

Uhrig earns doctorate at Oregon State

CORVALLIS — Monmouth resident Emily Uhrig completed her doctorate studies at Oregon State University. Uhrig Ph.D. earned her doctorate in zoology.

Her field of study will be parasitic implication in the common garter snake. Uhrig plans to pursue a post doctoral position in Australia in the near future.

KVCS in need of maintenance supplies

KINGS VALLEY — Kings Valley Charter School is taking donations of items to help complete regular maintenance routines.

Needed are: a tow-behind garden cart for a riding mower; basic hand tools, shovels, rakes, pitch forks and garden hoes; and a wheelbarrow.

For more information or to donate: David Crowe, 541-929-2134.

School districts to offer summer meals

POLK COUNTY — Central School District 13J will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner for free beginning Monday.

Meals will be served Monday-Friday through Aug. 28, and will be available for children 18 or younger.

Independence Elementary School will serve breakfast from 8 to 8:30 a.m. and lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. Monmouth Elementary School will serve lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. Ash Creek Elementary School will serve lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. and Henry Hill Educational Support Center will serve lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. and dinner from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Dallas School District will offer free lunches to children ages 18 or younger beginning June 15. Lunches will be provided weekdays through Aug. 28 at Whitworth Elementary School from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Kings Valley seeks music teacher

KINGS VALLEY — Kings Valley Charter School is looking for a music teacher for high school to help students achieve applied arts credits toward graduation. The charter also is looking to fill other positions. For information: email pskvcontact@gmail.com.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Local student makes dean's list at COCC

BEND — Cody Manzi, of Monmouth, was named to Central Oregon Community College's dean's list for winter term. The list is based on enrollment in 12 or more credit hours with a grade-point average of 3.60 or higher.

Lucas Costa receives multiple honors

FRONT ROYAL, Va. — Lucas Costa of Monmouth has been inducted into the National Spanish Honor Society.

He is the son of Cinthia Costa Jones of Monmouth and Alexandre Costa of Curitiba, Brazil.

He also won first place in the Persuasive Division of the 2015 Sophomore Speech Contest; won first place in the fiction category for a submission to the 2015 Randolph-Macon Academy Literary Magazine Competition; and was recognized for outstanding achievement in the Air Force JROTC.

The ceremony took place on March 27 at Randolph-Macon Academy in Virginia, where Costa is a sophomore. Randolph-Macon Academy is a college-preparatory, coeducational boarding school for students in grades six through 12.

Charter school earns top marks

KVCS garners national honors as a 'most challenging high school'

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

KINGS VALLEY — Kings Valley Charter School garnered national honors when it was named the 44th most

challenging high school in the United States by the Washington Post.

Out of eight Oregon high schools that made the list, KVCS ranked third.

Director Mark Hazelton

said the honor is something the students and staff are proud of.

"They (students) work really hard," he said. "I think they are working at really the limits of what a kid can (do)."

Being recognized as one of the most challenging high schools in the U.S. gives students and staff a reference point, Hazelton said.

"I think that's motivating and satisfying," he said.

The list is based on the number of advanced placement tests taken compared to number of students.

This year, 63 AP tests will be taken by students in high school at KVCS, Hazelton said. The high school has an enrollment of 44 students this year.

The preparation begins in ninth grade, when all stu-

dents are enrolled in AP human geography, with an option to take AP biology, he said.

By their junior and senior years, students are taking two AP courses, with an optional third AP class.

The more challenging tests cost roughly \$90 each, but the charter school places priority on them, Hazelton said.

The state subsidizes the costs of the test for students who are on free and reduced lunches.

AP tests are recognized by colleges and universities, Hazelton said.

"It's a pretty intense high school for these kids," he said.

"The stress is the downside. To get that level of accomplishment, there's definitely some stress."

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