

CHS to try new grading system

Board changes grading policy at the high school for the fourth time

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

INDEPENDENCE — The Central School Board adopted a policy formalizing the grading process at the high school, aligning the system used throughout the district. This is the fourth grading policy used at Central in as many years, said Ben Gorman, CHS English teacher and president of the Central Education Association. "That's been rough on parents, students and teachers," Gorman said. "However, we feel very positive about this one." The system is standards-based and has been used at

Talmadge Middle School for a few years now. "Students are coming out of our middle school and they've been having (standards-based grading) the whole time," said Superintendent Buzz Brazeau. "It's not different for them. What we're working very hard at doing is aligning the system, so students are graded the same way in high school as they are in middle school," he added. Unlike last year's system, more responsibility will be placed on students when it comes to homework. "The new system is a bit complicated to explain to students and parents, but

we think it's a good representation of our values, honoring primarily academic achievement (85 percent), but recognizing the importance of regular practice and other career-related behaviors like attendance (15 percent)," Gorman said. The system is meant to ensure that students don't move on with high grades while lacking the skills to be successful in the next class, he said. "We don't want them to be sent on just to fail at a higher level," Gorman said. Grades will return to a 4.0 grading scale, without the presence of Fs.

"The lack of the traditional F reflects our belief that a student who hasn't received credit yet isn't a failure forever," Gorman said. "He or she may simply have late work to do or a few skills to acquire before acquiring credit." Instead of an F, parents and students will see an NC, or no credit. Brazeau said everyone knows an F means no credit has been earned. "Philosophically, all we're doing is not telling a kid he's a failure," Brazeau said. "All I'm saying is if a student hasn't earned credit, they know they haven't earned credit. We don't have to tell them they're a failure."

Elementary schools at capacity for class

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

INDEPENDENCE — The three elementary schools in the Central School District are at capacity, classroom-wise, said Superintendent Buzz Brazeau at Monday's board meeting. Melissa Rincon, fifth-grade teacher at Independence Elementary School, advocated for smaller class sizes. "I would ask the board to work with the district to work with us in lowering class size," she said. "We appreciate a full-time assistant to share between two classes, but there's a bigger issue." Rincon has 34 students in her class, less than the 37 she expected, she said. Her class has the highest enrollment at IES, with the smallest number at 15 in Karla Archer's bilingual kindergarten class. The average class size at IES is 25.5. Pam Young sent an email to the Itemizer-ObsERVER saying that at Ash Creek Elementary School, teachers and students have lost computer labs, special education classrooms and Title 1 classrooms because those rooms

were needed to meet the needs of full-day kindergarten. "Title 1 interventions are taking place in our hallway areas with particle boards for separation," she wrote in the email. At ACES, the average class size is 25.4, with the highest being 35 in Dale Claussen's fifth-grade class and the lowest being 17 in Sarah King's kindergarten class and in Elizabeth Mansoor's first-grade class. Monmouth Elementary School's class sizes average 26.1, with two classes at 33 and one at 19 students. Board Chairman Steve Love said that Brazeau would "share some insight about capacity" at the board retreat scheduled for later in October. The board will discuss "whether it's time to do some additional work about facilities and get to some decisions about what it would look like this fiscal year," Love said. The board retreat, open to the public, will be from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 24 at the Henry Hill Education Support Center.

Homeless count mixed for county schools

State report reveals most students without adequate housing since 2010-11

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

POLK COUNTY — More than 140 students attending schools in Dallas, Central, Falls City and Perrydale experienced homelessness during the 2014-15 school year, according to a state report released last week. For the purposes of the report, homeless students are defined as: living in shelters; staying in a motel; sharing housing with relatives or friends; or living in a car, tent or other substandard housing.

2014-15 homeless student count		
No. of students	% of enrollment	
Central	84	2.7
Dallas	35	1.08
Falls City	22	15.4
Perrydale	not reported	.67

Source: Oregon Department of Education

Graphic by JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

Dallas and Falls City saw increases in homeless students. According to the report released by the Oregon Department of Education on Thursday, two local school districts saw increases in the number of students considered homeless: Dallas and Falls City. Dallas has 35 students or 1 percent of enrollment, with 27 "doubled-up" or sharing housing with relatives or friends. The total figure is up from 23 in the 2013-14 school year. Falls City's number jumped to 22 from 14 in 2013-14. The 2014-15 number accounted for more than 15 percent of the district's enrollment. Of those 22, half are in the unsheltered category. Superintendent Jack

Statewide, 20,524 students were considered homeless during the 2014-15 school year, a 9 percent increase and the highest number since the 2010-11 school year. The majority of those students, 15,298, were "doubled-up." The largest increase was students in the "unsheltered" category, growing from 1,842 in 2013-14 to 2,272 last year. Each school district has a homeless liaison who identifies and provides support and services to students and families experiencing homelessness. To contact the homeless liaison for your district, call the district's office or go to www.ode.state.or.us/Go/HomelessEd. For more information about the report or to see details from each district: www.ode.state.or.us/home.

man Farm in Dallas, producing cherries, blueberries and blackberries, with a seasonal summer fruit stand open yearly to provide locally grown produce. A favorite hobby of his was restoring a 1949 Packard Convertible and a 1949 Packard Sedan. Larry was excited to see the farm, his children and grandchildren grow and prosper. He and Pat met at and attended Peoples Church for 32 years. He has served the Lord since childhood. Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Patricia L. Wildman; children, Lisa R. Wildman, and Matthew J. Wildman; stepchildren, Michelle

Continued from Page 9A Lawrence Fredrick Wildman

Feb. 5, 1946 – Sept. 24, 2015
Lawrence Fredrick Wildman, 69, of Dallas, died Sept. 24 in Dallas. He was born to William Olin Wildman and Frances Lorraine Harper Wildman in Tampa, Fla. He graduated from Newberg High School in 1964 and Oregon State University in 1968. Larry and Pat own Wild-



OBITUARIES

Warner Riley 'Sparky' Atkins Jr.

Nov. 30, 1962 – Oct 5, 2015
Warner Riley "Sparky" Atkins Jr., 50, of Dallas, died Monday. He was born to Warner Atkins Sr. and Irma Talley in Prineville. Warner had worked in construction and retired in 2012. He was a big teddy bear with a heart of gold. He would do anything for anyone. Warner enjoyed

Warner Riley 'Sparky' Atkins Jr.

music, collecting guitars, classic vehicles, and Harleys. Most of all Warner loved his family and his dog Riley. Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Kathy; son, Matthew Bonillas; brother, Shane Talley; one grandson; and extended family. Services are tentatively scheduled for this weekend. For details contact Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, 503-623-2325 or www.dal-lastribute.com; which is handling arrangements.



OSU students dig to the bottom of flooding

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

FALLS CITY — Every winter those living in a square mile zone near Sheldon Avenue in Falls City experience frequent and sudden flooding. Thanks to more than 18 months of detective work on the part of Oregon State University students, namely Joe Kemper, residents are closer to finding a cause. Kemper, a master's degree candidate in the field of water resources engineering, is using the project as his thesis subject. He hopes to find feasible fixes for residents who have been dealing with the problem for decades. Last winter was mild, so landowners were spared significant problems, but that hasn't always been true. "In years past, roads were covered and septic tanks quit functioning," he said. About a year ago, OSU dug a well in the middle of the flood zone to monitor ground water levels through

the rainy season. Kemper said when sensors were placed in the well, the water was 12 feet below the surface. That rose to about 2 feet below the surface by the end of December. At that point, any major rain event could trigger flooding. "What we found was that it's a combination of surface water and ground water (causing floods)," Kemper said. Kemper is now applying the data to the properties affected by the seasonal deluges. The well, plus radar testing to map the bedrock in the area, will give property owners options to mitigate the flooding temporarily. "It's October; the rains are coming," Kemper said. "I would like to help find low-impact, cheap ways to resolve the problem short term." Tracy Young is one such landowner. She's lived off Sheldon Avenue for eight years and has had flooding problems each year. Water falling on the hills above her house is chan-

neled on to her property, so it doesn't take much rainfall to cause a problem. She said Kemper is mapping the bedrock on her property to find ways to redirect the water. "We are trying to find out why it fills up with ground water so quickly," she said. "Now we are going to find out where the sandstone layer is that prevents the water from going deeper." Kemper will finish his report this spring and his objective is to provide the data necessary for the city or landowners to apply to state agencies for funding to install long-term fixes. "You could throw money at the problem and find a solution, but the city doesn't have \$200,000 to spend and neither do the landowners," he said. "Our main goal is to create a booklet of options based on scientific observations." Kemper said that part of the project — the engineering and science — has been enlightening, but he's learned the most from work-

ing with city residents. He said people in Falls City have put plenty of time into the project, including Falls City High School students who assisted with field work. "Good science is great at finding solutions," he said. (But) "involving the community affected is the best way to get results."

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Bring in any of the items listed below and we will dispose of them for you, in a manner friendly to the environment.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Aerosol Cans
- Antifreeze
- Brake Fluid
- Degreasers
- Engine Cleaners
- Fluorescent Tubes
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- Herbicides
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- Mercury
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- Wood Killers
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WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Explosives
- Radioactive Waste
- Motor oil

IMPORTANT:

- Keep products in original containers if possible.
- Do not mix any products.
- Keep away from passengers while transporting.

DATE: Saturday, October 10th, 2015
TIME: From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Independence Riverview Park (100 Main Street)
SPONSORED BY: Polk County, The Cities of Dallas, Independence, Monmouth and Salem

Saturday, October 10 @ 7:00 PM

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127

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Solution on Page 8A

	5		2	9			
		1	6	5		2	
8							
7				5	1		4
		2		8		9	
3	9	2					8
							1
		5	4	3	6		
			7	9			8

Sudoku

Difficulty: ★★★★★

Row →	4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
	5	6	9	7	3	4	8	1	2
	1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
	3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
	2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
Three-by-three square →	9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
	7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
	8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
	6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

↓ Column

How to do Sudoku

Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

The Christian Science Monitor