

Grad: Schools assisting students early

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Spencer said the school is working to identify students needing assistance sooner and has assigned its teachers in those areas a group of students to track and provide interventions if needed.

"It's nice to see the hard work paying off," Spencer said.

He added part of the gain is providing kids access to dual credit through Willamette Promise and other higher education opportunities, such as the fifth-year program Extended Campus.

Working toward a goal of college keeps kids motivated to finish strong in high school, Spencer said.

"This gives us an opportunity to challenge those at the top and provide interventions for those who might need them," Spencer said.

Perrydale has taken a similar strategy to get to the 100 percent mark.

"We have a very dedicated staff that looks out for the

students," said Superintendent Eric Milburn.

Milburn said his staff tries to identify students who may have struggles early and offer plenty of opportunities for extra help.

Perrydale hosts daily study sessions and has staff on hand on Fridays at least once a month for students to put in extra time.

He added the school will have to remain as vigilant to ensure this year's senior class can achieve the same amount of success.

"I think we are just always evaluating and analyzing and making sure they (students) have additional support," Milburn said. "It's a whole team effort where we are making sure kids are accomplishing."

Falls City's rate slid to 50 percent from 60 percent the year before. The district's 2014-15 senior class consisted of 12 students.

Superintendent Jack Thompson said by the end of this year, all but two of last year's seniors will have

completed their graduation or GED requirements.

"The sad thing is that does not get recorded by the state," Thompson said. "The most important thing is that they continue to try and end up succeeding. We are proud of the hard work our students put into their education."

Kings Valley Charter School, which is located in Benton County's Philomath School District but serves many Polk County students, saw a four-year grad rate of 62.5 percent for its class of eight seniors.

ODE's report included each district's four-year completion rates, which includes students who earned adult high school diplomas or GEDs within four years.

Those rates for Polk County schools were: Central, 86 percent; Dallas, 84 percent; Falls City, 58 percent; and Perrydale, 100 percent.

Fifth-year rates, which include students who enrolled

as freshmen in 2010-11 and graduated or completed in five years, were: Central, 83 percent completion rate and 88 percent completion rate; Dallas, 82 percent grad rate and 86 percent completion rate; Falls City, 50 percent grad rate and 60 percent completion rate; and Perrydale, 87 percent grad rate and 87 percent completion rate.

The state also released dropout rates for 2014-15: Central, 1 percent; Dallas, 2.75 percent; Falls City, 4.25; Perrydale, 0; and Kings Valley 0.

The dropout rate represents the percentage of students who left school between July 2014 and June 2015 and didn't enroll elsewhere.

The statewide four-year graduation rate rose nearly two percentage points in 2014-15 to 73.8 percent. The state's dropout rate is 4.26 percent.

To view the full report: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2644>.

Western Oregon pays reduced fine

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University will pay a fine of \$1,784 to the Department of Environmental Quality, \$10,287 less than the original fine in July 2015.

The university was fined \$12,071 for allegedly violating three environmental quality rules regarding labeling and disposal of hazardous waste — silver in microfiche, paint thinner and aerosol cans of paint, President Rex Fuller said in his presentation to the WOU board of trustees on Jan. 27.

"On Sept. 29, 2015, WOU representatives met with DEQ officials to discuss alternatives and to seek resolution," he said.

These discussions, coupled with new information, led DEQ to reduce the fine by 26 percent. As part of the



settlement, Western and DEQ have agreed to a supplemental environmental project that will mitigate up to 80 percent of the penalty, Fuller said.

"The project focuses on Luckiamute Watershed Council and its efforts to enhance riparian water conditions," he said. "WOU also agreed to additional training to ensure on-going compliance with environmental regulations."

To read the original story, go online to www.wou.edu/polio.com.

Dallas, Central high schools to host regional theater competition

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Central and Dallas high schools will be co-hosting 28 school theater troupes in the Oregon Thespians Southern Regional Acting Competition on Saturday.

Competitors will vie for a chance to qualify for the

Oregon State Thespian Festival at the Salem Convention Center on March 31.

This is the first time Dallas has help host a regional competition and will have 20 students competing and 30 working with judges as timers.

The competition features eight non-musical event categories: solo acting (novice and experienced); duet acting (comic and dramatic, novice and experienced); group acting and pantomime.

There are four musical event categories: solo, duet,

small group and large group.

The schools competing in the Southern Regional are: Academy of Art and Academics, Ashland High, Cascade, Central, Crook County High, Dallas High;

Grants Pass High, Klamath Union, Lebanon High, Marshfield, McKay,

McNary, Myrtle Point High, North Medford, North Salem, Philomath High, Phoenix High, Redmond High;

Redmond Proficiency Academy, Regis, South Albany, South Eugene, South Medford, South Salem, Summit and West Salem.

Competitions in the Northwest Region at Wilson High School and Northeast Region at Clackamas High School happen on the same day.

For more information: www.oregonthespians.dreamhosters.com/?page_id=19.



POLK COUNTY WORSHIP DIRECTORY

DALLAS

Calvary Chapel Dallas Currently meeting for worship and verse by verse Bible teaching at 628 SE Jefferson St. www.calvarydallas.com Worship service begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday school is available from youth ministry and below to nursery. Wednesday evening cafe-style Old Testament study starting at 6:30 pm. Come join us for a relaxed study around a cup of coffee or drink. Mens prayer is Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Womens Bible studies are scheduled also, call for times. Last Sunday of the month Jubilee Service, old time hymns and bluegrass music, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Community invited. The Pastor/Teacher is Larry King. Come join us and be a part of God's family here in Dallas. For more information call 503-831-1074.

Church of God of Prophecy New Beginnings - 575 SW Ash St., (corner of Ash & Stump St.) Pastor Travis Clemons, 541-671-0375. Bible Study School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. We welcome all to come and get acquainted with our Pastor and his wife Christina. Home Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Associate Pastor Jim Dickason 503-302-9816.

Church of Christ - 691 N.E. Kings Valley Hwy. Sunday Class 9:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Sunday Afternoon Service 2:00 P.M. Thursday evening Bible Study 7:00 P.M. We follow the New Testament Plan of Salvation in becoming a Christian and the Pattern of the N. T. Church. We would be glad to study the Bible with you and answer any of your questions. We would like to present a very helpful one hour overview of the Bible. Call 503-831-4886.

Dallas Alliance Church - 775 E. Ellendale, Dallas, 503-623-2265. Email office@dallasalliance.org. Lead Pastor Jim Jamieson; and Youth/Children's Pastor Lance Baker; Every Sunday: classes for all ages at 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m., (Nursery provided for a.m. services); Tuesdays: Youth Night 7:00 p.m. in Ediger Hall; Wednesdays: Adult Prayer Meeting 1:00 p.m., Choir practice 6:45 p.m. Call for info on current Bible Studies. Web: dallasalliance.org.

Dallas Church - PO Box 462, Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-2711. Worship Gatherings: Sundays 10am. Meeting at 450 SE Washington St., Dallas OR 97338. Atmosphere is relaxed, families & children welcome, come as you are, current music & relevant teaching about Jesus. Pastor: Ben Bauman. www.dallaschurch.org

Dallas Foursquare Church—Located at 976 SW Hayter St. on the corner of Washington and Hayter. Worship Service: Sundays at 10am. Youth Group: Sundays 6pm to 8pm. Pastor: Darrin Hausler. We are a multi-generational church with a heart for our community. Our mission is to Love God and Love People to Extend His Kingdom. For more info call us at 503-623-8277 or visit us online at dallasfour.com.

Dallas Presbyterian Church invites you: Warm, spirit-filled fellowship with traditional Sunday worship 10:30 am, engaging discussion study groups, prayer "chain" and a loving spirit.—Adult Sunday School 9 am, men's breakfasts Tuesdays at 7 am, women's groups, needle crafts group and Indoor Play Park (for children with accompanying parent). Sensitivity to older adult accessibility and needs. 789 SW Levens, Dallas. 623-3397 dalpreschurch@gmail.com.

Evangelical Bible Church - 1175 S.E. Howe, Dallas 503-623-2331. Senior Pastor Jerry Franz, Visitation Pastor Allan Wiebe, Youth Pastor Nathan Ensz. Sunday: Worship *8:00 a.m.; *10:45 a.m.; *6:00 p.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; High School Youth Group 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Jr. High Youth Group - 7:00 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Tuesday: MOPS *9:00 a.m.; Wednesday: AWANA - 6:30 p.m.; Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Bible Studies *9:00 a.m. & *7:00 p.m. (women); Thursday Group Bible Study 2:00 p.m. *Nursery care provided.

Faith Evangelical Free Church - 2290 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas, 503-623-8034; Senior Pastor Al Perkins, Associate Pastor Ed Sutter, Worship Pastor Ted Kitzmiller, Youth Pastor Aaron Swank, Ministry of Children & Family Debbie Davies. Sunday School 9:00 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday High School Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Please call or visit our website for information about other meetings. www.faithfreechurch.org

First Baptist Church - 245 S.W. Church St., Dallas, 503-623-5189; www.gofbc.org; Church Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 2:30 pm; Pastor Rick Bratton 503-551-9561; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 6-7 p.m.; Everyone Welcome!

First Christian Church - Joyfully Worshipping & Serving 1079 S.E. Jefferson Street, Dallas, 503-623-2569. Pastor Darren Anderson. "Live Wire Worship" with Praise Team - 8:30 a.m., Adult, Youth & Children Sunday School - 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m. (Nursery provided), Men's Bible Study - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Christian Women's Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 pm (Sept through June). Please call church office for information about other meetings.

Grace Community Church - 598 E. Ellendale Ave. PO Box 69, Dallas, 503-623-4961. Senior Pastor-Dave Bertolini, Pastor of Worship & Discipleship-Ryan Bucher, Pastor of Student Ministries-Ben Pottloff. Sunday Worship: 1st Service-9:00 a.m. with Kids, Youth, & Adult Sunday School running concurrently. 2nd Worship Service-10:45 a.m. with Kids Worship running concurrently. Nursery provided for 0 - 2 year olds during both services. Office open Tuesday-Friday for office hours visit our website at www.graceindallas.org. All are welcome!

Living Hope City Church - 186 SE Mill St., Dallas. Family Worship 10:30 am. www.livinghopecitychurch.org Equipping Center & Offices 186 SE Mill St., Dallas. For more information call 503-623-6890.

Living Word Faith Fellowship - 830 SE Shelton Street, Dallas, 503-623-9062. Pastor Joan Siewert. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. Children's Sunday service 10:00 a.m., nursery provided. Men's fellowship second Saturday of month breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Murphy's Restaurant, Dallas. Pastor Michael Van Dyke in charge of men's fellowship. Call for additional information. Website: www.proclaimhim.org

Salt Creek Baptist Church - 15075 Salt Creek Road, Dallas, 503-623-2976. Senior pastor David Curtis. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Worship 10:50 a.m. Nursery provided for worship services. Classes for all ages. Wednesday Senior High and Middle School Youth at 6:30 p.m. Please call for information about other meetings or visit our website at www.saltcreekchurch.org.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 589 SW Levens St., Dallas (at the corner of Levens & Cherry) 503-623-8522. Email: stthomasdallasor@gmail.com www.stthomasdallasor.org 10 AM worship with Holy Eucharist. Father Fred Heard. Sunday School and Nursery Care available during worship. The church has formally adopted a policy of welcoming and fully affirming individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). The new policy formalizes and expands on the church's longstanding tradition of radical hospitality towards all people regardless of race or ethnicity, marital status, disability or socio-economic status. St. Thomas Welcomes you—please join us.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church - 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas (at the corner of Levens & Cherry) 503-623-8522. Email: stthomasdallasor@gmail.com www.stthomasdallasor.org 10 AM worship with Holy Eucharist. Father Fred Heard. Sunday School and Nursery Care available during worship. The church has formally adopted a policy of welcoming and fully affirming individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). The new policy formalizes and expands on the church's longstanding tradition of radical hospitality towards all people regardless of race or ethnicity, marital status, disability or socio-economic status. St. Thomas Welcomes you—please join us.

Trinity Lutheran Church - 320 SE Fir Villa Rd. Dallas, 503-623-2233. Pastor - David Pederson. Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.; Kids Church during 10:00 a.m. Worship. Youth Group HS/MS 11:30 a.m. Sundays. Free Medical Clinic 1st & 4th Saturday of each month. www.dallastlc.org. Catch us on Facebook.

United Methodist Church - A church with Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors. 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas, 503-623-2481. Rev. J. Quinton Kimbrow, Minister. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday School for Adults & Youth, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children during worship service. Child-care available. Handicap access. All are welcome! Email: dallasumc@qwestoffice.net Website: www.sites.umcdallas.com

Valley Life Center (Assemblies of God) - 1795 S.E. Miller Ave., Dallas, 503-623-4116. Lead Pastor: Chris Barker; Associate Pastor: Ted Gibson; Children's Director: Crystal Barker; Youth Director: Kirk Bathke. Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Please call for more information or visit our website at www.valleylifecenter.com

FALLS CITY

Falls City Christian Church 233 S. Main Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344, 503-787-3104 Sunday Service: 10 am; www.fallscitycc.com

Falls City United Methodist Church - 242 N. Main Street, Falls City, 503-851-3213. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Morning worship Sunday 9:20 am. All denominations are welcome. www.fallscityumc.org

Mountain Gospel Fellowship - 303 N. Main, Falls City, 503-787-8037. Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship Service 11:00 a.m., Wed. Dinner 6:15 p.m. Everyone welcome just as you are. Join Us!

Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 205 N. Main, Falls City 97344, 503-787-3907. Pastor Lary Brown. Sabbath School Sat. 9:30 am-10:40 am; Worship Service 11 am. Community Service Center (Food Bank) third Wed. of each month, noon-3pm.

INDEPENDENCE

Buena Vista Community Church - 11355 Church St., Buena Vista, Independence. Pastor Larry Lyon. Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of God - 4395 Independence Hwy, Independence, 503-838-5119. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Nursery available.

First Baptist Church - A warm, friendly church that cares about you! Located at 1505 Monmouth St., Independence (across from Central High School); 503-838-1001. Senior Pastor Michael Parks. **Sundays:** Worship Service 11 am **Wednesdays:** AWANA 7 pm (during the school year). **Thursdays:** Youth Group 6:15pm. Join us for small groups and life groups throughout the week. *First Baptist Church has ministries for children, youth, adults, families and seniors, throughout the week. Check us out at www.independencfirstbaptist.com*

Life Center Foursquare Church - 437 D Street, Independence, OR Phone: 503-838-6507. Pastor Larry Gratreak. Worship Service and Sunday School starts at 10:30 a.m. Various Studies, Prayer Groups and Home Fellowships available throughout the week. Call for more information. You are welcome! Find us on Facebook.

St. Patrick Parish, Catholic - 1275 E St., Independence. 503-838-5801. Father Henry Guillen Vega Masses Sat., vigil 5 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m. (English), 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Spanish); Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs. 9am, Saturday 7 p.m. (Spanish). Evergreen Nursing Home; Holy Days 9 a.m. (Eng) & 7 p.m. (Eng/Span). Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Religious Education: RCIA Mon 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Mid-High &

High School Grades Mon 7:00-8:30p.m.; Grades 1-4 Tues. 7:00-8:30 p.m. WOU Campus Ministry: Mass Sun. 5:00 p.m. at 315 N. Knox St., Monmouth followed by a social hour.

MONMOUTH

Christ The King Christian Church - Meets at 959 Church St. W., Monmouth 7:00 pm Saturday Night. Christ The King Christian Church is a conservative, contemporary, charismatic Biblical Church. At Christ the King we learn: the truths of the Bible, how to live Biblical truths, how to please God, and how to be a blessing to all people. Come and join us as we learn and grow together. Everyone is welcome. Wally Wildman, senior pastor. For more information call 503-623-2262. www.clkmonmouth.com

Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United - Come care and share with us. 412 Clay Street West, Monmouth, 503-838-1724. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Worship Service 11 a.m. Call for information on small groups.

Church of Christ - 127 N. Heffley St., Monmouth, 503-838-2360. Minister - Dan Brewer, Youth Minister - Jon Siegrist. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m., Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church - 200 Monmouth-Independence Hwy., Monmouth (the church with the lighted cross on the "S" curve). Pastor Dallas C.R. Dubke. Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 am; Divine Service of Holy Communion 10:30 am. Wednesday Soup Suppers 6:00 pm followed by Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm beginning Feb. 10 (Ash Wednesday), 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16. Everyone is welcomed! 503-838-3459. www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org;

Monmouth Christian Church - 959 Church Street W, Monmouth, OR 97361; Office: (503) 838-1145; Fax: (503) 838-1162; Email: bcc@mymcc.cc; Website: mymcc.cc; Lead Pastor: Sean Bitzer; Pastors: Ulysses Vela, Mary Weinbender, & Seth Halligan; Sunday Worship Service: 10 am, English & Spanish; children's programming for birth to 6th grades also available. Momentum (7th & 8th Grades) meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm MCC; Join us this Sunday in person or live online at www.mymcc.tv.

New LIFE Ministries - we're growing in Polk County! CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOW AVAILABLE! We are a God-loving, Bible-believing, non-denominational church body. This church is a little different, in that it's not just a church service, but is all about being a "service church". We strive to seek out and serve the needs of the community. It is our hope that God will use us to make a difference. Come join us! We meet at Henry Hill School 750 S. 5th St. in independence every Sunday morning at 10:00-11:00 am. Our minister is Marion Seick. Feel free to call us at (503) 871-5207. Please come visit and worship with us this Sunday!

Praise Assembly 189 Monmouth Ave S., Monmouth (locations in McMinnville and Willamina as well). Our English worship gathering is 11 am on Sundays, followed by a Spanish service at 2 pm. Kid's church available for 12 and under. Youth group meets at 9:30 Sunday morning. Other ministries include: Celebrate Recovery (Tues, 7 pm), College Bible study (Wed, 7 pm), and Spanish Bible study (Thurs, 7 pm). Please check our website for the most up-to-date information, www.praiseonline.net, or call us at 503-837-0300.

St. Hilda's Episcopal Church 245 Main St. W., Monmouth, 503-838-6087, sthildas.church.org Sunday Eucharist - 10:00 am followed by Fellowship. Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 am. Wednesday Worship at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm. Nursery care provided. Call for periodic small groups and celebrations. All are welcome!

Call 503-623-2373 to be added to this directory.