



Sen. Jeff Merkley, left, talks about Faces before present director Amy Houghtaling with a flag Friday in Falls City.

Falls City program gets nod

Merkley honors after-school education for enrichment opportunities

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Education seemed to be the theme during Sen. Jeff Merkley's town hall meeting in Falls City on Friday.

He was asked questions about and discussed a number of topics, including economic development, green energy, retirement savings plans and health care.

Throughout the gathering, the conversation had a way of circling back to education, touching on the topics of making college affordable or investing in high school and community college career and technical education programs.

So it seemed fitting that Merkley (D-Ore.) would recognize the effort of a Falls City school program working to show students career

Faces

- Family Academic Community and Enrichment for Success is the Falls City's after-school program that offers classes, homework help and field trips.

- Faces uses field trips, which are taken on Fridays when school isn't in session, as a chance to show students real-life jobs. Students also visit colleges on Fridays.

- Among the programs offered include roller coaster physics and geocaching.

and college choices around the state.

At Friday's meeting, Merkley presented a U.S. flag that had flown over the Washington D.C. Capitol to Family Academic Community and Enrichment for

Success (Faces) director Amy Houghtaling.

Faces is the school district's after-school program, offering enrichment classes, homework help and field trips when school isn't in session on Fridays.

Merkley listed a number of program highlights, such as a class called "roller coaster physics," geocaching, and those "Friday field trips," as reasons for recognizing the program.

Faces uses field trips not only as educational experiences, but as a chance to show students real-life jobs in a fun way.

Faces has taken students on a tour of a hospital, had them make their own pizzas to see what food service is like, and to a movie while learning about what it takes to run a theater.

"It's a different way to ex-

pose our students to things outside Falls City," Houghtaling said.

Students also visit colleges on Fridays, which Merkley made particular note of.

"They are getting kids out to see campuses," he said. "That matters."

Houghtaling said she was surprised to get the phone call from Merkley's office saying Faces would be recognized.

She said Merkley's staff members told her he likes to highlight an organization that benefits its community at every stop he makes in Oregon.

Houghtaling said she appreciated the honor and added:

"It is definitely a community effort. We have lots of community support."

SCHOOL NOTES

MVCA raises food for M-P Food Share

POLK COUNTY — Mid-Valley Christian Academy raised 264 pounds of canned food items for the Marion-Polk Food Share. Sixty pounds of food will feed four children for five days, according to the Marion-Polk Food Share.

In addition, MVCA raised \$308 in coin donations to help feed five classrooms of students for the spring break lunch program provided by the Marion-Polk Food Share.

Walk-in immunization clinics open now

POLK COUNTY — Polk County Public Health is holding walk-in immunization clinics on Tuesday and Feb. 17 ahead of School Exclusion Day.

No appointment is needed for the clinics, which are a chance to assure children have updated vaccinations and can continue to attend classes.

The clinics run from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. both days at Polk County Public Health, Academy Building, suite 302, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas.

Parents need to bring a copy of the immunization letter listing the required vaccines.

Feb. 17 is School Exclusion Day, the deadline for students or children in child care to have updated vaccinations.

Under state law, all children in public and private schools, preschools, Head Start and certified child care facilities must have up-to-date documentation on their immunizations, or have an exemption.

Vaccine requirements have been updated. Now the hepatitis A vaccine, which protects against a communicable viral infection, is a two-dose series required for children 18 months and older in child care, preschool and kindergarten through seventh grade.

Parents of children with old exemptions on file signed before March 2014 will need to submit updated documentation.

If parents want a nonmedical exemption, they need to turn in a Vaccine Education Certificate showing that they've received education about vaccines, either from a health care practitioner or from the online vaccine education module.

The parent also needs to sign a new Certificate of Immunization Status. For More information about exemptions: www.health-oregon.org/vaccineexemption.

Dallas students honored at competition

DALLAS — Three Dallas High School students earned regional distinction and nine qualified to perform in the national competition at the Southern Regional Oregon State Thespian Acting Competition held in Dallas and Independence on Saturday.

The competition was co-hosted by Dallas High and Central High School.

The state and national acting competitions qualify competitors using different criteria. National qualifiers performed according to a set standard, while state qualifiers have to be in the top 10 percent of all performers.

Regional finalists are ranked in the top 20 percent in their performance group.

Those who earned regional distinction are: From DHS: Molly Bucher, regional finalist in "solo acting, experienced"; and Luke Disney and Emily Jones, regional finalist in "duo dramatic, experienced."

Students qualifying for nationals are Molly Bucher, Meyer Reed, Emma Bucher, Tiffani McConnell in "solo acting, experienced"; Olivia Widmer, in "solo music"; and Molly Bucher and Josh Biery in "duo music."

From CHS: Hannah Boyack, Jacob Eschette, and Dylan Lewis for their performances — they will be moving on to the state level competition.

Connor Layton and Jadie VanVolkinburg were regional finalists. For more information: contact Jeff Witt (jwitt@central.k12.or.us).

capitol WEST VALLEY
CERTIFIED • PRE-OWNED • SERVICE

THE VALLEY'S LARGEST INVENTORY OF PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!

2012 KIA
SEDONA LX
3.5L V6 • 3RD ROW • MP3
\$13,915

2012 CHEVROLET
SONIC LT
MP3 • HEATED MIRRORS
• ALLUMINUM WHEELS
\$9,215

2010 CADILLAC
DTS
4.6L V8L • LEATHER • NAV
\$14,915

1998 DODGE
RAM 2500
8L V10 • 4X2 • ACCESS CAB
\$11,915

2013 NISSAN
ROGUE S
2.5L 4CYL • AWD • MP3
\$15,515

SERVICE SPECIAL

15% OFF!

BRAKE SERVICE

Repair or replace. Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Max discount of \$50.00. Exp. 2/29/16.

Lube Oil & Filter

\$6.00 OFF!

CONVENTIONAL OIL!
Includes a Free Multi-Point Inspection!
Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Synthetic oil extra. Expires 2/29/16.

\$9.00 OFF!

SYNTHETIC OIL!
Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Expires 2/29/16.

Sales: (503) 623-6686
Service: (888) 480-2074
812 SE. Jefferson St. Dallas

Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9am. to 6pm.
Service Mon. - Fri. 7:30 - 5:30

SEE OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY ONLINE!
cap-westvalley.com

* Subject to prior sale. Prices do not include license fees, title fees and \$100 Doc fees. All financing on approved credit, with Tier 3 and above credit rating. All sale prices on in stock units only. Expires 2/29/16.