

SCHOOL NOTES

Dallas SD seeks feedback on CTE

DALLAS — Dallas School District is working on information to create a 5-year plan for CTE (career technical information) and stem (science, technology, engineering and math) programming.

Community members and parents are encouraged to provide feedback via a survey.

To find the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVBJKPN>.

For more information: <http://www.dallas.k12.or.us/> or call 503-623-5594.

LaCreole to host 'Exhibition Night'

DALLAS — LaCreole Middle School will hold its stem-themed (science, technology, engineering and math) "Exhibition Night" from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the school, 701 SE LaCreole Drive.

The event will feature class projects in a variety of subjects, including a 3-D printer demonstration, a quadcopter, 3-D molecule cartoons, and the student garden.

For more information: 503-623-6662.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Deptula honored at Mary Baldwin

STAUNTON, Va. — Monmouth resident Wendy Deptula received three awards during a ceremony honoring student academic achievement at Mary Baldwin College.

Deptula was given the Scholar Athlete Award, presented to a member of sports teams who achieve high academic standing; the Mary Jane Donnally Award, given to the athlete with the highest cumulative GPA after three semesters of work; and Team GPA Award for cross-country, awarded to the team member with the highest cumulative GPA.

Polk County residents honored

POLK COUNTY — The following Polk County residents were inducted into the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Monmouth — Moshaal Alharbi, Jonathan Jones, Bryan Kelley, Danielle Payne and Cameron Stanavage.

Dallas — Mariah McKechnie, Julie Postma and Parker Smith.

Independence — Melinda Shimizu.

All were initiated at Western Oregon University. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. The top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have received scholarly distinction. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine.

Lucas Costa named to math society

FRONT ROYAL, Va. — Lucas Costa, of Monmouth, a junior at Randolph-Macon Academy, was inducted into the National Math Honor Society on March 24. Lucas is the son of Cinthia Costa Jones, of Monmouth, and Alexandre D T Costa, of Curitiba, Brazil.

Coons named to Elmira dean's list

ELMIRA, NY — Gwendolynn Coons, of Dallas, has been named to the Elmira College dean's list for term II, winter 2016.

Students who earn a 3.6 or greater grade-point average on a 4.0 scale for the academic term are recognized on the Elmira College dean's list for academic excellence.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Dylan Hendrickson and Gage Scheet work on calculations during a roller coaster physics lab on May 4.

Students learn twists, turns

After-school program gives kids a chance to design, study roller coasters

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Yes, the roller coaster physics class in Falls City really is as fun as it sounds.

But the students in the popular Falls City Faces (Family Academics Community and Enrichment for Success) after-school program have to work before they can play.

The two-day per week class is filled with hands-on labs in which students build "roller coasters" to test calculations and designs. At the end of the class, they are rewarded with a trip to an amusement park to "test" what they have been working on all spring.

To stay in the class, students have to pass all their other classes, turn in all their work for roller coaster physics on time, and attend each hour-long lab.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Seth Hammond, right, Draven Pelkey and Chris Doyle measure the drop on their roller coaster on May 4.

"We kind of up the responsibility of these students," teacher Micke Kidd said.

Those who make it to the end will be going on a trip to Silverwood Theme Park in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in June. Once at the theme

park, students will have one more lab to complete: studying and doing calculations on the rides at the park.

Finally they are set loose to ride in the afternoon.

This year, Kidd is trying a different method of teaching the class.

Four students have enrolled in all five of the years the class has been offered: Nick Kempfer, Robert Kempfer, Nathan Kempfer and Kyle Smith. Kidd decided they were familiar enough with the material that they could lead the class. Kidd even allowed them to pick the labs and make lesson plans for each session, with his approval.

"The things that they are teaching I think are fairly easy for them. Now they have to stand in front of a group of people and try to teach them," Kidd said, grinning.

So far the system is working well. On May 4, the lab was designed to have them calculate the potential energy of their roller coaster — really a length of flexible tubing and a marble as the "car" — as opposed to the kinetic energy.

See PHYSICS, Page 10A



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