

QUICK HITS

Central High to host conference

INDEPENDENCE — The Oregon Coaches Association and the OSAA have chosen Central High School to host the Spirit of Champions Conference on Aug. 26.

The event, sponsored by BiMart, will see schools from around the valley and the Oregon Coast come together.

More details will be released later.

Fun run seeks volunteers

DALLAS — The Dallas Booster Club is seeking volunteers for the Summerfest Fun Run on July 30.

The run will need volunteers beginning at 7 a.m.

This year, the run will feature a 5-kilometer race at 8:30 a.m. and a kid's run at 9 a.m.

Volunteers are needed for registration, directing runners along the course, help at the water stations and handing out water, food and gifts at the finish line, as well as cleanup after the event.

For more information: admin@dhsboosterclub.org

Online registration for the fun run is available at [www.runsignup.com/Race/](http://www.runsignup.com/Race/Register/?racelid=8490)

Day of registration will also be available.

Cross Creek men's club results

DALLAS — Cross Creek's men's club results for July 12:

Two man best ball low gross/low net

Gross: 1, Roy Speelman-Wayne Baughman, 34; Lee Gamaney-Jim Schroeder, 35.

Net: 1, Mike Largent-Allan Hadley, 26; 2 (tie), Steve Altman-Ken Dankenbring, Larry Burger-John Hopkins and Bob Bennet-Denney Klassen, 31.

Registration for kids triathlon open

DALLAS — Registration for the 10th annual Summerfest Kids Triathlon at the Dallas Aquatic Center is now open.

The event is open to kids ages 5 to 12 and will be held on July 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check-in begins at 9:45 a.m.

Cost is \$20 for Dallas Aquatic Center members and \$25 for nonmembers. Register before Friday to receive a \$5 discount.

Day of registration will also be available prior to the start of the event.

Age groups and distances are as follows: 5-6 (25-yard swim, 165-yard bike, 75-yard run); 7-8 (25-yard swim, 280-yard bike ride, 175-yard run); 9-10 (50-yard swim, 545-yard bike ride, 300-yard run); 11-12 (100-yard swim, 1,090-yard bike ride, 600-yard run).

For more information: www.ci.dallas.or.us/83/Dallas-Aquatic-Center.

Online

Visit www.polkio.com for more sports stories, photos and more.

LongBoard Larry finds a home

Larry Peterson opens first storefront for handmade boards

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — If not for a decision long ago by his older brother, Larry Peterson's life would look a lot different than it does now.

Peterson graduated from Western Oregon University with a biology degree and had his sights set on a particular field.

"The plan was to go to dental school," Peterson said.

He never made it to dental school. But Peterson, better known as LongBoard Larry, found something better. Now, he's ready to share his passion with even more people with the opening of his store, LongBoard Larry, located at 599 S. Third St. in Independence.

Peterson's love of building longboards was born out of necessity.

"My brother in high school built a longboard out of an old ski press," Peterson said. "He lost interest, so I rode that for a while until he decided he wanted it back. I figured I have to figure out how to make these things."

His first board, made from a flat piece of wood that he soaked in a kid's pool to try and bend it, was less than successful.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

LongBoard Larry features handmade longboards and skate boards, clothing and supplies.

"It didn't work very well," Peterson said. "I think it cracked on the second day." But he was intrigued by

the process and began experimenting with different molds and techniques, learning how different designs led to different riding styles.

"I kept working at it and found different ways to build boards and bend wood," he said. "... I like figuring out ways to make cool stuff."

Before long, others took notice of his skills.

"It got to the point where people asked me to build them boards," Peterson said. "That was back in the 1999-2000 time frame. I was going to Western at the time."

The decision was made to start LongBoard Larry. He hired two high school students to work with him and they were off and running —

Board building

• LongBoard Larry, located at 599 S. Third St., in Independence is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and weekends by appointment.

• LongBoard Larry makes handmade longboard skateboards and also sells clothing and supplies.

• Peterson's business began in a 200-square foot shed. He has spent the last five years in its manufacturing facility in Independence.

• This is the company's first official storefront.

• The company has shipped longboards around the world.

• For more information: 971-209-5135.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Different designs are made to suit different styles of riding. Each board takes two to three days to finish.

though not with the grandest of beginnings.

"I started in a shed that was 200-square feet," Peterson said. "I did everything from pressing to cutting and painting in that shed for a long time. Then, we had a car tent, that's where we sanded the

boards and then added a third shed because we were keeping busy."

In the decade and a half since then, they've expanded into bigger locations and sent custom-made boards around the world, but one thing was missing.

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Injury complicates Curtis' summer

Dallas High senior uses setback as fuel to take her game to new levels



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

Dallas' Kailee Curtis took 14th at state in 2016. An injury forced her to miss a junior golf tournament in June.

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Kailee Curtis was ready for a big summer of golf.

Fresh off placing 14th at the OSAA 5A girls golf state championships last spring, the Dallas High incoming senior was ready to make a splash on a national scale.

Curtis did undergo some important lessons — but not the ones she was expecting.

Curtis was preparing for a tournament in mid-June to qualify for a Junior Open event in New Jersey when she suffered a critical setback.

"I was playing a practice round and broke a blood vessel in my finger," she said.

She was forced to take two weeks off, causing her to miss the tournament.

"It was really upsetting for me," Curtis said.

She was able to play in a tournament June 21-22 in Corvallis — this

one to qualify for the World Championships.

"I was still slightly injured and I hadn't played very much before it," Curtis said. "I played really badly. It was hard going into that not playing my best, but it was a learning experience that you can't just walk into these things without practicing."

"Not being able to play then going to the next tournament and doing so awful was definitely hard, but it was a wakeup call."

She'll get another chance to get her golf game back on track when she plays in a special tournament on July 24.

She'll compete alongside her dad — the one who taught her how to play just before her freshman year of high school.

"One day we were sitting there watching golf," Curtis said. "I said, 'this is really boring, dad.' He told me I was wrong."

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