

Lavier: Kids keep her driven

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 “Oftentimes, if you see a student with Down syndrome, especially in elementary schools, you’ll see kids get out of their way because they don’t really know how to act around those kinds of kids,” Spencer continued. “If you walk into Shana’s classroom, she’ll be playing a joke on one of her students. The kids love it and feel comfortable there. She allows them to excel in the areas they can excel at.”
 Lavier ensures that outside pressures and labels don’t play a role inside her classroom.
 “I really think it’s because when you walk into that classroom, it doesn’t matter if you are the best athlete, if you are a geek, or class president, most popular or least popular,” Peffley said. “When you walk into the room, you are just you. The kids love you for who you are inside. Nothing else matters.”

The school’s peer tutoring program has had to turn kids away because of the sheer number of students interested in tutoring for the DLC.

Those who become tutors say it becomes clear why Lavier connects with her students.

“She’s so outgoing and fun and upbeat,” Dallas senior Ashlee Lichtenberger said. “That’s what the kids need. She talks through things with them instead of screaming at them. She just adores them.”

It’s not just the special education students who have seen a transformation.

“You can’t not go through some type of evolution,” Lavier said. “I think empathy is a big one. Some of these kids may never have worked with a kid with autism before. ... Nobody is discriminated against here. We give everyone a purpose and something to feel good about. Everyone is welcome here.”

Her goal is to enrich the lives of and teach the students within the DLC, but Lavier’s influence has extended far beyond that.

Lavier has been head volleyball coach since 2013.

Coaching makes her schedule during the fall hectic — but it also keeps her calm.

“I think having that interaction with students is im-



SHANA LAVIER/Itemizer-Observer
Shana Lavier, Bryar Eames, Becca Boyce, McKenzie DeVault, Jacob Peffley and Parker Peterson share a moment together during the school day.

portant,” Lavier said. “I think so many special education teachers sort of isolate themselves from the rest of the population, and when that happens, I think that’s when burnout can occur.”

Perhaps Lavier’s greatest lessons to her students have nothing to do with school work.

“I believe her drive comes from watching students work towards their potential, and then to see that they have even more potential than they thought,” principal Steve

Lichtenberger and Ryan Spencer are just two of the numerous current and former students who are pursuing careers in special education because, in part, of their time with Lavier.

“She’s taught me so many things,” Lichtenberger said. “She wrote my letter of recommendation. I feel like I’m a lot happier now. I’m more outgoing and upbeat like Lav is. I trust so much better because I can trust these kids with anything. It’s been a life changing experience.”

Once upon a time, Lavier’s shift to the DLC was considered a temporary solution, Steve Spencer said.

It’s safe to say the “temporary” has been removed.

“Every day is an adventure in this room,” Lavier said. “I have kids who graduated two or three years ago, ask me how the kids are doing. They tell me this was their favorite class. That’s humbling to me.”

Toys: Apply now through Dec. 7

Continued from Page 1A
 Toy donations or financial contributions can be made at Toys for Tots local “headquarters” at Fee Mail Depot in Monmouth.

Weston’s other charity passion is the Monmouth-Independence Christmas Project, which provides holiday food boxes to 425 households on average each year.

Applications are still being accepted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 to 5 p.m. through Dec. 7 at the Independence Women’s Clubhouse, 340 S. Third St. in Independence.

“Adopters” for families served by the project are needed, Weston said.

Those with questions about the program can call 503-339-4955.

Weston said many calls have been coming in, and people shouldn’t be discouraged if they can’t reach someone right away.

“They need to leave a message,” she said. We will get back to you.”

You can help

- Donations for Toys for Tots (toys and financial donations) can be dropped off at Fee Mail Depot, 169 S. Broad St. in Monmouth. Hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donation also can be made at www.toysfortots.org. To ensure donations go to Polk County children, select Oregon, then Polk County.
- Toy donations can be made at a several businesses and organizations in Polk County. For more information: 503-917-9181 or toysfortotspolk@gmail.com.
- Monmouth-Independence Christmas Project needs adopters for families in need. For more information: 503-339-4955. Spanish: 971-388-3328.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file
Falls City’s fire department volunteers work during its 2015 toy drive.

INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8

450 S. 2nd St., Independence
Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$8.00 Children \$7.00 • Senior \$7.25 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

Friday - Sunday December 2 - 4

DOCTOR STRANGE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:40 4:25)	7:10	9:55
ALLIED (Digital) (R)	(1:15 4:05)	6:55	9:45
BAD SANTA 2 (Digital) (R)	(12:45 3:00 5:15)	7:30	9:45
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)	(12:30 3:30)	6:30	9:30
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(11:30 1:15 2:05 4:40)	7:20	9:55
HACKSAW RIDGE (Digital) (R)	(3:50)	6:45	9:40
TROLLS (Digital) (PG)	(12:10 2:25 4:35)		
RULES DON'T APPLY (Digital) (PG13)		6:50	
EDGE OF SEVENTEEN (Digital) (R)			9:40
THE ARRIVAL (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05	9:50

Monday - Thursday December 5 - 8

DOCTOR STRANGE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:40 4:25)	7:10	
ALLIED (Digital) (R)	(1:15 4:05)	6:55	
BAD SANTA 2 (Digital) (R)	(3:00 5:15)	7:30	
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)	(12:30 3:30)	6:30	
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(1:15 2:05 4:40)	7:20	
HACKSAW RIDGE (Digital) (R)	(3:50)	6:45	
TROLLS (Digital) (PG)	(2:25 4:35)		
RULES DON'T APPLY (Digital) (PG13)		6:50	
THE ARRIVAL (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05	

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LUCKIAMUTE DOMESTIC WATER COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday 7:00 p.m.
December 12th
503-838-2075

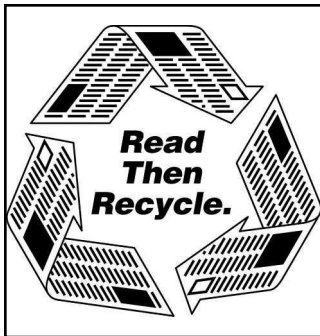
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Salem Center 50+ 2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR Wednesday November 30th 1:00 p.m.	Dallas Aquatic Center 1005 SE LaCreole Drive Dallas, OR Thursday December 1st 10:00 a.m.	Salem Center 50+ 2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR Thursday December 1st 1:00 p.m.
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Solution on Page 10A

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

Sudoku
 Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

Row →

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

Three-by-three square →

↑ 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.

By Ben Arnoldy The Christian Science Monitor

Salem Center 50+ 2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR Tuesday December 6th 1:00 p.m.	Salem Center 50+ 2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR Wednesday December 7th 10:00 a.m.
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