

Getting their geek on

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — It's almost like the role was written for him.

Sophomore Seth Dickson plays Jake in Central High School's production of, "Band Geeks," opening on Friday at 7 p.m.

"A lot of the stuff he's going through I can really connect with him," Dickson said of Jake. "Because I was in sports and now I'm in theater. And it became my family. He (Jake) injures someone else, gets suspended from his school and has to join the other school's marching band."

When Jake shows up to play the drums with the Cuyahoga High Marching Beavers, he causes more trouble with the small, struggling music program — but it isn't all his fault. His performance on the field causes some jealous riffs with Elliott, played by Dylan Lewis, a senior at Central.

"He is trying to be a leader, but isn't very good at it, and he's a whiner," Lewis said of his character. "He kind of knows he just whines, and the new guy comes in and steals his spotlight — and it is his."

Not only that, but the girl Elliott has a crush on develops a crush on Jake.

That's just par for the course in high school, said Matisyn Robischon, a junior.



Matisyn Robischon, Maynard DeWitt and Dylan Lewis rehearse a song on Monday.

Robischon plays Laura, Elliott's best friend. In the play, she has a crush on Elliott — unknown to him, of course.

"I definitely relate to Laura," Robischon said. "We all go through hard times. We all have a crush that doesn't like us back. We all have teachers that don't think we're doing enough; parents that don't think we're doing enough."

The key is to stand up for yourself, Robischon said, something Laura learns

eventually. The theme of standing up for yourself and embracing who you are runs throughout the musical.

Maynard DeWitt Jr., sophomore, plays Stewart, the asthmatic son of the high school principal.

"He gets picked on," DeWitt said. "When he comes to band, the kids are kind of nice to him. Throughout the play, he struggles with himself. At the end, he embraces his inner geek."

To add to the unfolding, teenage drama, the 10-member marching band

must face continuous budget cuts and the loss of its practice field.

The musical doesn't leave out any high-school stereotypes, said Jeff Witt, drama teacher.

"It's kind of a cross between 'High School Musical,' and 'Glee,'" Witt said. "It's hysterical."

"Band Geeks" is produced by the theater class, which means it is open to kids who don't typically try out for plays. Some of the actors in this musical have never been in a play before, director Wendy Boyack said.

The Band Marches On ...

What: Central Performing Arts presents "Band Geeks," music by Mark Allen; music and lyrics by Gaby Alter; concept, music, lyrics and book by Tommy Newman and Gordon Greenberg.

When: Show opens Friday at 7 p.m. and continues with two performances on Saturday at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m. It resumes Jan. 18 through 21, show time at 7 p.m.

Where: Central High School's auditorium, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence.

Admission: General, \$8; students with ID, \$5.

More information: 503-838-0480.



Maynard DeWitt, center, sings during a rehearsal at Central High School on Monday night.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Santiam Christian honor roll

ADAIR VILLAGE — Santiam Christian School released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2016-17 school year.

12th grade (4.0 GPA): Mikayla Manzi (Monmouth), Katie Richert (Dallas) and August Thornton (Independence); **3.5-3.99** — Peggy Liang (Independence), Makenna Setniker (Dallas), Shao-en (Sean) Wang (Dallas) and Alexandra Watson (Dallas).

11th grade (4.0): Hoang Nguyen (Dallas), Kyle Paratore (Independence), Zachary Watson (Dallas), Jenny Wei (Independence) and Billy Zhang (Dallas); **3.5-3.99** — Samuel Barton (Monmouth), Kaylee Breyman (Independence), Grace Moseman (Dallas), Shelby Myrick-Duckett (Independence), Sebastian Perfecto (Independence), Rebeka Preston (Independence) and Buckley Sheng (Monmouth).

10th grade (4.0): Tony Li (Dallas), Jason Manzi (Monmouth), Winn Miller (West Salem), Abby Riedlinger (Independence) and Cole Setniker (Dallas); **3.5-3.99** — Carlos Garcia Palomar (Dallas).

Ninth grade (4.0): Ainsley Beam (Monmouth), Olivia Bellingier-Verbits (Monmouth) and Trevor Oxenrider (Independence); **3.5-3.99** — James Bodnovits (Independence), Lily Hardy (Dallas) and Amanda Preston (Independence).

Eighth grade (4.0): Caroline Conolly (Dallas) and Keilana Oxenrider (Independence); **3.5-3.99** — Levi Cummins (Monmouth), Joshua Montoya (Dallas), Ben Steffen (Independence) and Carolyn Wilfong (Monmouth).

Seventh grade (4.0): Eli Cummins (Monmouth), Ely Kennel (Monmouth) and Jamie Myrick-Duckett (Independence); **3.5-3.99** — Adrien Barba (Dallas), Jonathan Breyman (Independence) and Abi Von Derahe (Monmouth).

Local students named to dean's list

PORTLAND — Two Polk County students were named to the Warner Pacific College dean's list for the Fall 2016 academic term. To qualify, students must be enrolled full-time and achieve a 3.5 or greater grade point average. Graduate students are not included on this list. Students in the undergraduate Adult Degree Program who have completed at least 12 credits for classes ending during the specified dates are included.

Both Angelica Sletten, of Dallas, and Kelly Wahl, of Independence, earned a 4.0.

Miller earns spot on dean's list

LA GRANDE — Matthew Miller, of Dallas, was named to Eastern Oregon University's dean's list for the fall term along with 520 other students. Qualifying students achieve and maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework for the duration of the term.

School district to fill budget committee

INDEPENDENCE — The Central School District Board of Directors is seeking candidates to serve on the budget committee.

The board is seeking representatives from zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. If interested, submit a letter of interest to the school board, Central School District 13J, 750 S. Fifth Street, Independence, OR 97351.

The board will review letters of interest and make the appointment during their regular meeting on Feb. 1. Application deadline is Jan. 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Zone 1's seat will serve through June 30, 2017. Zone 2's term expires June 30, 2018 and Zones 4 and 5 terms expire June 30, 2019. Zone 1 encompasses the city of Independence north of Monmouth Street extended within city limits.

Zone 2 includes Independence south of Monmouth Street.

Zone 4 includes the city of Monmouth west of Pacific Highway and north of Jackson Street. Zone 5 encompasses Monmouth west of Pacific Highway and south of Jackson Street.

capitol WEST VALLEY
CERTIFIED • PRE-OWNED • SERVICE

NEW YEAR SALE ON NOW!!

2 Years or 24K Miles Complimentary Service!

FULL VEHICLE SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

ANY MAKE ANY MODEL!
✓ Knowledgeable Service Advisors to assist you. ✓ Full service car repair and maintenance by Certified Technicians.



2011 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT \$10,915
3.5L V68 • REMOTE START



2006 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD \$18,915
6.0L V8 • 4X4 • DUAL A/C

SAVINGS THAT GROW!

SPEND THIS	SAVE THIS
\$50 - \$99.99	\$10.00
\$100 - \$199.99	\$20.00
\$200 - \$299.99	\$30.00
\$300 - \$399.99	\$40.00
\$400 - \$499.99	\$50.00

Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Max discount \$50. Must present at time of write up, no cash value, does not apply to prior service, cannot be combined with other coupons. Exp. 1/31/17.



2015 JEEP COMPASS SPORT \$14,915
2.0L 4CYL • FWD • MP3



2014 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS \$15,915
3.6L V6 • MP3 • 3RD ROW

LUBE OIL & FILTER

\$11.00 OFF!

REGULAR OR SYNTHETIC
Includes a Free Multi-Point Inspection!

Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Expires 1/31/17.



2015 NISSAN QUEST SV \$18,915
3.5L V6 • 3RD ROW • MP3



2006 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 \$15,915
5.3L V8 • 4X2 • PREM SOUND

* 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 1/31/17.

Sales: (503) 623-6686 | **Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9am. to 6pm.** | **SEE OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY ONLINE!**
Service: (888) 480-2074 | **Service Mon. - Fri. 7:30 - 5:30** | **cap-westvalley.com**
 812 SE. Jefferson St. Dallas