

WOU opens campus for eclipse rentals

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University is open for eclipse viewers. The college is renting dorms, apartments and camping spots — both for tents and recreational vehicles — for the weekend of the Great American Eclipse, Aug. 19 and 20.

Costs vary, depending on accommodations, and apartments are selling fast, said Erin McDonough, executive director of strategic communications and marketing.

WOU is charging enough to cover its costs, and won't see much — or any — additional revenue from renting space, McDonough said.

"We have staffing that has to be on site, cleaning, keeping the lights on," she said. "We're not making money."

When renting dorm rooms, expect a college experience — down to bringing or renting your own linens.

Some rooms come with private bathrooms, but many will share. Campers will have access to the

team showers in the New Physical Education Building and porta-potties, McDonough said.

The Werner University Center will be open for food, but no meal plans will be offered, McDonough said.

"It's the community partnership," she said. "We thought that we would encourage people to take advantage of what's in town."

A few activities will be available on campus, such as a possible football scrimmage, but mostly WOU will be a place to stay.

"We're encouraging people to go to the Independence events and to Monmouth Sunday night for their concert," McDonough said.

Bus routes are being planned to connect Western Oregon to downtown Independence Friday through Monday morning during the Indy Goes Dark festival.

For more information about renting camping or a room at WOU: wou.edu/eclipse/lodging or call 503-838-8658.

For more on Indy Goes Dark: IndependenceGoesDark.com.

SCHOOL NOTES

CEA names teachers of the year

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — The Central Education Association Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2017 is Natalie Nieubuurt.

Natalie Nieubuurt teaches history at Talmadge Middle School.

"Natalie has a great rapport with students as her personality reflects someone who is kind, reasonable, and fair," a colleague wrote about Nieubuurt.

The CEA Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2017 is Pam Young.

Pam Young teaches third grade at Ash Creek Elementary School.

Her colleagues describe her as "an exemplary role model for all teachers" and have noted her compassion as she meets the needs of all her students. As a consequence, her students become willing learners who function well in their school community.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas High school teacher Tony Olliff, standing right, stays with his class during Thursday's school evacuation drill.

Dallas students evacuate

Parents find unannounced drill useful, not without headaches

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Students streamed from the doors of Dallas High School in orderly fashion as school staff members dressed in bright-colored vests guided them down Miller Avenue to Valley Life Center.

It was quite the sight on a Thursday afternoon: 900 or so students walking the mile down the street to the church in a full evacuation drill.

This wasn't a fire drill with a long walk, but practice for an actual emergency, with parents converging on the site to pick up their children.

District Superintendent Michelle Johnstone said very few schools in the area have conducted a drill on the same scale as Thursday's.

"We want to prepare and hope we never have to use it," said DHS Principal Steve



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Students walk out of DHS at the beginning of the drill.

Spencer. "We wanted to test the system."

That system includes the process of making sure all students get from one place to the other and are accounted for once they are there.

Also, the school tested its

process of contacting parents to pick up their kids.

While the school sent parents messages throughout the year that the drill would be happening, parents were not informed of when.

Students weren't aware, either, until lunch time Thurs-

day when the word got out.

Spencer said the idea was to make it as close to an emergency scenario as possible.

The drill began with a 5-minute lock out, followed by a 5-minute lock down, and then students were instructed to leave the building and head to the church. Once there, they filed into the sanctuary or other rooms in the church with their teachers to wait for their parents to arrive.

Parents were told where to go and to bring photo ID with them. Without that, their child would not be released.

The process of checking in parents and retrieving students through staff members designated as "runners" appeared to work smoothly, but getting parents to the right place to check in wasn't as organized.

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