

CLASS OF 2017

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Dylan Lewis graduates from Central High School Saturday and plans to major in education and vocal performance. His role model is Jeff Witt, Central's theater teacher.

Ready for next steps

Lewis challenges others to try new things in high school

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — On the last day of school for Central High School's Class of 2017, Dylan Lewis looked content.

"I'm sad about leaving the people, and sad about leaving the theater department and choir," Lewis said. "I was in those for four years. It's no different than the last football game for a senior. It's bittersweet. I'm so glad it's over, but sad to see it go."

Lewis is eager to begin his next steps at Oregon State University in the fall to double major in music education and vocal performance, with hopes to follow in the footsteps of Central's theater and music

teacher, Jeff Witt.

He spent his first 13 years of education in and out of various schools, starting at Independence Elementary School, and spending some years at a charter school, a private school, and being home-schooled before heading back into the Central School District in eighth grade to finish up his secondary education.

Central has given him all the tools he needs to move on, Lewis said.

"All the things I want to do, I learned the basics here," he said. "It's not putting a small fish in a big pond, it's following a river path and making it to the huge open ocean. I've learned a lot here that will prepare me for the fu-

ture."

Central schools have been more effective for Lewis than some of his other educational experiences.

"At private school, if you're smart, they can't accommodate that because they're smaller," Lewis said, explaining that he was gifted in math at a younger age, but because his school couldn't advance him, his mathematical brain dwindled.

Looking back, Lewis said he'd wished he'd gone to more school events, and encourages his classmates and new freshmen to do just that.

"They're actually more fun than you think they'll be," he said.

See LEWIS, Page 15A

DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL

Looking out for others

Dodge quiet role model, inspires teachers, administrators

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Cooper Dodge, a Dallas High School senior about to graduate Saturday, has a drive to help others — and often without it being recognized.

"That's one of the pieces that sticks in my mind with Cooper," said Steve Spencer, DHS principal. "The school went through a difficult time not too long ago and I received one email from Cooper and it was specifically just asking, 'What can I do to help?' He's got that mind to look out for kids and find way to support and help them."

Dodge has played football, baseball and golf throughout his high school career, but his favorite activ-

ity had nothing to do with competition.

He excelled in the school's leadership class. Dodge has been in the class since his freshman year.

"I felt like I could have a say in the school and I could change it," he explained of his interest in leadership. "I could be positive to other people and influence others. I wanted to be a role model to others."

This year, Dodge served as the senior class public relations representative.

"I'm able to connect to a lot of different people that I normally wouldn't connect to outside of school," he said of his role this year. "It's nice getting to know other people and helping the school."

And students at other schools.

Dodge was part of a group of high school students who mentored students at Whitworth Elementary School.

"Last year, we went over to Whitworth and we mentored kids who were having a difficult time, and I felt like I had a decent impact on their lives because I was able to connect with them," Dodge said. "I don't think they had the greatest home life, so I was their role model. They were looking up to me and it was really reassuring because I felt like I was doing something to benefit them."

Spencer said he's known Dodge since he was playing youth football and remember him as a student who was highly involved in his school and community.

See DODGE, Page 15A



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Cooper Dodge has spent the last four years at Dallas High School quietly helping others. He's headed to Oregon State University Cascades in Bend in the fall.

capitol WEST VALLEY
CERTIFIED • PRE-OWNED • SERVICE



TAKE A VACATION FROM CAR PAYMENTS!

120 DAYS TO FIRST PAYMENT

ALL NEW & PRE-OWNED



FULL VEHICLE SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Knowledgeable Service Advisors to assist you.
- ✓ Full service car repair and maintenance by Certified Technicians.

SERVICE OF YOUR CHOICE



Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Max discount \$75. Must present at time of write up, no cash value, does not apply to prior service, cannot be combined with other coupons. Exp. 6/30/17.

LUBE OIL & FILTER



Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Expires 6/30/17.



2015 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.8 \$15,000

1.8L 4CYL • MP3 • HEATED SEAT



2004 LEXUS ES 330 \$7,800

3.3L V6 • LEATHER • DUAL A/C



2007 ACURA TL 3.2 \$9,900

A/C • LEATHER • POWER



2009 DODGE JOURNEY R/T \$9,800

3.5L V6 • MP3 • DUAL A/C



* 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 6/30/17.

2007 FORD MUSTANG \$16,500

4.6L V8 • LEATHER • MP3

PLUS!

2 Years or 24K Miles Complimentary Service!

*Must have services performed at any Capitol Auto Group location. See dealership for details.