Science fair draws crowd

A Relay for Life garage sale fundraiser will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Newport 60+ Activity Center in South Beach. Tickets are $25 each or $60 for two, if purchased in advance. They can be purchased online at http://rsvpofbl.org or at the activity center. For more information, call 541-912-0415.

CHEMISTRY CLASSIC'S SCHEDULE

BY STEVE CARD

CHOCOLATE CLASSIC'S SCHEDULE

The chocolate classic was held on Friday, Jan. 22, at the Newport 60+ Activity Center. Tickets are 50 each or $60 for two, if purchased in advance. They can be purchased online at www.newportoregon.gov/sc, call 541-265-2426, or stop by the center, located at 333 SE Bay Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during daylight hours (the site is closed at night). For more information, call 541-912-0415.

Newport 60+ Activity Center, located at 333 SE Bay Blvd., serves people who are experienced players, but who want to re-engage with the public at sunrise on Feb. 1. (Courtesy photo)
SCIENCE FAIR

‘For been involved with the science fair since 2006,’ Goodwin said. ‘Although the Newport Schools Science Fair began years ago as an activity coordinated entirely by community volunteers, for the past few years my time as coordinator has been supplanted by Oregon Sea Grant, and I am part of my job as special projects coordinator for Oregon Sea Grant Marine Education.’

Goodwin added that school principals and teachers are very supportive of the science fair, and in three of the past five years, ‘90 percent of the teachers in the targeted grade levels have participated.’

While this year’s fair involved students in kindergarten through fifth grade, next year it will feature those in grades six through eight.

‘That’s basically what we’ve been doing, alternating years, because we only have as many mentors and so much enthusiasm for Hatfield,’ said Goodwin. ‘It was kind of massed out (Thursday) night. It was a good problem to have.’

Mentors involved with the science fair work in the classroom throughout the school year to help students with their projects.

Their final count was 44 mentors, Goodwin said. ‘I have to be in more than doing it for years.’ Mentors are added into the classroom on a weekly basis for about an hour once or twice a week.

‘I’m the Oregon Coast STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) communications coordinator, so one day I do a little keeps kids of people and what they’re interested in and try to match people up,’ explained Goodwin about the mentor program. ‘We had somebody who came to the science fair because he lives in the area, and I thought it would be interesting. And he said, I’m retired chemist, and I want to be involved in this kind of thing. Another guy stopped by my office who’s a mentor for this science fair and he said, “Keep me on your list for next year.”’

With the number of mentors growing, their participation with the students has become part of the school culture. ‘We have a lot more mentors now,’ Goodwin said. ‘It’s moved to a lot more classrooms.’

She said the teachers are also sometimes working together within grade levels. ‘Especially for the younger grades, there’s a lot more classroom projects, so it’s not like every first-grader has to come up with a testable hypothesis’ said Goodwin. ‘The emphasis, especially in the younger grades, is on how science works and what kinds of things do scientists do, so they’re making observations, they’re asking questions, and they’re using special tools. It builds a foundation.’

Over the years, teachers have also started allowing more class time for students to work on projects. ‘There’s a lot of the time to work on science fair projects in the classroom so that it’s not just the kids who have help at home who come up with great projects,’ Goodwin said.

‘The other thing is it’s not a competitive fair. It’s more of a celebration of science, and everyone’s included and there’s no judging or anything of that nature.’

Goodwin added that this program expanded into other areas of the county. ‘It’s hard because not everyone has a Hatfield sitting in the middle of their city. But I’m sure we can use this model as a way of trying to expand it to other areas. That’s where I want to go with this.’

Goodwin said she is always looking for mentors interested in working with students, and she said it doesn’t have to be a science fair. ‘There are a variety of different mentoring opportunities through the Oregon Coast STEM Hub. They could be a judge at the ROV competitions, or in the renewable energy challenge,’ she said.

To find out about more STEM events, competitions and opportunities to get involved, visit the Oregon Coast STEM Hub website at http://oregoncoaststem.oregonstate.edu or email OregonCoastSTEM@oregonstate.edu. The Oregon Coast STEM Hub office is located at the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

Contact reporter Shela Card at 541-247-8573, ext. 224, or scard@newportnewstimes.com

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60+ Activity Center

Free tech help for seniors

Would you like to learn how to find information on the Internet? How to find people on Facebook? Are you frustrated by your laptop? The Newport 60+-Activity Center will be hosting free tech-help sessions from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. each Friday in February and March, on the availability of the instructor.

The simple, fun sessions will focus on topics like Facebook, Google, email, Skype, etc., or use one of the city’s desktop computers are available in the lab. Space is limited to eight people per session. For more information, or to reserve a spot, come by the Newport 60+-Activity Center at 20 SE 2nd St., or call 541-265-9637.

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Tax Help

Lincoln City — Lincoln City Community Center, 2150 Ocean Front St., from noon to 2 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, through April 14.

What to bring with you:

• Photo identification;
• Social Security card or social security information on the return (mandatory);
• W-2 forms from each employer;
• 1099-G if you had gambling winnings;
• Forms 990, 991, 992, 995, 1096, 1099-R, 1099-NEC, 1099-S, 1099-B, B, R, etc.
• Any other paperwork that you think might be helpful;
• Completed tax return;
• ITIN letters for every person identifying;
• Dependent care provider information;
• All 1099s (SSA, INT, DIV, MISC, B, R, G, etc.); and
• All forms indicating federal income and employment.

For answers to tax questions visit, go online at www.irs.gov and www.oregon.gov/dor.

More information the local AARP Tax-Aide Program, call Darlene at 541-265-8282.