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SCHOOL HONORS

Compiled from staff reports

Local teen trains to keep kids safe

Mount Vernon has a newly certified child passenger safety technician.

Elizabeth Craig, 18, earned the national certification by taking the 32-hour course, Sept. 6-10 at Coos Bay Fire and Rescue in Coos Bay, Ore.

To become certified, technicians must take three written tests, demonstrate knowledge in practical skills tests and participate in a public car seat checkup. The course curriculum is developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Craig, a second-year Running Start student at Skagit Valley College, was one of 11 students who attended the training. Technicians receive their certification from Safe Kids Worldwide, a child injury prevention organization based in Washington, D.C.

Craig joins three other technicians in Skagit County, who work at Early Head Start at Washington Elementary School, Skagit County Community Action Agency and Skagit County Medic One, which oversees the Safe Kids Skagit County program (www.safekidsskagit.com).

MVHS teacher tapped for trip to Africa

Mount Vernon High School French teacher Catherine Ousselin has a trip to Africa in her future.

Ousselin was invited by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs to spend a week in the African nation of Chad to participate in a program on empowering women and girls through education. The Sept. 30 trip is funded by a U.S. Speaker and Specialist Grant.

Ousselin earned a master's degree in French in 2001 from the University of Kansas. She serves as vice-president of the Washington/Alaska/British Columbia/Alberta Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French and as co-chair for the Association's Commission on Technology.

While in Chad, Ousselin will meet with young women and discuss ways that education can build their self-esteem and help them look to leadership roles in their communities. She looks forward to the opportunity to exercise her fluency in French.

Ousselin said in a news release the State Department assignment was similar to her daily teaching work at MVHS, where many of her own students face challenges that interrupt education. She plans to use the Internet and other technology to interact with her Mount Vernon students during her week away.

Burlington students earn scholar awards

The exceptional academic achievement of 29 Burlington-Edison High School students on their 2011 AP Exams has earned them AP Scholar Awards.

The not-for-profit College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides the opportunity for high school students to take rigorous college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

B-EHS offers AP courses in calculus, chemistry, English language, English literature, physics, US history, and world history. AP Art is also an option within the advanced art class and students may prepare portfolios in 2-D design and drawing.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Four B-EHS students —

Olivia Barr, Holly Christiansen, Hayley Ekle and Austin Wolfe — qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Five students — Alisa Dowling, Andrew Pack, Jessie Robinson, Will Stewart and Mckenzie Templeton

— qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Ten students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Katelyn Doggett, Cassandra Eide, Brooke Hess, Kathryn Lohman, Ethan Odell, Walker Olis, Andre Stegner, Alexander Terrell, Jansen Vandermeulen and Callie Waldschmidt.

Award recipients Doggett, Odell, Olis, Pack, Terrell, Vandermeulen and Waldschmidt are seniors and have until spring to complete college-level work and possibly earn a higher-level AP Scholar Award. The other award recipients graduated in June with the Class of 2011.

Over 90 percent of fouryear colleges in the United States provide credit and/or placement for qualifying AP Exam grades.

Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams (based on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest) typically experience greater academic success in college and higher graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP.

The College Board also administers the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT programs.



Submitted photo

Elizabeth Craig of Mount Vernon installs a car seat as part of her child passenger safety technician training in Coos Bay, Ore. Craig is one of four certified technicians in Skagit County.