

Youth & Education



This digital artwork was done by Arcata High School student Kaya Reed.

COMMUNITY

EUREKA HIGH SETS STAGE FOR STUDENT SERVICE

On Oct. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Service Learning and Club Fair at Eureka High School will feature more than 30 agencies and nonprofit groups that will present their volunteer opportunities for teens.

Students from Eureka and Zoe Barnum high schools will have a chance to check out the presentations, identify what organizations interest them, see how they make a difference in the community, and sign up to volunteer. The guest speaker is Shane Brinton, who will speak about the importance of youths getting involved in the community.

Eureka High School's Project Serve is a support network for teachers, student, agencies and community members interested in youth service. Project Serve supports service learning as a curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular experience connecting all students with the school and the community in order to discover the rewards of civic engagement and responsibility, a news release stated.

For more information, contact Aaron Lopez, Project Serve adviser, at 707-441-0271 or aaron9637@gmail.com.

EDUCATION

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE KLATCHES' SET FOR THURSDAYS

Dr. Joseph Pawlick, principal of Eureka High School, recently announced plans to host a "Coffee Klatch" every Thursday morning at 11 a.m.

The meetings will take place in Room M103 — across from the information office in the EHS campus. Members of the public and future current parents of EHS students are encouraged to attend. Campus tours will also be available on request following the klatch.

For more information, call 707-441-2508.



Pictured from left to right are the Drive 2 Stay Alive campaign organizers: Rob Sempell, Koral Heinzman, Matt Susavilla and Colt Tuel. Heinzman is at the helm and said the project is an important way to drive home the importance of safe driving for teens. Submitted photo/ Koral Heinzman

DRIVEN!

Eureka High School students earn \$2,000 grant in quest to promote safe teen driving

By VIVIAN TRACY, THE EUREKA REPORTER

Is hearing your favorite song worth possibly dying for?

That is just one of the questions teens like Koral Heinzman, a junior at Eureka High School, plans to pose to her peers during the "Drive 2 Stay Alive" campaign she is spearheading.

As part of a State Farm Insurance-sponsored grant program called "Project Ignition," that uses service-learning to help address teen driver safety issues; Heinzman and her fellow EAST students plan to implement a hands-on campaign allowing teens to get up close and personal with the dangers of distracted driving.

Last summer, Heinzman applied for the \$2,000 grant from State Farm, with the help of her EAST teachers Jennifer Johnson and Ron Perry, which earned Eureka High acceptance into the Project Ignition competition, and the honor of being the only school in California to be chosen.

The goal of Project Ignition is to "make an impact in your community in the most creative way possible," about the importance of teen driver safety, the State Farm Web site states.

Each year, schools whose campaigns are judged to be among the top 10 in the nation receive \$5,000 to help cover expenses to go to The National Service Learning Conference in March, where they get to showcase their campaigns. The "Best of the Best" team is presented with a \$10,000 grant to continue its teen

but Perry said there's no time like the present for EHS to make its mark. "Our hope is to be one of the top schools in the country," he said.

Heinzman and her fellow EAST students are wasting no time in making an impression of their own. On Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, the group has organized an "impaired driving" simulation for students to participate in during their lunch break. The test pits volunteers on a go-cart track constructed by orange safety cones. Each "driver" will take turns driving the go-cart through the course while distracted by such obstacles as text-messaging, holding a cell phone and wearing "impaired vision goggles." The point, Heinzman said, is to show teens that the only thing they should be concentrating on when driving is the road.

"Students will be there to observe and take part and see how the process happens," she explained. "We're going to be videotaping it and asking them 'how do you think that person will do? How many cones do you think he will knock over? How well did you do? Did you do as well as expected, and how can you implement this experience in your life?'"

Heinzman said the Drive 2 Stay Alive program started last spring, but it was a recent headline-making incident that drove the issue home even more. Heinzman said the engineer of a Southern California commuter train who ran a red light last month while reportedly

applies to everyone. "Not only is this a huge topic among just teens, but among older people also. We can reach the teen population, but also encourage parents to drive safely also," she said.

The group plans to educate other students on the fact that distracted driving is just as dangerous as driving under the influence — it all can lead to accidents and even death. "Our whole point of our message is that two or more things is a hazard and you are potentially putting your life in danger," she said — explaining the "2" in Drive 2 Stay Alive.

Heinzman defines "distracted driving" as not only texting while driving, but also "talking to other passengers, switching CDs or changing a song, picking something up off of the floor, singing, changing the air conditioner — anything that would take your attention off the road." State Farm claims car crashes as the "No. 1 killer of teens," on its Web site. Heinzman feels that if drivers will concentrate a little more on the surroundings outside of the car they're driving, rather than everything that goes on inside of it, that statistic can be changed.

"I care about this not only as a teen, but as a driver," she said. "I want to be able to graduate with all of my classmates. I don't want to lose one of my classmates to a (simple) mistake of changing a radio station. I want them to be there with us when we graduate high school."

For more information, e-mail koralheinzman@gmail.com or phone the EHS EAST lab at 707-476-1632.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

EUREKA HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMEN ON THE SPRING '08 HONOR ROLL (A-D):

- Attebury, Reggie
- Bakke, Lauren Danielle
- Barnett, James Edward
- Bass, Morgan A. C.
- Bazor, Benjamin A.
- Beam, Robert M.
- Becker, Elise
- Bernards, Dustin Lee
- Brady, James Kenton
- Brownlow, Kassi Jenae
- Bruce, Adam Lloy
- Carpenter, Camille Kathleen.
- Carson, Imogene
- Casarez, Estefania
- Chan, Shaun L.
- Charter, Jordan
- Chavez, Alma Rui
- Cheng, Mai
- Cheng, Shoua
- Cheng, Zheng
- Chorbi, Kaitlyn Louise
- Clarke, James P.
- Collamat, Ashley Nicole
- Conners, Caitlin Elizabeth
- Cooke, Grayson
- Corral, Matthew Aaron
- Cunningham, Mal Lyn

BRIEFLY

Portuna council receive water and sewer venue report

Portuna City Manager Gene Rigge is slated to compare the expected revenue and expenses of the five-year water wastewater rate schedule with what has actually transpired thus far at Monday's Council meeting.

The session begins at 6 p.m. at the Fortuna City Hall, 621 St.

St. George will also, as part of the regional presentation, discuss the city's 20-year Capital Replacement Program for water and sewer system. The program is designed to estimate how much money would be put aside for anti-infrastructure replacement during that time period. In other business, the council will consider a proposal to increase the membership of the and Recreation Commission from seven to five.

Phin calf rescued off Jolla coast dies

SAN DIEGO — A dolphin found in kelp beds off the Jolla coast has died while transported to the animal center at SeaWorld, Diego Lifeguards Lt. Greenhalgh says a boater had seen a whale in the Saturday morning.

EHS creates partnerships for Teen Driver Safety Week

Donna Tam

THE TIMES-STANDARD

A project of Eureka High School's EAST program was chosen from among numerous peer projects to take part in a competition meant to help teach teens the value of driving safely.

The class's driving simulation project, called "Drive 2 Stay Alive," has been submitted as one of 25 projects to participate in the nationwide 2008-2009 State Farm Project Ignition Program.

The EAST class has received \$2,000 to go toward its project, which must be completed by Christmas.

The simulation will put students in situations where they are distracted while driving, including being tired, eating, changing a CD, or wearing goggles that simulate blood-alcohol levels. It will be held Nov. 8 and 9.

"It's not only a learning lesson for teens but also a learning lesson for all those who drive," said EAST student Koral Heinzman, who is organizing the project. "I think it would be a huge lesson for the whole community."

Lonny Haskins of State Farm Insurance's Rohnert Park Operations Center said the class's concept is a great example of how to get peers engaged.

The program is open to all high schools and hopes to encourage peer-friendly ways to teach students about safe driving.



SHAUN WALKER/THE TIMES-STANDARD

Eureka High junior Koral Heinzman, 16, talks with EAST program co-facilitator Jennifer Johnson about a logo she created for a teen driver education project.

Haskins said the program is looking for a "creative program that can have some sustainability and get the eyes and ears of teens, which at certain times can be a challenge."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, young drivers ages 15 to 20 are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers.

Although Haskins doesn't choose the finalists he can see why the

EAST class's concept was chosen. "I thought that was a very effective way to get across just how dangerous it is," he said.

In addition to the driving simulation project, students will also be writing their own personal unsafe driving stories on index cards which will be made into a wall.

Students from the drama department will be creating skits from some of the stories, while math students

are graphing statistics involving teenage drivers and car accidents. In addition, science students may be doing a melon drop to simulate a crash, and graphics students are participating in a poster contest.

The school will also be hosting a wrecked car display on Friday.

"We're trying to incorporate the whole school," said Jennifer Johnson, an EAST facilitator.

Haskins said it is the first year

Eureka High School has submitted a project to the program, currently in its fifth year, and is one of two schools in California to participate. "It's kind of unusual in the first year to get so far," he said.

The project will be presented during the Annual National Service Learning Conference in Nashville being held in March, and will be narrowed down to the top 10, which will receive another \$5,000. Those 10 will vie for the overall winner spot, which comes with \$10,000.

Heinzman said she and her classmates will be working with Humboldt Driving School to conduct the simulation. There will be different scenarios for the student drivers selected in order to ensure a lot of different data can be collected. Each scenario will have two drivers, a boy and a girl, and will have drivers with different levels of experience.

Although the project's core group consists of only eight students, Heinzman said they could not have done it without the help of all the students, administration and teachers who have lent a helping hand.

"We wouldn't have been able to do as we much as we have," she said.

For more information about the "Drive 2 Stay Alive" project, contact the EAST lab at 476-1632.

Donna Tam can be reached at 441-0532 or dtam@times-standard.com.

Live in a haunted house

Buying or