High impact

An event that has been described as “life changing” for some local students was recently held in Camas. SEMI High Tech U, which this year included participation from Hewlett-Packard, WaferTech, Clark College and each entity’s employees, offers an introduction to high tech concepts and career possibilities for high school students.

Coordinated and delivered by the Southwest Washington Workforce Development and the SEMI Foundation, this valuable and innovative program helps students gain some focus as they make their way through the standard required high school academic rigor. It opens their eyes to the possibilities beyond the classroom.

This can be incredibly important for a high school student, who is often in the midst of listening to lectures in the classroom, studying from a heavy load of textbooks, writing research papers and taking tests. In this environment alone, it can be challenging to think about what could be ahead. Yet, it is the future goals and career aspirations that colleges admissions officers are looking for when they consider students. They want the answer to that big question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

According to Lisa Nisenfeld, SWWDC executive director, “So many students don’t have any idea of how math and science is used in the real world. Consequently, they often struggle in their course work and as a result, we see fewer students pursuing the careers that drive our economic vitality and offer excellent wages. As a region and a country, this does not bode well for our future. High Tech U has a demonstrated track record of engaging students and impacting their academic and career choices.”

The organizations and businesses that have put on these incredible experiences for our youth for the past three years are truly having an impact. These kinds of continued partnerships are valuable to our local economy’s future, as these students graduate from college and pursue stimulating careers that they will hopefully find available right here in their own backyard.

— Heather Acheson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Camas-Washougal Post-Record encourages letters to the editor on issues related to the local area.

Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, prior to Tuesday publication. Letters require the full first and last names, address and telephone number of the author. Letters signed using initials and/or nicknames will not be accepted. Shorter letters, of no more than 200 words in length, that address an issue quickly and clearly are recommended. The Post-Record reserves the right to edit all letters for length and content. Thank you letters are not accepted. Letters are published according to space availability and can be submitted by:

E-mail: heather.acheson@camaspostrecord.com
Fax: (360) 884-3423
U.S. Mail: Heather Acheson-editor, P.O. Box 1013, Camas, WA 98607
Web site: www.camaspostrecord.com

Imagine the p

By Kelly Steinke
Guest columnist

Is your child reading & spelling at grade level?

Reading is fundamental and essential for academic success. So, what do you do when your child is not reading at grade level? Consider the following scenario.

Steve is a sixth grade student with a reading disability. Although Steve is very smart and shows great strengths in math and the ability to work with his hands, he is reading at the third-grade level.

When asked to read aloud in class, he finds a sudden headache, or becomes the class clown. Steve has difficulty pronouncing long words and uses many “ums” and pauses when he’s searching for the right words to say.

Steve’s spelling is well below grade level and his reading rate is very slow. Sounding out new words is frustrating for Steve and after several attempts at sounding out a word incorrectly he becomes exasperated and states, “I don’t know this word — I spelling, and other areas.

Dyslexia literally means “difficulty with language.” Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It affects reading, spelling, word retrieval, articulation, directional intactness, and the ability to remember certain facts. Individuals with dyslexia do not see things backwards, though they may reverse letters and numbers in writing and despite common myths — they can read, but their reading may be slow and inaccurate if left untreated.

What a relief for Steve and his parents! Why? Because current research in the field of dyslexia has shown that students with dyslexia can be taught to read, write, and spell up to grade level, go inst to college, and live a happy, successful life. For Steve and his parents, knowing you that dyslexia is what they’re dealing with is half the battle.

Closing the gap between your child’s reading level and grade level expectations is crucial.

Time is of the essence and — especially when it comes to reading ability. Typically