



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

A Parade Co. volunteer, foreground, helps two youngsters fold a paper airplane at the STEM Week family day at the charity in Detroit earlier this month.



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Supporting the Henry Ford Museum booth at the Parade Co.'s family day function are, from left, Chris Hemler-as-Henry Ford and Catherine Turczek, Curator of Education K-12 Programs.

First Dedicated Electric Hwy. Debuts in Ore.

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press

CENTRAL POINT, Ore. (AP) – Electric car owners riding along Oregon's Interstate 5 don't have to worry about running out of juice on the open road.

The first major stretch of what's been dubbed an "Electric Highway" on the West Coast from Canada to Mexico went operational last week with the opening of a series of fast-charging stations along 160 miles of the interstate.

The eight stations stretch from the California border north to the Oregon city of Cottage Grove and are located at gas stations, restaurants and motels just off I-5, the nation's second-busiest interstate. One station is at an inn that was once a stage coach stop.

They are spaced about every 25 miles, so a Nissan Leaf with a range of about 70 miles can miss one station and still make it to the next. Electric car drivers will be able to recharge in about 20 minutes. The charge is free for now.

"I would say range-anxiety with these fast chargers will be nearly a non-issue for me," said Justin Denley, who owns a Nissan Leaf. Inspired by the stations, his family is planning a trip from Medford to Portland, a distance of about 280 miles.

Last summer, he took the family on a 120-mile trip to the coast and had to include an overnight stop at an RV park to charge up.

Ashley Horvat, who oversees the highway electrification project for the state, drove an electric car from her office in Salem 225 miles to Central Point for ceremonies and a caravan of electric cars kicking off the installation.

"We are hoping we are setting the stage for what will become the first highway, but not necessarily the only highway that is electrified," she said.

TARDEC Supports STEM Family Day

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

If you've seen the acronym, STEM, thrown around quite a bit recently, well, get used to it – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math are going to be with us for a long time to come.

For a long time in a formal, programmatic sense, that is.

STEM is the umbrella representing math and science – the subject that society is hoping to push its students into, all so they become scientists and engineers 10 years from now.

If they don't, warn STEM supporters, then engineers and scientists from China and India and the rest will be more than happy to design and build America's cars and airplanes for it.

That was the general message for STEM Week in Michigan, which was locally represented by a first-ever STEM family day activity at The Parade Co. in Detroit.

The Parade Co., home to America's Thanksgiving Parade float fleet (not easy to say, or read), was thought to be a friendly host for the likes of TACOM/TARDEC, Lawrence Tech robotics, The Henry Ford educational services and more providers willing to guide youngsters into STEM after all.

Col. Charles Dease, Military Deputy, represented TACOM/TARDEC at the function and he discussed with visitors how technology is impacting the modern battlefield, particularly in saving lives of U.S. soldiers in the field.

Dease had on display there at the Parade Co. warehouse on Lynch Road on Detroit's east side a CERV, a high-tech military dune buggy whose acronym means Clandestine Extended Range Vehicle.

The Army dune buggy was built with supplier help, but the major engineering on the unique vehicle was done at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, he said.

Organizer of the overall activity was Nicole Garcia, visiting from the Livingston/Washtenaw Counties Math & Science Center.

"We have 33 math & science centers across the state and we're working together in hubs for the Michigan STEM Alliance," Garcia said.

"We're trying to figure out the STEM pipeline from K-12 education into college and career, so our focus is on supporting schools and teachers in mathematics and science education.

"So we provide a variety of opportunities for student . . . services for kids, after-school (programs)."

She said that the umbrella group Michigan STEM Partnership is a statewide collaboration of committed leaders from education, industry, philanthropy, economic development, government and military, all dedicated to elevating STEM literacy and proficiencies in a way that increases



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Col. Charles Dease, Military Deputy, represented TACOM / TARDEC at the family STEM Week function hosted by The Parade Co. earlier this month. Dease brought in an Army hybrid dune buggy vehicle called the CERV, behind him.

Michigan's overall economic strength, as well as to retain and attract desirable jobs.

The Henry Ford also hosted a booth describing its various educational offerings for students from Dearborn and beyond.

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