

Financial Aid Night can pay dividends

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Last year only 56 percent of seniors at Sisters High School applied for financial aid through the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). This number is significant, according to Sisters High School ASPIRE coordinator Rick Kroytz, because all of the local scholarships facilitated by Sisters GRO, as well as the state-sponsored Oregon Promise, require submission of the FAFSA for consideration.

Sisters High School is hosting Financial Aid Night for parents and students Tuesday, October 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. An expert from Central Oregon Community College will walk participants through the FAFSA process and be available for questions following the presentation.

“We are not sure of all the reasons that parents and students do not complete the FAFSA, but we want to urge them to do so to keep all options open in order help cover college costs,” said Kroytz. “Even families who may not think they will be eligible are encouraged to apply because you never know what doors the FAFSA and other financial aid programs will open. And it’s

free.”

One big change by the Federal government this year may help more families submit the FAFSA. In the past families would apply after January 1 and either have to hurry to complete their tax returns for the previous year or estimate their income and update the FAFSA later.

For 2016, the window to submit the FAFSA was moved back to October 1, which means families can use their 2015 tax returns to complete the process much earlier than in the past.

“We really believe that the change of dates will help families not have to scramble to get their financial information together right after the new year and will increase the likelihood of the FAFSA being completed by more families,” said Kroytz. “With that said, we want to be sure families know about the changes so they will get the FAFSA submitted in a timely fashion.”

Kroytz estimates that if a family has its tax return from 2015 in hand, it will take only a couple of hours or less to complete the FAFSA.

“And the payoff could be significant,” he said.

For more information call Kroytz at 541-549-4045.

Collecting data...



PHOTO BY CONRAD WEILER

Researchers monitoring conditions at Suttle Lake removed a buoy for the winter, and retrieved a treasure trove of data on conditions that affect fish.

FUNK: TIA gave warning of deadly problem

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showed up at the hospital where her neurosurgeon was able to perform the least-invasive option—an angio-type surgery where platinum coils were placed in a vein in her head just in front of the aneurysm to stop blood flow to the area.

Funk said, “Either surgery option had many risks. But God protected me and kept the aneurysm from rupturing, and kept me from another large stroke, both of which were huge risk factors for the least-invasive surgery.”

Funk said, “I am so

overwhelmed by it all, by the what-ifs—but I am not dwelling on those. I have been given new life. Now two weeks out, I may be suffering from some headaches, stutter a little every now and then when I get tired, but I am alive! And, I am suddenly an advocate for something I knew nothing about...and that’s TIAs. Because of my experience, I want to urge you to not overlook subtle symptoms, or even big ones for that matter. Listen to your body, and be reasonable when those around you have serious concern for you. It is so easy to

ignore things when we think we are ‘fine’. Sometimes big health issues have small symptoms. It never hurts to ask your doctor when you are unsure. I’m one of the lucky ones. I mean, I wasn’t going anywhere before the Cubs win the World Series!”

To learn more about TIAs visit www.strokeassociation.org.

If you would like to help the Funks cover their medical costs, a Rhonda Funk donation account has been set up at US Bank or you may donate online at GoFundMe gofund.me/2qazqdtw.

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