

Banks Christian Academy is Now Faith West

Banks Christian Academy has joined Faith Bible Christian Schools and will operate as Faith West.

The private christian school is currently enrolling students and will be open to start the 2015-16 school year. The announcement that the school will continue to operate under Faith Bible management came just weeks after students and family were informed this spring that the school would close following the end of the 2015 school year.

According to school administrator Odessa Falcon, Banks Christian Academy (BCA) was established and has always been supported with funding from Dayspring Christian Fellowship Church. The Dayspring congregation recently made the difficult decision that they could

not longer financially support BCA. "Without their support, BCA could not continue," said Falcon.

Faith Bible Superintendent Kevin Rex and his School Board chose to step in and take over management of the former BCA campus. Faith Bible continues to operate an elementary and middle school campus in Aloha, and a high school campus with 125 students in Hillsboro. The Faith West campus will offer classes for students in preschool through eighth grade.

"It is not our intent to expand our school but felt a need to keep christian education as an option in the community when we learned BCA was closing," said Rex in an email.

"We intend to be there for the long haul, providing an option for families who desire an alternative to their child's current situation."

Bus transportation from Vernonia to the campus will continue; transportation to the Faith Bible high

school campus from Vernonia will now be available for the first time.

Financial aid is available to qualifying families.

After moving to eastern Oregon before the start of the 2014-15 school year, Falcon will return as administrator/principal at the Faith West campus. Falcon says the school currently has 35 students enrolled, with a goal of 50.

Falcon said that Faith West students will have more opportunities to participate in extra curricular activities like field trips, Outdoor School, and sports. She also noted that Faith Bible's established infrastructure and administration will make management of the school more efficient.



Odessa Falcon is the Administrator at Faith West.

Eagle Scout Project Helps Shelter Dogs *continued from front page*



Agility obstacles provide a great way for shelter dogs to get much needed physical exercise and mental stimulation as well as burn off excess nervous energy. Using the agility obstacles especially helps shelter dogs maintain muscle tone and coordination and helps keep them mentally alert.

"This falls into the category of enrichment and animal welfare," says Cox. "This plays a huge role in helping develop a dog while they're living in a very artificial environment and preparing the dog to go into a home."

"They certainly enjoy it," added Cox about the dogs that use the equipment. "We've seen that it's been a huge help and we expect that to continue."

Cox said the installation of the agility equipment is phase one of upgrades he would like to add to the fenced run area. He said he hopes to install some natural features for the dogs to use, like boulders and logs and also plant some trees to make the area more welcoming for the animals and visitors to the shelter.



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