Bailey's Pantry Helps with Pet Food Needs *continued from front page*

When Bailey was just six years old he was diagnosed with cancer and passed away. "I wanted to do something in his memory and thought why not collect food and put it at Vernonia Cares for the dogs around town, because I know there are a lot of them that need it," says Davis.

when someone's pet passes away or if they try a new food and their pet doesn't like it.

"The one consistent shortage we see is enough cat food," says Cares Director Welch. "We have donated funds set aside and often utilize these funds for cat food purchases."

A pet fair fundraiser on May 21 will help stock the shelves of Bailey's Pantry inside Vernonia Cares Food Bank.

Davis is no stranger to pet food pantries. She volunteers regularly at the Pongo Fund, an emergency pet food bank in Portland. Her four grandchildren have also volunteered there.

Davis purchases dog food through the Pongo Fund to supply Bailey's Pantry. Bailey's pantry also occasionally receives donations from the Columbia County Humane Society and from community members in Vernonia. Vernonia Cares will accept and repackage open bags of pet food

Both Davis and Welch agree there is a need for a pet food pantry in Vernonia. "I talk to people and they tell me they appreciate it," says Davis. "Our pets are part of our families."

"Certain dogs are just really special and Bailey was one of those special dogs," says Davis. "Some people like to honor their dog in some way. Some buy statues, some make donations in the dog's name. This is what I'm doing to honor my dog Bailey."

Kaitlyn Eyrrick Wins Columbia County Spelling Bee

Three students from Clatskanie, Rainier, and Vernonia school districts will represent Columbia County at the state competition, including Vernonia High School junior Kaitlyn Eyrrick, after winning the Columbia County Spelling Contest held by the Northwest Regional Education Service District on May 5th.

VHS junior Kaitlyn Eyrrick will represent Columbia County at the State Spelling Bee in September.

The County Spelling Bee, proctored by David Cook, posed 25 words to students in each of the three divisions, as well as five tie-breaker words. Division II had two tie breakers to determine the winners on this occasion. Winners were determined by the number of words they had spelled correctly.

Each Columbia County school district sent their top two district spelling bee winners in each of the three grade divisions: Division 1 for first through fifth grades; Division 2 for sixth through eighth grades; and Division 3 for ninth through 12th grades.

Competing in Division 1 were Nate Hendricks and Grace Martinez from Clatskanie; Samuel Poorman and Miriam Wilson from Rainier; Zeb Burklund and Delaney Draeger from Vernonia; and Pearl Hilton and Terese Korpela from St. Helens.

In Division 1, Martinez took first place, Hilton took second, and Hendricks was third.

In Division 2 were AnnMarie Davis and Kairan Scott from Clatskanie; Mark Hummer and Jaedyn Garoutte-Larsen from Rainier; Gabriella McAdams and Larissa Vandehey from Vernonia; and Austin Hall and Ezra Albrecht from St. Helens.

In Division 2, Hummer took first place, Albrecht took second, and McAdams was third.

Division 3 was a bit smaller with four competitors: Jonathan Adkinson from Clatskanie; Hunter Pierce from Rainier; and Kaitlyn Eyrrick and Ben Fleck from Vernonia.

In Division 3, Eyrrick took first place, Fleck took second, and Adkinson was third.

All of the first place winners will go on to compete at the state competition at the Oregon State Fair on September 3, 2016.

The Oregon Spellers (www.oregonspellers.org) are presenters of the statewide spelling championship with a mission to "encourage, promote, and recognize spelling excellence for the youth of the State of Oregon and to provide, with our sponsors, an annual state-level spelling championship…."

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