



Carol Ronan (top) with ‘Philbert,’ a registered colored Angora buck goat, and ‘Pogo,’ a Great Pyrenees security agent. (Bottom) Grants Pass resident Tevor Cook, 15, and Sacramento resident Jason Baird, 16, with twin sister colored Angora goats ‘Star’ and ‘Celeste,’ which were born in February. (Photos by ‘Illinois Valley News’)



ESPN360 sporting deal from Frontier

Frontier Communications continues to roll out ESPN360, ESPN’s customized broadband service, free of charge to all its High-Speed Internet product customers nationwide.

ESPN360 is now available to all Frontier High-Speed Internet customers in Cave Junction. Frontier is the first local telephone company in the country to

offer this value-added High-Speed Internet service.

ESPN360 is an always-on broadband application that provides sports content directly to a customer’s computer.

“ESPN is one of the many great channels available through DISH Network, which provides the television piece of our Frontier Connections telephone,

television, Internet triple play product,” said Maggie Wilderrotter, president and chief executive officer for Frontier.

“ESPN360 kicks it up a notch and is ideal for every sports enthusiast,” she said, adding that, “Our Internet customers can view live sports, on-demand video, interactive games, event coverage, and news analysis.”

For a limited time, upon downloading the free ESPN360 application, customers will be mailed a “mouse for their house,” a free ESPN wireless mouse, courtesy of Frontier and ESPN.

To sign up for Frontier’s High-Speed Internet or Learn more about Frontier Connections phone (877) 427-9158 or visit frontier-net.net

Ronan Country Fibers a ‘family affair’ with prize-winning Angora goat breeds

Goats of note are the hallmark of Jeff and Carol Ronan, who raise show-quality registered white and colored Angora goats in Selma.

Their ranch name is Ronan Country Fibers.

They recently attended the Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene, showing 17 of their Angora goats. The Black Sheep Gathering is one of the largest fiber show events in the nation, with representatives from 10 states showing sheep, Angora goats, and alpacas.

Ronan Country Fibers took 10 first-place ribbons and one reserve champion placing for its efforts.

“We are really thrilled with our accomplishments since we have only shown in five shows in our showing history,” said Jeff. “And at each of those, we came away with at least one Reserve Champion win.”

The Ronans have a herd

of 80 Angora goats and Shetland sheep. Before moving to their 100-acre ranch a year ago, they had a 7-acre farm in Grants Pass.

Carol said they began raising colored Angora goats and Shetland sheep because they were both fairly rare breeds. While the white Angora goat registry was established in the early 1900s, the colored Angora goat registry was not established until 1999.

There are still only some 3,000 registered colored Angora goats in the United States and Canada, and approximately 50 have their home at Ronan Country Fibers.

Shetland sheep and Angora goats have fiber with exceptional qualities desired by hand-spinners, doll-makers, and artisans.

Angora goats produce mohair. Many people, said Carol, confuse Angora goat fiber, mohair, and angora,

which is produced by Angora rabbits. Shetland sheep produce the finest wool of the original European long wools, she said.

The Ronans selected these breeds not only because of their fine quality fiber, but also because the Shetlands and Angoras are calm, docile and friendly. They also are smaller than typical fiber sheep and goat breeds.

Angora goats are sheared twice a year, and the sheep are sheared once a year. Ronan Country Fibers sells approximately 30 animals and 400 pounds of fiber a year, primarily over its website: ronanfibers.com.

If in the Selma area, they encourage people to visit.

Besides raising exceptional fiber animals, Carol is the new executive director for Illinois Valley Family Coalition; and Jess is a SAP software consultant.

Ag. grants to Oregon State Univ. cropping up

Grants to 31 projects by Oregon State University (OSU) at Corvallis have been awarded by the Agricultural Research Foundation of Oregon (ARFO).

They range from a study of potential of growing canola in the Willamette Valley as a biodiesel crop, to developing fertility and weed control strategies for organic wheat and pea production in eastern Oregon.

The 31 grants, most in the \$9,000 to \$10,000 range, total \$294,797. The foundation awarded them through its Venture Capital Program, which supports and encourages new ideas, said Dorothy Beaton, ARFO executive director.

One goal of the program is to provide seed funding that will help OSU

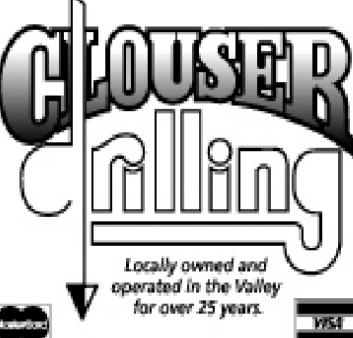
scientists launch research projects, and attract additional funding from other sources, Beaton noted.

Additional examples of projects awarded grants:

*Using Oregon agricul-

tural wastes for supplying micronutrients to nursery crops.

*Improving pollination of Oregon agricultural crops through manipulation of native bee fauna.



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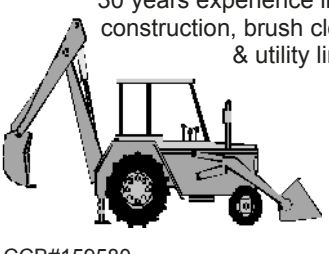
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