

ASPIRE NEWS

By Shayna Dortch

The ASPIRE program is up and running at the high school. We have been making good progress. I am pleased to announce that we had a good turn out for the Volunteer Training held in November. We trained four new volunteers and provided a refresher course for one returning volunteer. We currently have seven volunteers who are ready to work with students and help them plan for their future. Our four new volunteers are Becky Hayes, Cindy Wright, Melanie Rodgers and Tammy Rusnak. Our three returning volunteers are Bridget McGonagle, Jack Sizemore, and Judy Lozano. I would like to thank all of these volunteers for their effort and support of this program and the students.

There are some important events and deadlines that students and parents need to be aware of and prepared for. The admission deadline for many colleges and universities is in February. Be sure to check with the school you plan to attend. The admission deadline and requirements can be found at the schools website or by calling the admissions department. Students who have not taken the SAT are running out of time. There are only three testing dates left. Many colleges and universities require that students meet a minimum SAT score. Some scholarships also require that students take the SAT. For example, some of the scholarships available through OSAC (Oregon Student Assistance Commission) application like the Ford Family Foundation scholarships require a SAT score. The three SAT testing dates left are April 1st, May 6th, and June 3rd. Stop by the Career center to pick up a registration packet or register on-line at www.collegeboard.com.

The FAFSA or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid will be available in January and should be filed as close to January 1st as possible. Each college and university has a limited amount of Federal Aid to offer students, so apply early to ensure the school you plan to attend has funds available. When you apply for the federal aid, you may be awarded federal, state and/or private grants. Remember grants are not like loans and do not need to be repaid. The FAFSA also allows access to federal loans and federal work-study. Federal loans have lower interest rates than most private loans and federal work-study provides on and off campus jobs to students for pay.

The FAFSA application requires financial and personal information from both the student and their parents. The application asks for information from 2005 taxes. This can be estimated from your 2004 taxes. However, you must remember to update the information as soon as you file for 2005. Your application will be delayed if tax information is not updated. The application is available on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov or paper copies are available in the high school career center. The on-line application must be signed by both the student and their parents using separate PIN numbers that are issued by the Department of Education. To request a PIN number visit the Department of Education web site at www.PIN.ed.gov. The on-line FAFSA application will not be processed unless it is signed using a PIN number. For more information contact the Financial Aid Department of the college, you plan to attend.

We have two presentations for students, parents, and volunteers this month. The first is a Financial Aid Night entitled "Financial Aid for College. Paying for higher education with today's higher prices" and is scheduled for January 4th at 6:00 p.m. The second is a Scholarship Night entitled "Scholarship Search Apply and Compete" and is scheduled for January 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Juniors, seniors, and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend both presentations. For more information, contact me at 865-3563 ext 230 or sdortch@buttefalls.k12.or.us.

Upper Rogue Cal Ripkin Early Bird Pricing

Sign up for baseball before January 15th and pay only \$50.00 for the 1st child and \$40.00 for each additional child. That will save you \$10.00 per child. Pricing after Jan. 15 will be \$60.00 for the 1st child and \$50.00 for each additional child. **Every player receives a hat, a jersey, pants, and socks this year. Even T-Ball and Pony (Rookie). How cool is that!**

To sign up send a check or money order to Upper Rogue Cal Ripkin P.O. Box 126 Eagle Point, Or 97524. Be sure to include your child's name, date of birth, last years team name and coach (if applicable), your name, your signature, your phone number, your mailing address, and email (optional). Also, include a copy of your child's Birth Certificate.

For more information and a copy of the sign up form visit the web site at www.upperroquesports.com. You can also contact Darren Kinyon at 865-7748 or Shayna Dortch at 865-3501.

The Family of Leon Todd would like to express our appreciation to everyone who came to the "Celebration of Life" on December 3rd. We would particularly like to thank the McGrath's, the Schultz's, the Marley's and all those who worked behind the scenes to make it a wonderful celebration of Leon's life. We really appreciated Jim Nicholls hosting the event and his harmonic rendition of Amazing Grace...

Thank you, Karen and Family