

State money could help Dallas street repairs

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Transportation legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature this last session will help local governments solve part of their street maintenance needs.

Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin conservatively estimated the city could get more than \$300,000 per year for the next ten years to add to its street maintenance budget. Councilor Paul Trahan said he seen estimates that would send Dallas as much as \$388,000. The state will begin sending the money in 2018.

“That’s good news and it’s kind of bad news at the same time because it still leaves us quite a bit short of what we need,” Foggin said.

The city’s Public Works Committee, consisting of five council members, has been looking at options for street maintenance priorities and funding for residential roads in town.

The city has a backlog of about \$15 million in maintenance on its residential streets.

“That is great news and what we end up with the extra \$300,000 is what the committee is going to be working on,” Foggin said. “We’re pretty excited to have that passed.”

While the money still falls short of meeting the needs, Foggin said the additional money not only gives the city more resources to fix streets, but more strategies to pay for repairs.

“One of the conversations that we’ve had is how much we could bond for.” Foggin said, referring to a revenue bond, not one needing voter approval. “That’s always a challenge, is that you have your maintenance money and you bond against your maintenance money, but then you have nothing to spend on maintenance. You would just be paying debt service. This actually opens the door for that conversation.”



STEPHANIE BLAIR/Itemizer-Observer

Josephine Bennett, right, was one of 24 students accepted into the Oregon State University Veterinary Experience.

Teen gets taste of vet school

Dallas high senior gets firsthand glimpse of what college will look like

By Stephanie Blair
The Itemizer-Observer

CORVALLIS — After wrapping up at the Polk County Fair on Sunday, Dallas FFA and 4-H club member Josephine Bennett packed her bags and drove to Corvallis for the Oregon State University Summer Veterinary Experience — a week-long program where high school juniors and seniors live on campus and learn about veterinary medicine.

This is the sixth year the program has been held and the first year that applications have been open to students outside of Oregon. Though more than 100 students from around the

world applied for the experience, only 24 were admitted: Bennett, a Dallas High School senior, among them.

The program is designed to give students a better understanding of what a future in veterinary medicine looks like, explained program coordinator Tess Collins, OSU’s coordinator of admissions.

“The reason for starting this whole program was to provide a chance for students who might not otherwise get a chance to learn about (veterinary medicine) to get a really cool, hands-on experience,” Collins said. “And, also, just some exposure to college.”

This week, the high-schoolers will live in the

dorms, eat in the dining halls and learn about college lab procedure.

In classes, students will have a chance to learn from professors how to suture, how to perform physical exams on dogs, as well as learn about animal anatomy and physiology, among other things.

Outside of the classroom, they’ll spend time with current OSU students who mentor them during the day by participating in fun group activities, like bowling and a movie night.

For Bennett, it’s an exciting opportunity.

“I had been looking for a camp like this, that would show me all the things I wanted to learn and see and

experience,” Bennett said. “I’m really interested in being a vet, so I really wanted to see what college would be like and see what the OSU campus would be like. I also really wanted to be with a bunch of people that are really inspired to be a vet and have the kind of drive that I have to be one.”

“(So far) I like it a lot, it’s a lot of fun. I’m getting to meet new people and experience a lot of things. And we’re learning about anatomy and physiology, which is right up my alley, so I’m excited about that.”

For more information about the program, visit vetmed.oregonstate.edu/osu-summer-veterinary-experience.

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