

OAEF announces two scholarship opportunities are now open

The Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation (OAEF) has announced that applications are available for two scholarship programs for the upcoming 2010-2011 academic year.

Oregon Farm Bureau Memorial Scholarships (OFBMS), with 10-12 awards annually, are open to any Oregon high school graduate preparing for an agriculture or forestry-related career. Students attending institutions outside of Oregon are also eligible. The goal of the OFB Memorial Scholarship program is to "Support students that will have a positive impact on production agriculture and other agriculture-related fields".

The OFB Associate Member Scholarship funded by COUNTRY Financial, one award of \$1000, is open to any Oregon High School graduate/resident with an associate membership (or a dependent child of an associate member) in Oregon Farm Bureau preparing to con-

tinue his/her education through a junior college, or a four year college or university with intent to seek a bachelor's degree. Students attending institutions outside of Oregon are also eligible. Employees of Oregon Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial and their immediate families are not eligible for this scholarship. The goal of the COUNTRY Financial Oregon Farm Bureau Associate member Scholarship is to "Help future community and business leaders obtain a baccalaureate education with the aim of strengthening understanding, cooperation, and mutual respect among rural, urban, and suburban Oregonians."

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2010. Scholarship procedures, applications and additional information are available on the Oregon Farm Bureau website: <http://www.oregonfb.org/programs/scholarships.shtml>

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by district Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox.

It has been a busy couple of weeks! The Oregon Solutions Steering Committee met last week to discuss progress on finding funding for our new schools. It was a very encouraging meeting where Tony Hyde, Mark Ellsworth (of the governor's office), myself, and others reported on the meeting we had January 14 with Governor Kulongoski. This was not the first time I had met with him, but it was the first time he spent over an hour talking just about Vernonia and the challenges we face as a community.

We met in a room with an oversized dining table, with four chairs to a side and one at each end. When the governor arrived he shook hands around the room and then sat down at the head of the table. I sat down near the other end. During the meeting he looked directly at me, eyeball to eyeball across the table, and asked, "What do you want your community to look like in twenty five years?" As I responded I remember looking him in the eye as I spoke of what I hoped for the future. It was obvious from his questions and comments that he was still current with our situation and was encouraging us to think holistically about the future of our schools and our community.

Senator Betsy Johnson led our delegation and shared our work to date and our needs, letting the Governor know that our current plan calls for state support for our project and that we had identified a number of potential avenues for further exploration of that support. His response was positive, indicating his willingness to help.

All in all, it was a very exciting meeting.

Earlier that day we met with Representative David Wu, and earlier that week, both Senators Wyden and Merkley. We shared with all of our federal delegation our appropriations requests and discussed our need for federal support. We shared with them the recent opportunity to have FEMA buy out our school buildings, which could potentially generate more than \$5 million toward our project. To a man, they indicated they would do all they could to help us get these funds and each gave advice on other ways we can get the funding we need.

In addition to these meetings, I have spent many hours meeting with our architects finding ways to keep our building design within our budget and still provide a quality, sustainable facility, with all our programming needs, that will last into the next century. I would like to share the latest designs with you at an upcoming Town Hall meeting (February 25th, 7:00 p.m., in VMS Cafeteria), where we will also discuss ways to include local contractors and workers in construction when it starts. We will be following this up with a Town Hall meeting in conjunction with the next Board meeting, March 11th, where we will discuss the latest budget and finance information. I encourage interested members of the community to attend one or both of these meetings to keep up to date and to provide feedback to us.

As always, please feel free to contact me via email, phone, or by stopping by the office. I would be happy to answer your questions.



Veterinary check-ups recommended for all puppies and kittens

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ensure your pet will be a treasured member of the family and not a "problem child." The sooner you get started with training, the better.

Socializing your puppy is an important part of this training. Socialization is the process by which a dog learns how to behave appropriately with others in its environment.

If you desire more advanced training, your veterinarian may be able to recommend someone in your area that has classes you and your pet can attend.

- Nutritional Counseling. Since the most active growth period for young dogs and cats is the first seven to 10 months, advice on the best choice of diet is important. Overweight or malnourished pets face serious health risks.

- Health Insurance. Along with the joys of a new puppy or kitten come the responsibilities

of pet ownership, including meeting the cost of veterinary care. An increasing number of pet owners are choosing to purchase pet health insurance policies for their pets. Such policies typically provide reimbursement coverage for your pet's eligible medical treatments, surgeries, lab fees, X-

rays, and prescriptions.

A good time to obtain coverage for a pet is when they are young. Older pets may have medical conditions that would be excluded from coverage. As with people, older pets may incur higher premiums. Your veterinarian may be able to recommend a company or plan

that he or she has experience with.

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is a nonprofit

organization of veterinarians who are dedicated to helping people give their animals a high quality of life.



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Pet of the Month

Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter at 2084 Oregon Street. Phone 503-397-4353

Open Mon - Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 am. to 5 pm.

Sarge was brought to Columbia Humane Society because his owners didn't have time for him. This 11-month-old sweetheart is a playful, loving, and friendly dog. Full of energy with lots of love to give, Sarge is waiting for his forever home with people who can give him the love and attention he deserves. He is good with kids, cats, other dogs and is house broken.



The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

This Adopt a Pet is Sponsored by:

Senator Betsy Johnson