

Hampton Mill in Banks Opens Doors for Tour *continued from front page*

Prior to the tour Kyser talked about the importance of job safety and the efforts Hampton Lumber makes to ensure their employees' welfare. Owner David Hampton echoed that priority. "We always want our employees to go home to their families every day, so we really focus on safety in our mills."



During a recent tour of the Banks Mill visitors had a chance to observe the full process of raw logs to finished lumber. Below: Mill Manager Dave Kyser explains mill operations to Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

During the tour of the facility visitors had the opportunity to see the mill in action and witness the process from start to finish. They watched logs arrive by truck and be unloaded, followed those logs as they were cut and processed into raw lumber automatically and travel through the plant on conveyor belts, observed graders as they quickly checked the finished product for quality, and saw 2x4s and 2x6s bundled for shipment.

CEO Zika, Mill Manager Kyser and owner Hampton all expressed interest in expanding operations at the Banks Mill by running a second shift and therefore employing more people. "It all comes down to timber supply," said Hampton. "That is the biggest deal for us. These facilities do not run on air. So, we spend a lot of time working with our legislators and governors and other politicians to understand that we need this



timber supply. We need to manage the timber and we need to utilize it. It's how you start wealth - it's by taking raw materials and making it into a finished product. That's the true creation of wealth. I feel extremely good about what we do, it's just trying to get the product. The market is just screaming for more raw materials. All our saw mills would run more if we could, but we can't because we are constrained by the timber supply."



A memorial in honor of Kelly Fultz has been installed next to Terry's Gym, thanks to numerous donations from the community. Kelly Fultz passed away one year ago in an automobile accident. The memorial recognizes several of Kelly's passions including body building, camping, playing the guitar, and his truck.




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