

Banks — A darn good little town.....



The Banks Community Library was host to a book signing Friday, December 15. On hand was Ann Fulton, Ph.D., Portland State University History Department, signing her book *Banks, A Darn Good Little Town*. Fulton worked with members of the Banks History Project to produce this history of the town. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Friends of the Banks Community Library, to be used for history exhibits in the new library. The book may be purchased at the Banks Library. Here, Fulton signs the three books purchased by Wanda Kelly.

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Banks school board denies request

The Banks School District Board of Directors denied a petition from 15-year-old Ariella Odierna to allow her to participate in the high school wrestling program, the only wrestling program available in the district.

The Banks High School freshman and her mother, Ramona, appeared before

the board Dec. 11. Ariella said she wasn't trying to make a big difference, she just wanted to learn to wrestle.

Mrs. Odierna said she had information the board should consider, but she hadn't been able to provide copies before the meeting was in progress.

The board's decision was unanimous.

Planners say developer was late

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was late, possibly forcing the process to begin anew, the planners also requested changes related to landscaping, sidewalk placement, parking strips and design requirement for several cul-de-sac lots.

A citizen group, the Coalition for Responsible Growth, had been pressuring the city council to withdraw its approval of the subdivision on the basis that it had not been properly handled in the beginning and that the initial approval was illegal because of inadequate public notification and because the city planning commission had been disbanded. (It has since been reinstated.) CRG appealed the action to the state Land Use Board of Appeals, which has not yet ruled on the complaint.

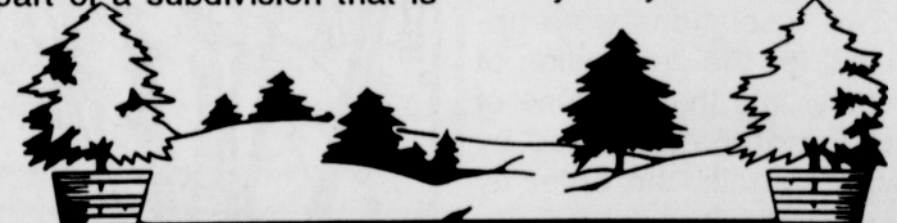
To further complicate the situation, the property owner, Chris Liu's EBS Trust, sold phase I of the project to Aho Construction without informing the city of that transaction. Liu was later forced to rescind the sale because state law prohibits selling any part of a subdivision that is

awaiting final approval. Because of that action and a disagreement over who owns the rights to develop subsequent phases, Aho Construction has filed a civil suit against EBS Trust and Liu.

CRG has objected to the size of the project, approximately 300 homes to be built in eight phases, largely because of the adverse impact it would have on the Banks School District. Yet, in a classic "Catch 22" situation, state law specifies that a development may not be approved or disapproved on that basis.

Aho Construction says it has already spent approximately \$1 million on site preparation, streets, utilities, etc. According to Epstein, as of yesterday morning no decision had been made on Aho's next move. If they are going to appeal the planning commission decision, it must be filed no later than tomorrow, Dec. 21.

If no appeal is filed, the planning commission decision will be final. If an appeal is filed, the city must set a date for a public hearing and notify everyone involved.



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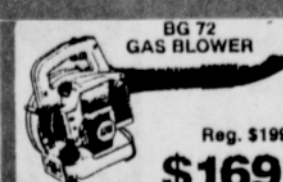
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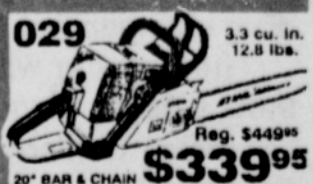
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