

Water rate increases approved by Banks Council will cover loan

Banks City Council has approved a water rate increase to support payment of a loan needed to improve the city water system.

At a public hearing before the April 11 council meeting, City Engineer Dale R. Merrell presented figures from a study showing how much residential and commercial water rates need to increase to cover the cost of the \$615,000 loan at approximately 5.5 percent interest over 30 years.

The funds are needed for a new chlorine contact chamber at the Slow Sand Filter Water Treatment Plant and to replace the six-inch steel water distrib-

ution main from the Diversion Structure to the Water Treatment Plant. The increasing loss of water and water pressure will be alleviated by these projects. Merrell stated that the improvements will serve Banks for years to come.

Residential rates will increase approximately 11 percent overall, with a typical household paying about \$23.21 per month, instead of the current \$20.82 per month for 7500 gallons.

Residential and low-volume users will actually get a break. Within city limits, the new rate structure allows 400 cubic feet of water (3000 gallons) at a

base rate of \$12.01 per month, as opposed to the current \$12.50/200 cubic feet. The commodity surcharge (for use above 400 cubic feet), however, will increase from \$1.04 to \$1.87 per 100 cubic feet for residential users, and from \$1.00 to \$1.65 for commercial users.

Outside the city limits, the base rate will be \$18.01 and the residential and commercial surcharges will be \$2.80 and \$2.47, respectively.

Merrell pointed out that the cost of water in Banks is low at \$23, compared to the state average of \$36 per 1000 cubic feet.

Merrell also received approval from the council to apply for a \$22,000 grant to purchase playground equipment for Greenville Park. There are no parks within the City that have play structures.

The City will provide

\$14,800 of the project's total cost of \$37,000. Cash, plus in-kind donations of labor and materials will fulfill the City's 40 percent match.

New City Councilor Dana Lee Campbell was sworn in by City Recorder Bob Prickett.

Banks School District committee approves proposed 2000/01 budget

Banks School District Budget Committee approved the 2000-2001 Proposed Budget at a meeting on April 10. A public Budget Hearing will be held May 8 and the district's Board of Directors will vote on adoption of the budget at its June meeting. Copies of the proposed budget may be obtained at the district office.

The proposed budget was prepared and submitted by Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson and district Business Manager Tim Collier.

In the budget message, McGlasson said that the district's current budgeting process is

guided by the four-year state-mandated debt-repayment process. A loan which allowed the district to continue operations despite its negative balance in Fiscal Year 1998-99, must be repaid over the next four years. However, McGlasson said the board is "committed to providing the critical leadership that balances the needs of students, both instructional and co-curricular, with other necessary services."

The proposed budget reflects a \$600,000 revenue increase, due to increases in student enrollment, interest earn-

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SOLV and OED will fund volunteer action training

A grant from the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department will help train people in communities around the state to manage successful community enhancement projects.

The \$71,230 grant will be used by SOLV, a non-profit volunteer action group, to provide training to community groups. In exchange for the free Volunteer Action Training, participants will agree to coordinate a livability project in their community within a year of the training. The money will also benefit SOLV's small grant program, which provides up to \$250 for community organizations to implement projects. Projects may include commu-

nity cleanup, enhancement or restoration.

Volunteer Action Training is a one-day seminar that covers project coordination (including logistics, site coordination and budgeting), volunteer management, outreach and media skills, and how to raise local support for community enhancement projects. The training will be especially geared towards representatives of rural and distressed areas of the state.

"The training and implementation grants are vital for small and distressed communities," said Jack McGowan, executive director of SOLV. "Small project development is often the first step in getting community

members involved in the area's future, resulting in more complex economic and community development projects that lead to economic diversification as well as the creation and retention of jobs."

SOLV is contributing \$6,258 to the project and it is estimated that nearly \$21,000 worth of time will be contributed by volunteers on local projects.

Community groups interested in the volunteer training and grants can call SOLV toll-free at 1-800-322-3326. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department is a state agency that invests lottery, federal and other funds to help improve economic opportunities for all Oregonians.

Pacific Wind Ensemble schedules final concert

The Pacific University Wind Ensemble will present its final concert of the 1999-2000 season on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:30 pm in McCready Hall of the Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center at Pacific University. The program to be performed is in recognition of "Asian/Pacific Heritage Month," and will include commentary by members of the University's Asian Studies faculty.

Under the direction of Dr. Michael Burch-Pesses, director of bands at Pacific University, the program will open with "Midway March" by John Williams, and will continue with Tetsunosuke Kushida's "Ikaruga," a compilation of Japanese folk songs. Student conductor Kellie Binney will make her instrumental conducting debut with "Chinese Folk Rhapsody,"

and the ensemble will also perform highlights from the Broadway musical *Miss Saigon*.

In a reprise of their famous luau performance that was recently held on campus, the University's Hawaiian Club will be featured in music and dance from the Hawaiian Islands, and soloist Tricia Young, a student from Hawaii, will perform Camille Saint-Saens' famous "Concertpiece" for solo French Horn.

The Wind Ensemble is comprised of University students, faculty, and staff, as well as local residents who wish to perform in a concert band setting. This concert is the ensemble's final performance of the academic year.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance through the University Box Office at 503-359-2918. General admission is \$4 and \$2 for students and senior citizens.



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