

Banks man will study in Germany with aid of Fulbright fellowship

By Judy Hill

Isak Sexson of Banks says he feels lucky to be able to pursue his passion and make a living at the same time. The Pacific University senior has been awarded a coveted Fulbright Full Grant Fellowship to study early Carolingian history at the University of Paderborn in Germany during the 2000-2001 school year.

Sexson, who grew up in Banks and graduated from Banks High School, says he knew from childhood that he loved history and wanted it to be his life's work. Aside from the usual, brief, childhood desire to be a fireman, his goal to teach history was established early on and helped to shape his path in clearly-defined

steps.

Carolingian refers to Eighth and Ninth Century French and German history, a complex and often overlooked period of kingdoms in medieval history. Sexson said he has been fascinated with medieval military and political intrigue and mystery. His ancestry includes German forebears on one side of the family tree. He began visiting Germany in 1995 and has been back numerous times. Contact with a professor in Germany during one of his trips helped to secure the Fulbright grant.

"The (Fulbright) committee wants to see if you will do a good job and not be a problem, among other things. I am acclimated to Germany and have contacts there," Sexson said.

Although Sexson claims luck had a lot to do with his success, his modesty belies the hard work and single-minded purpose which have gone into maintaining a 3.97 grade point average and making him valedictorian of his class at Pacific University. He has also made time to help in the creation of a peer-reviewed, on-line scholarly history journal.

Sexson will leave for Germany in the middle of June, after a whirlwind of preparations, and will attend classes and study there for approximately 11 months. He intends to continue his studies toward advanced degrees, although he's not sure at this point whether he'll seek them in Germany or the United States.



JUDY HILL/THE INDEPENDENT

Isak Sexson, a Banks High School graduate who attends Pacific University, has received a Fulbright scholarship and will spend the next school year studying in Germany. Sexson is pictured on the deck of the family home in the hills above Banks.

Banks Council approves fence ordinance, reviews sign regulations

The May 9 Banks City Council meeting saw a packed agenda and a full audience of presenters and interested citizens in attendance.

Mayor Ray Deeth called for a moment of silence for Banks City Library assistant Jane Babcock who passed away recently.

The meeting kicked off with a public hearing on and adoption of the Fence Visibility Clearance Amendment.

The amendment states that corner lots shall have vision

clearance as follows: "In districts where front yards are required, each leg of the vision clearance triangle shall be a minimum of 20 feet in length." The previous code required a 15 foot length for each leg of the vision clearance triangle.

City Planner K.J. Won explained that automobiles traveling at 25 m.p.h. would need adequate distance to reach a complete stop at an intersection. He also explained that the fence setback is measured from the property owner's lot line and not from the street. The City will send notices to property owners explaining the amendment.

The council heard a complex presentation by Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency. The agency, which manages county 9-1-1 emergency dispatching, is both upgrading its equipment and restructuring its intergovernmental agreement. The council felt that it needed to study further the issues involved and materials provided before endorsing any part of the WCCCA proposal. The

council will hold a special meeting next Wednesday, May 24, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss this topic.

The council adopted a resolution in recognition of Emergency Medical Services Week, May 14-20. A proclamation by Mayor Deeth said that EMS teams are a vital public service, providing a safety net for America's healthcare system and

that two thirds of these highly skilled providers are volunteers. It is appropriate to recognize their contributions.

The Banks Planning Commission has forwarded the proposed sign ordinance with a recommendation for adoption to City Council. A public hearing regarding the sign ordinance is scheduled for the June 13 City Council meeting.

Shuttle will service Banks area

Western Washington County has a new transportation option which has something for everyone at a price no one can refuse.

Beginning May 4, 2000, U-Shuttle, a creation of Ride Connection and Tri-Met, began operating two shuttles, an on-demand door-to-door service and an urgent transportation option connecting rural Washington County to major shopping, transportation and work centers in and around Hillsboro.


Best of all is the price. Passengers over age 12 pay \$.50 per ride, children under 12 pay \$.25 and seniors and persons with disabilities are asked for a

donation.

Serving rural communities along or near Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 26, the two shuttles will operate twice each morning and twice each evening to deliver passengers to Hillsboro or Orenco MAX stations and Tanasbourne. Passengers calling 24 hours in advance can get door-to-door service while transportation for urgent situations can be arranged spontaneously.

Keri Levitt, in a presentation before the May 9 Banks City Council meeting, explained that Ride Connection is a non-profit organization which is

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