

Banks school board impressed by eighth graders' presentations

Banks School Board directors were impressed with the poise and knowledge displayed by four eighth grade students who gave presentations at the board's December meeting. Amanda Petty reported on studying cell biology in science, Samantha Kitchen talked

about Native American Studies as a part of the Social Studies curriculum, Krista Hancock talked about the Recycling Program and Ford Decker discussed the Community Service Project.

The annual Shakespeare

Assembly was held November 28 with a workshop following the assembly for interested students. The actors commented on the courteous and friendly response of Banks students.

Banks High School Principle Jeff Smith reported that teach-

ers are collaborating with each other to accomplish observation of their teaching. Their goal is to learn from each other and to reflect their belief in life-long learning. Smith also informed the board that Youth Contact had hired Mindy Holdsworth as drug and alcohol counselor for Project Success.

The career center at BHS is open and available for student use. All students will visit the career center at least once before the end of the year. Seniors complete career activities as part of their social studies classes and are also expected to accomplish a practical, job-related project.

In other business, the board:

- Heard the first reading of updated special education policies, as required by the state, and policies to formalize graduation requirements.
- Discussed the three board positions open for election in March. Directors Joe Evers

and Willis Meeuwssen said that they would be running for reelection to their positions. Director Spencer Vandehey was not present at the meeting. Filing deadline for these positions is January 11.

- Noted that there is an opening on the Budget Committee.

- Were informed by Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson that work is in progress on correcting the acoustics of the board meeting room; and that

- Kindergarten teacher Bonnie Schumaker will officially retire at the end of December, but will continue teaching for the remainder of the school year.

Tri-City Rural Fire District

Abbreviations: EMS, Emergency Medical Service; MVA, Motor Vehicle Accident

NOVEMBER 2000

Nov 1 -	EMS Assist
Nov 2 -	EMS Assist
Nov 3 -	EMS Assist
Nov 4 -	MVA-Hwy 26, MP 39
Nov 5 -	MVA-Hwy 6/47
Nov 6 -	MVA - Sellers Rd.
Nov 8 -	MVA - Fisher Rd.
Nov 10 -	MVA - Hwy 26/Banks
Nov 13 -	EMS Assist (4)
Nov 15 -	MVA - Hwy 26/47
Nov 16 -	MVA - Hwy 26, MP 33
Nov 17 -	EMS Assist
Nov 18 -	MVA - Hwy 26, MP 32
Nov 20 -	EMS Assist
Nov 21 -	MVA - Eberly Rd.
Nov 24 -	MVA - Hwy 26, MP 33
Nov 27 -	Wires Down
Nov 28 -	MVA - Hwy 26 - Tunnel
	EMS Assist (2)
Nov 29 -	EMS Assist (2)
	Illegal Burn
Nov 30 -	EMS Assist (2)

January 16 set as Rural Oregon Day at state capitol

Stand Up for Rural Oregon Day is set January 16, 2001 at the Capitol Building Galleria in Salem. The day offers rural Oregonians an opportunity to meet with state legislators and educate them on the needs of rural Oregon, according to organizer Deborah Higa, executive director of the Oregon Rural Development Council.

"Great things are happening in Oregon's rural communities

and this is our day to let all elected representatives know how they can support rural Oregon's efforts to survive and thrive," Higa said.

The day will begin with registration and coffee at 10 am and will include the Rural Rally Hour from 10:30 am to 11:30 am, a luncheon forum from 11:30 am to 1 pm where a lively rural issues discussion is anticipated, and visits arranged

by individual participants to legislators will begin at 1 pm. State Senator Gene Durler (R-District 16) and State Representative Mark Simmons (R-District 58) are scheduled to address the participants during the Rural Rally Hour. As part of Rural Oregon Day, legislators will also be presented with a Rural Oregon White Paper that outlines local, state, regional and national rural issues.

The 2001 Legislative session will address Our Oregon, tackling statewide issues relevant to both urban and rural; and on occasion legislation unique to either urban or rural. Legislators are being encouraged to consider the rural implications of all legislation.

This will be the third state legislative session to enjoy a Stand Up for Rural Oregon Day. The event is organized by an interagency committee that besides the Oregon Rural Development Council includes the Regional Services Institute, Rural Development Initiatives, Inc., Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Association of Oregon Counties, Association of Oregon Community Development Organizations, USDA Rural Development, and the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

For additional information of Rural Oregon Day, please contact Deborah Higa at 503-229-6357, fax: 503-230-8863 or email: ordc@orednet.org.

Worker shortage causes problems

Many private-sector employers in Oregon have had difficulty filling openings during the past year, according to a recent Oregon Employment Department survey of Oregon employers. Two-thirds of all private-sector employers (almost 60,000) tried to hire employees during the 12 months prior to the survey. Over one-third of these recently-hiring employers reported having a high level of difficulty filling either regular, year-round openings or seasonal openings in at least one occupational group. Survey respondents indicated they had the most difficulty filling regular, year-round management, professional, production, construction and agricultural job openings. Sales, service, computer-related and clerical job openings were somewhat easier to fill.

difficulty finding qualified workers had lowered productivity, increased cost of recruitment, reduced product or service quality, lowered minimum qualifications for applicants or reduced output or sales; however, almost one-third of respondents said difficulty finding qualified workers had not noticeably affected their organizations.

The findings above, and many more, are included in a report that is now available in electronic format and in print. The electronic format document is available through the OLMIS Web site: <www.olmis.org/Publications/> in both Acrobat Reader (PDF) and HTML formats. The printed version of the report is available by contacting Curtis Thrapp at 503-947-1204 or 1-800-327-3710, ext. 71204; by fax at 503-947-1210 or by e-mail at Curtis.M.Thrapp@state.or.us.

This hiring difficulty was similar across all regions of the state, but varied somewhat by industry. Computer-related jobs were mentioned as hard to fill by a larger share of survey respondents in the manufacturing industry and in the finance, insurance and real estate industry than in other industries. Responses indicating that professional jobs were hard to fill were concentrated in the services industry. Sales jobs received more frequent mentions as hard to fill by employers in the wholesale and retail trade industry. Production jobs were mentioned most frequently by respondents in the manufacturing industry.

Over half of private-sector respondents feel that the "nature of the work" is a main factor making it difficult for them to find qualified applicants for their most difficult-to-fill occupations. Low pay, lack of benefits, few career opportunities and lack of full-time work are somewhat less commonly cited factors. Location was mentioned more frequently as a main factor by respondents in several rural regions.

One-third or more of private-sector respondents said that

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Holiday Safety Tips Drink Responsibly

The holidays are a wonderful time of year, until tragedy strikes. Don't let alcohol destroy the joy of being with family and friends.

- If you plan to drink, appoint a designated driver. Most people need approximately two hours to metabolize an ounce of alcohol.
- Include food in your celebrating, it slows alcohol's effect on the body.
- Do not let a guest drive drunk. Arrange a place to sleep, or a ride with a sober driver.
- Never serve alcohol to anyone under age 21. Alcohol-related car crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year-olds.
- Use fruit juice or other non-carbonated beverages as mixers. Carbonation speeds alcohol absorption.

— Jim Walters
Chief of Police

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Jim Walsh