

Students must have immunizations up to date in order to stay in school

Oregon public health officials at the Department of Human Services predict that a greater number of children than usual may be sent home on February 19, school exclusion day.

Last year, there was a national shortage of tetanus-diphtheria (Td) and chickenpox vaccines, according to Grant Higginson, M.D., state public health officer in DHS. "Now we expect to issue more exclusion orders than usual, because children who missed getting those immunizations need to get caught up."

Firefighters plan annual breakfast

The Banks Volunteer Firefighter Associations annual breakfast will be held Sunday, March 2, in the Banks High School Cafeteria. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and tickets are available at the door.

The menu includes pancakes, ham or sausage, eggs, fruit, coffee, milk or orange juice. Tickets are \$20 per family, \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 years and \$4 for seniors 62+.

In addition to breakfast, there will be free fire engine rides for children and free blood pressure checks for adults.

For more information, call 503-324-6262.

All vaccines are widely available, now, he added.

School exclusions have increased in the past few years because of additional requirements for Hepatitis B, second measles and chickenpox shots.

In 2002, 37,283 exclusion orders were issued to children who were found to be missing immunizations. Of those, 8,263 children were unable to go to school or day care on exclusion day because they had not yet received the required immunizations, according to Higginson.

This year, school exclusion day will be February 19th. Children whose school or day care records have not been updated, or who do not have a medical or religious exemption, will be sent home. They cannot return until their immunization records have been updated.

Columbia County Public Health Immunization Program has sent out exclusion letters to the parents of 422 students in Columbia County, which includes 67 students in the Vernonia School District. This is up from last year's 288 letters.

Uninsured families can call Public Health at 503-397-4651 or 1-800-244-4870 to arrange for immunizations. The records are kept at the school, not Public Health, and updated information needs to go to the school.

New Banks councilors take their places

With the swearing in of new members Brock Banks, Pete Edison and Kirk Andrews to replace retiring councilors Gary Coffey, Judy Clifford and Tim Hardie, the Banks City Council changed dramatically at the January 14 meeting. Bob Orłowski was also sworn in, for a second term as mayor, and Teri Branstre was elected council president.

After a presentation by former Mayor Ray Deeth about the historical society time capsule, which was to be buried at the Scout Cabin January 21 at a dedication ceremony, most of the meeting was consumed by three separate public hearings.

Fence Ordinance

After many months of work by the planning commission, there was no public comment at a public hearing on the revision of the city's fence ordinance. Fencing standards were last amended in 1999. The current revision was undertaken to make the provisions more easily understood by clarifying definitions and adding illustrations throughout the ordinance. The revision will be subject to a final vote for inclusion in the city's zoning ordinance at the February meeting.

Nuisance Abatement

Police Chief Daryl Crandall reported during a hearing on a

nuisance abatement at 140 Depot Street that the responsible person has been working diligently to clean up the property, although tires, metals and yard debris remain to be cleaned up.

The property owner was informed of the nuisance in October and of responsibility to clean up all trash, high weeds, trailers and abandoned cars located on the site. In November, council agreed to a continuance because the property reverted to a prior owner.

However, because the property is now for sale, city attorney Jim Lucas suggested that council file a lis pendens, a le-

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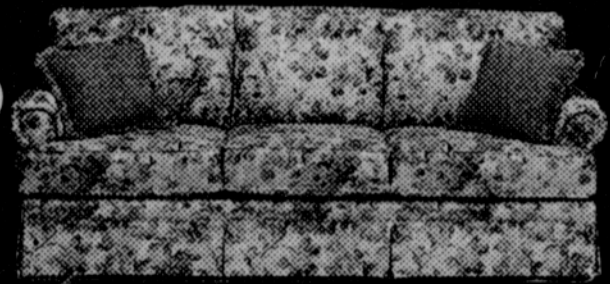


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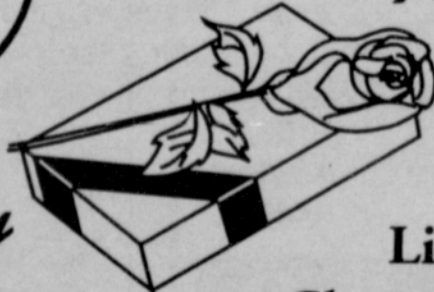
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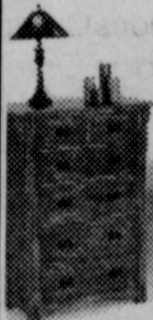


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