

City of Banks general fund is healthy

Banks Budget committee wrapped up its work for this year by approving the 2003-2004 budget at a May 14 meeting. The budget will go before the city council for a hearing and final adoption on June 10.

Budget committee chair Teri Brandstir started the May 14 meeting with a discussion about possible ways the city could help reduce insurance costs for city employees, particularly those with families. Insurance costs for city employees have risen dramatically in the last two years since Banks was excluded from the League of Oregon Cities group insurance coverage due to the small number of employees. Brandstir told the committee that any change in the policy would have to be made by city council but that it was important for the budget committee to under-

stand potential fiscal impacts.

Mayor Bob Orlowski told the committee that the general fund is now strong enough to support other funds. In the past, money was "borrowed" from the Traffic Impact Reserve Fund (TIF) to cover operating expenses until tax revenues were received, beginning in December. The TIF is large (\$528,000) and is designated for certain street and road improvements. Previously, Orlowski said, there were questions about why TIF money was not used for the Oak Way improvements completed a couple of years ago. In that case, he explained, the intersection improvements were included in the permit process and were the developer's responsibility. However, Orlowski told the committee, it is important that TIF remain intact because it

may qualify for use in the Sellers Road realignment and improvements.

According to budget clerk Debra Deegan the budget committee concluded this year's meetings with a discussion of the budget adoption process. After approval by the budget committee, the budget goes to city council for adoption. Council can take action to increase spending up to 10% of the total amount of the budget. Any additional increase requires a supplemental budget and the budget committee must be reconvened.

CORRECTION

The address of surplus property sold by the City of Banks was 140 Market Street. The Independent had an incorrect address for the property in the issue of May 15, 2003.

Helicopter landing site being built in Banks for Life Flight service

Transportation agencies are all too familiar with the possibility of serious accidents on Oregon Highways 6 and 47, as well as other country roads. When accidents or other life-threatening emergencies occur, quick response is crucial. Now, a creative public-private partnership is developing a landing pad for Life Flight service in Banks.

Chief Brian Coussens of Banks Fire District and Betty Colgrove of Life Flight Network started the ball rolling by selecting a site and developing a layout for the landing spot. Then they contacted Ray Mott, ODOT Maintenance Supervisor at Manning, and ODOT set aside land for the pad at the intersection of Highways 6 and 47 in Banks.

Brush was cleared and debris removed from the site by a Washington County Sheriff's Office Jail inmate work crew supervised by Deputy Terry Rilling, with help from Evers Dairy employees.

Mott then spoke to local contractor Dave Dober Construction, who readily agreed to prepare the site and install pit-run base rock. Sunset Rock supplied the rock and ODOT in-

stalled a crushed rock leveling course. Westside Rock supplied the final layer of crushed rock and now Washington County will shape and prep the pad so the area will be ready for paving.

Washington County Engineer Greg Miller, arranged to have the county's Department of Land Use and Transportation help with the paving and Gary Baker, of Baker Rock, agreed to supply the 75 tons of asphalt hot mix needed for the project. When the weather and the paving crew's schedules coincide, the pad will be finished. Life Flight will make a test landing at the new pad at a date to be determined.

Baker Rock, Dave Dober Construction, Evers Dairy, Sunset Rock, and Westside Rock are all committed to the good of this community. Banks Fire District No.13, Life Flight Network, ODOT and Washington County are all committed to the safety of roadway users.

For more information, contact Chief Brian Coussens, Banks Fire District #13 at 503-324-6262; or e-mail to <brianc@banksfire.org>.

Music in May attracts 500 Northwest music students

The annual Music in May Festival, the only college-sponsored high school music festival in the Northwest, at Pacific University, was held May 28 through 31. Approximately 500 student musicians from communities throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho participated in the festival, which concluded with a final concert at

Pacific University's Athletic Center.

Banks and Vernonia students participating in the recent Music in May, at Pacific University in Forest Grove, included Gesenia Mejia, Katie Looper and Eryk Olsen of Banks High School, and Christopher Richardson of Vernonia High School.

Music in May offers student musicians three days of workshops, lessons and rehearsals. The annual event is sponsored by Pacific University's Music Department. Students stay in residence halls with school chaperones.

High school choral, band and orchestra students are se-

lected to participate based on their school music ensemble director's recommendation and the instrumentation needs of the Music in May ensembles.

The grand finale concert featured four conductors, including Dr. Michael Burch-Pesses, Pacific's director of bands, and visiting conductors from Northwestern University, the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, and the Midwest Young Artists in Chicago, Illinois.

Banks man named to PSU President's List

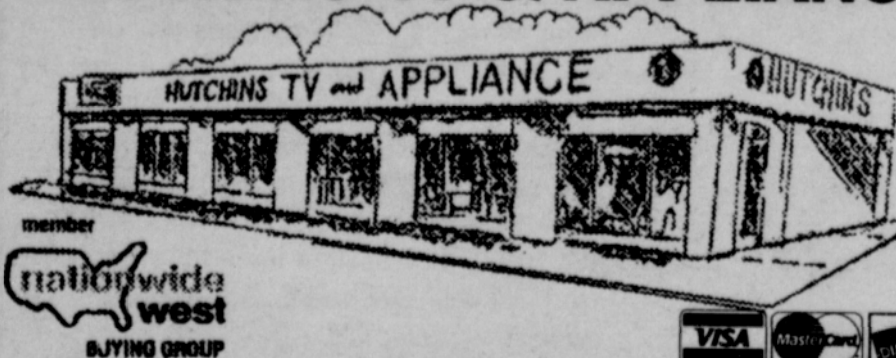
Banks High School graduate Kevin Vandecoevering has qualified for the Winter 2003 President's List at Portland State University. He is enrolled in the School of Business Administration

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