



Heather Alexander was one of the talented musicians who entertained happy crowds at the International Soup Festival.

Good turnout for Banks Soup Festival

The first annual International Soup Festival held in Banks on March 13, dished up a selection of six different soups, plus two deserts, and provided entertainment for an estimated 200-plus attendees.

The entertainment was provided by local entertainers and included performances by Banks Dance Academy, Select Choir from Banks High School, Alena Ferguson-Shelton, High Altitude Quartet, Adanisia,

Western Washington County Community Band, and celtic music by Buxton musician, Heather Alexander.

The all-you-can-eat event, sponsored by the Banks Chamber of Commerce and area businesses, was a benefit for the Banks Community Foundation. "The festival was very well attended for a first time event," said Denise Dethlefs, a Foundation member. Early estimates indicate the event raised

Council hears foundation project plan

Banks City Council held a workshop prior to their March 9 meeting, to hear a presentation from members of the Banks Community Foundation (BCF). Following a brief overview of the history of the foundation by Denise Dethlefs, chairman Steward Douglas told the council about the "Sound Stage Project."

Tracey Rowatt, who has film industry experience, explained that Oregon has everything in landscapes and climates, but the Pacific Northwest lacks good facilities for pre- and post-production work, so film companies must pack up and go to Canada or back to California. Rowatt led the group to select a feasibility study for a sound stage as the foundation's first big project. The study will be funded by a \$10,000 matching grant from the Ford Family Foundation.

There are a few small facilities, but BCF's study will look at a large-scale production facility

that can provide sustainable growth and employment diversity.

The Banks area is desirable location, Dantes Reyes told the council, because of a strong transportation infrastructure and growth pattern of the area. Additionally, Washington County is working to create a one-stop permit process to facilitate further development in the film/video industry.

Dethlefs concluded the presentation by saying that the Sound Stage Project is only the first project of BCF and is not the only project under consideration.

Water Data Computer System in operation

Public Works Superintendent Tim Grossnickle reported that the data/computer link to the water system had been installed. The system provides minute-by-minute data from every area of the city's water system to a central location. Grossnickle has already been able to isolate one leakage problem on the Sellers Road line.

Police officer resigns for Hillsboro job

Banks Police Officer Kevin Duggan told council that he has taken a job in Hillsboro. He thanked them for the opportunity to serve the community and said he would maintain close ties to Banks. Mayor Bob Orlovski asked council to consider hiring one of the reserve offi-

cers to fill the vacancy. Officer Bruce Bringman told council that there had been a noticeable increase in drug activity, driving under the influence and parties.

Councilor Kirk Andrews said the parks committee continues to be hampered by lack of a quorum. He is trying to get some new members.

In other business council:

- Approved \$150 expenditure for an analysis of its computer systems to determine what the city's needs may be.
- Approved the city auditor's contract for a three-year period.
- Appointed Debra Deegan Budget Officer.

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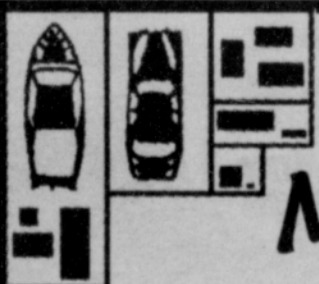
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