

# Banks signs contract with Sheriff's office

At a special meeting on August 25, Banks City Council approved a contract with the Washington County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement in Banks. The city has had only one officer for several months.

The county will provide 40 hours of coverage per week until November 6 for \$5,723 per month, plus overtime. This temporary contract is similar to the sheriff's office arrangement with Gaston.

Councilor Katie Murdoch voted against the contract because of the potential for excessive overtime costs. Pat Garrett, Washington County Sheriff's Office chief deputy, said that his office would keep the city informed about over-

time needs.

Banks is also seeking voter approval of a levy for police services in the November 2 general election. The levy has been placed before the voters twice, and lost each time, in spite of overwhelming approval, because less than 50 percent of the registered voters cast ballots. The November election does not require the "double majority" standard.

The city's sole officer, Rob Richards, was hired in March

and will be engaged in intensive training activities with sheriff's deputies and city officers in Cornelius and Forest Grove. He will also be attending the state police academy in Monmouth and will not be available for patrol duties in Banks until early January.

The city is in the process of selecting a new chief and, according to city clerk Debra Deegan, had received eleven applications as of last Friday.



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## Banks BBQ events to be rescheduled

Most of the activities that were rained out at the August 22 Banks Bar-B-Q and Tractor Pull will take place on September 18 instead. See the September 16 issue of *The Independent* for a full schedule of events.



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