

Special drug courts are discussion topic

The Washington County Commission on Children and Families will host a discussion panel June 16, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., on the Washington County youth and adult drug court programs. The panel of Washington County leaders in criminal justice and drug treatment, will discuss the drug court process for both adult and juvenile offenders, the effectiveness of the intervention for defendants, the impact on children and families, and the future of drug courts in our community.

Drug courts were first developed in Florida in 1989 as a specialized court to manage cases involving drug-addicted offenders through an extensive supervision and treatment program. Because the problem of drugs and crime is much too

broad for any single agency to tackle alone, drug courts rely upon the cooperation of judges, court personnel, law enforcement, probation, and treatment providers. The drug court model has paved the way for the latest criminal justice innovation-therapeutic jurisprudence. There are currently over 1,200 drug courts operating in all 50 states.

Discussion panel includes the following:

John Hartner, Director, Community Corrections

Robert Hermann, District Attorney, District Attorney's Office

Tom Kohl, Judge, Circuit Court

Lisa Montebalco, Drug Court Coordinator, Community Corrections

Rich Musser, Deputy, Washington County Sheriff's Office

Jeff Peters, Sr. Program Coordinator, Health and Human Services

Keith Raines, Judge, Circuit Court

Laurie Rice, Program Coordinator, Juvenile Services

The meeting will be held at the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Administration Building, 20665 SW Blanton St. in Aloha

(Directions: From TV Highway: Turn South onto SW 209th. Turn left on SW Blanton. Turn left into second driveway. Do not park inside the gated area.)

Bring your lunch to enjoy nature presentation

Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a short nature presentation each week under the shady trees of Rogers Park in Forest Grove. The Oregon Department of Forestry is offering free lunch hour programs that are entertaining for all ages. All programs run from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m.:

June 22 - Beavers

June 29 - Wheel of Forest

July 6 - Woodpeckers

July 13 - Bears

July 20 - Elk

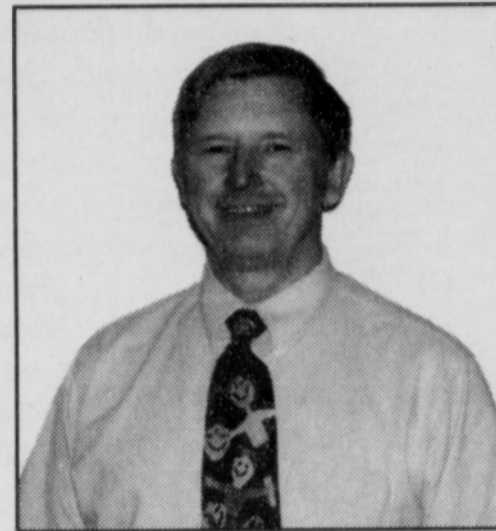
July 27 - Nature Bingo

August 3 - Insects

August 10 - Coyote

You can "Brown Bag Nature" by enjoying this summer lunch series.

New schools chief is family man



Superintendent Mel Ott

New Banks School District Superintendent Marv Ott immediately strikes one as a nice guy, with his good humor, quick laughter and ready smile. He is also capable of juggling a great many tasks, which would usually be assigned to others, by himself. Ott was chosen to replace retiring superintendent Marilyn McGlasson.

The district has been running well under McGlasson's stewardship, Ott told *The INDEPENDENT*, and he has no desire to make any drastic changes. He plans to spend

time to get to know the culture of the school and community. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it", he said laughingly.

Ott comes to Banks from Port Orford, a small district of 380 students. During his term in Port Orford, Ott served as superintendent of the district and as principal for the elementary, middle and high schools. He said he is looking forward to working with a team of administrators.

Ott received his bachelor's degree from Oregon College of Education and a Masters in Education from Western Oregon College, now called Western Oregon University. His administrative work was completed at the University of Oregon.

He and his wife, Donna, are buying a home in Forest Grove. They have been married for 19 years and have five children and nine grandchildren who live in the upper Willamette Valley.

Volunteers wanted to serve on area transportation commission

Washington County is seeking applicants for two new volunteers to serve on the Northwest Area Commission on Transportation (ACT).

Northwest ACT is an advisory body chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission, which addresses all aspects of transportation (surface, marine, air, and transportation safety) with primary focus on the state transportation system. The Northwest ACT considers regional and local transportation issues in northwest Oregon that affect the state system.

ACTs play a key advisory role in the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP),

which schedules funded transportation projects. ACTs establish a public process to prioritize transportation problems and solutions and make recommendations for projects to be included in the STIP.

The application deadline is July 18, or when the vacancies are filled. Applications are available on the website or by calling (503) 846-8685. Descriptions of all county boards are available on the website: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/cgi/boards/commis.pl>



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