

Banks teacher featured in state's Update

The Superintendent's Weekly Update, an online publication from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), includes a Teacher Feature in each issue.

"In my travels around the state," Superintendent Susan Castillo explained, "I meet many excellent educators. I wanted a way to acknowledge and celebrate their work. This is a series of 'stories' about educators who are making a difference for Oregon's children."

A recent edition, written by Regina McCloud of ODE, featured Ron Alley.

By Regina McCloud



Ron Alley

Alum of Banks High School, the Banks Junior High School physical education teacher of 16 years, and a former Banks High School wrestling coach, Ron Alley is a dedicated member of the Banks educational community.

Mr. Alley has been involved with district curriculum planning and has given a positive direction to the physical education department at Banks. He led not only the junior high school teachers, but the high school teachers as well, organizing the

physical education program, encouraging unified discipline, and mandating uniforms. The physical education department is now very organized and students transition easily from junior high to high school.

Respected by students, Mr. Alley is seen as fair and consistent allowing him to work with each student, helping them to develop their skills and exceed his high expectations. Mr. Alley has the gift of seeing the challenges his students face and helping them overcome their trials. One of his students was on the verge of dropping out, but Mr. Alley took him under his wing and went the extra mile to see him succeed. Giving this student rides to school and scheduling tutoring sessions were a just few of the ways Mr. Alley helped ensure this student's success.

In physical education classes it can be difficult to grade students on ability, but Mr. Alley embraces this challenge, grading each student on personal growth, improvement, and effort rather than comparison. He teaches his students about self discipline and provides them with skills for life long activity. In addition to his physical education classes, Mr. Alley also coached wrestling at Banks High School for 13 years. He taught his wrestlers the fundamentals and techniques of wrestling by having detail oriented practices. Although not currently coaching, he is a constant force behind the scenes, helping with activities and lending support.

In Mr. Alley's character education class, he emphasizes the importance of being a good,

kind, and helpful community member. His students participate in many community service projects and Mr. Alley works hard to be a liaison between his students and the community. A very involved community member himself, he models active citizenship for his students. Through Mr. Alley's vision and leadership, Banks now has a new community center built almost entirely from donated funds.

Ron Alley has completed an administrative program and steps in for the principal from time to time. Principal Mark Everett values his good judgment and consistency when handling administrative duties. Banks High School Principal Jim Foster confidently said that, "Ron Alley has a bright future ahead of him; with his work ethic and personality combined, he will do great things."

To recommend an educator to be featured in the Superintendent's Weekly Update, visit the ODE website and fill out the Talent Pool Recommendation Form: <<http://www.ode.state.or.us/groups/teachers/awards/edtalentpool/talentpoolrecomform.rtf>>.

City Manager job description done

Banks City Councilor Pete Edison presented the job description for a Banks City Manager, that his committee had developed, at the February 14 council meeting. Edison and his committee started the process by looking at what other cities of a similar size have to see if it was reasonable to hire a city manager. They found that the vast majority had a city manager or administrator. In fact, comparable communities typically have 5-6 management staff positions.

The committee then looked at Banks' needs and decided that expertise in public works was a prime need and that the city manager should be the chief operations officer and head of both the administrative and public work branches of the city. This would include supervising the water department. The city manager would plan and manage all public works projects, supervise city employees and help with budgeting, among other duties. The manager would work under the general supervision of the city council and the mayor.

Edison noted that it is unusual for the city manager to be combined with a public works

position. Thus, it may take some searching to find the ideal candidate. He suggested that council prepare to hire for this position but noted that it couldn't be accomplished until budgeting for the next fiscal year is underway. Council will review the proposed job description and discuss it again at the next council meeting.

Mayor Mike Lyda, in his role as acting public works superintendent, reported that recent heavy rains had caused leaking in the library roof. Five Star Builders was directed to do initial repairs to stop further damage and to develop a scope of work for repair. The initial estimate for repair is \$50,000.

Council reviewed the decision of the Banks Planning Commission on a proposal by the Sunset Park Association for improvements at Sunset Speedway. The Commission approved the proposal with several landscaping provisions which must be completed by January 12, 2007. Before racing can begin this year, they must also obtain permits with Washington County and Clean Water Services. Council decided to renew the business li-

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