

Banks advertises for City Manager

From page 15

would compete with the Washington County levy and jeopardize its passage. Councilor Pete Edison said that he feels his first responsibility is to the citizens of Banks, and serving their best interest. If the city levy passes, but the county levy doesn't, the city would still receive protection. If only the county levy passes, service will remain as it is right now. If both levies fail, police services will fall below the current levels of service. The county levy is to maintain existing services.

The position of Banks City Manager is being advertised and is generating interest. Edison said that the next step is for a committee of 2-3 councilors and city staff to work with a representative from the League of Oregon Cities to draft a job profile that will be used in analyzing candidates. The deadline for applications to be received is mid-September.

Bid documents for two projects at the library are almost complete and will be advertised soon. Bids for the exterior repairs project and for the roofing project should be available for review at the next council meeting.

The final design for improvements to Well #2 will be completed soon. This project is to connect the city's new well to the water system through the original well. The wells would run alternately to each other, not simultaneously. The new well has a capacity of 500 gallons-per-minute. Rough estimates show that the project will be much more expensive than originally predicted. Total project cost could be between \$130,000 and \$150,000. Council will review the budget before the project goes out to bid. The scope of work has evolved over the last two years, but the cost estimate hadn't been updated from the original \$50,000.

A public hearing was held on ordinance #120.0 to authorize an increase in service charges for garbage disposal and recycling service. Swatco asked for an eight percent increase to cover the cost of increased yard debris service. There was no public input and the ordinance was approved. The rate increase was effective August 1.

Short updated council on the parks committee's activities. He said they are ready to start fundraising for the proposed play structure. He asked for all of council's concerns regarding the structure so he can prepare a presentation to council and get approval to move ahead with planning and fundraising.

Boy Scout Dallan Hamilton appeared before council to let them know that he had completed his work on the Log Cabin. Hamilton removed moss from the roof of the building and cleaned it. He also repaired the chinking. A letter from Ray Deeth of the Banks Historical Society stated that Hamilton had worked very carefully to insure that the improvements did not damage the historical Log Cabin. Mayor Mike Lyda will also draft a letter commending Hamilton for his efforts.

Vernonia Rural Fire District

Abbreviations: EMS, Emergency Medical Service; MVA, Motor Vehicle Accident

JULY 2006

July 1 - EMS assist, mutual aid, structure fire
July 4 - EMS assist, agency assist
July 7 - Dumpster fire
July 8 - EMS assist, smoke investigation
July 10 - EMS assist, MVA on Neh. Hwy S.
July 12 - EMS assist (2)
July 13 - EMS assist (3)
July 15 - EMS assist, MVA on Timber Rd.
July 20 - Public assist
July 21 - MVA on Timber Rd.
July 22 - Mutual aid
July 23 - EMS assist
July 24 - EMS assist
July 25 - EMS assist
July 27 - EMS assist, illegal burn, Natural cover fire
July 29 - EMS assist (2)
July 30 - EMS assist
July 31 - EMS assist

Can You Dig It?

From page 6

The offender is a knotweed. It's not the same as the knotweeds (scientific names include *polygonum cuspidatum*, *Fallopia* or *Reynoutria japonica*, *P. sachalinense* and *P. polystachyum*) currently labeled as noxious weeds. It may well be a developed hybrid for the landscaping trade. This is, in fact, the recommended way to acquire a buddleia (large portions of the McKenzie River bed), or an ivy (the Portland West Hills) or a scotch broom (the clear cuts surrounding us). Go to you local nursery and find a variety that has been bred to be better behaved than its cousins. The alternative is to become a part of these plants taking over the landscape. Because knotweed spreads itself so well (by seed, root, branch and leaf) the floods of 1996 spread what had been relatively small colonies much more widely. Large portions of the creek that runs near Hwy. 101 north of where the Sunset intersects it, have been completely overrun. It is even more aggressive than that other invader, the Himalayan Blackberry. Like the ivy deserts in Portland's Forest Park, nothing else can grow in these areas and they do not provide good habitat for native species.

What am I to do? Well, I certainly won't let any of the knotweeds in my yard bloom and set seed, but I thought I did that last year. I've dug one up

and put it in a large pot, and I'll dig or pull the rest. I've thought about the argument that my smaller more contained knotweed may be able to breed some of its characteristics back to the wilder ones, but that seems a weak and ineffective argument. The sure fire way to get rid of my knotweeds would be to spray herbicide, but I'm not prepared to do that yet.

So, be careful of your plants and sensitive to their effect beyond your yard. If you own land, you are held responsible for eliminating noxious weeds on your property, even if your property is many acres of forestland. You can get help eliminating knotweed from your local watershed council and/or Extension Service.

Whew ... Sorry about jumping on the bandbox. Seeing stands of Knotweed along Hwy.47 (at Tophill) and Hwy 26 (on the north side of the highway just beyond the Banks turnoff) really get me going.

Time to relax, listen to the birds, enjoy the evening breeze and slowly sip a tall cool drink in the lawn swing. Ahh.....

WEATHER REPORT

JULY 2006

DATE	TEMPERATURE		PRECIP. AMT.
	HI	LO	
1	83	40	--
2	85	48	--
3	78	47	--
4	66	46	--
5	61	51	--
6	64	38	--
7	79	41	--
8	87	47	--
9	83	55	--
10	67	41	--
11	69	47	.06
12	69	48	.08
13	73	44	--
14	76	45	--
15	74	40	--
16	79	44	--
17	69	37	--
18	73	42	--
19	79	44	--
20	88	47	--
21	103	48	--
22	98	56	--
23	78	53	--
24	91	52	--
25	79	56	--
26	83	50	--
27	72	50	--
28	66	41	--
29	63	46	T
30	68	40	.03
31	73	40	--

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Measurable precipitation in July totalled .17 inches.

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