

Banks school board receives report from facilities committee

Banks Elementary School Principal Bob Huston invited sixth-grader Dallis Kendall to the January meeting of Banks School District Board of Directors, so she could read the persuasive essay she wrote to convince him to root for the Ducks. Huston invited all elementary school students to write an essay to convince him to be either a Duck or a Beaver since he is new to the state. He found Kendall's to be the most convincing. Kendall included facts about the team's record and coaches in her essay and was rewarded with a new Ducks jersey.

insurance presentation from Amy Hansen of WSC regarding the district's policies. She said that the insurance market is level to slightly soft. As a result, the district's rates are going down slightly and liability limits have been raised. She attributes the softening of the market to increased competition within the state. She also commended the district on their impressive record with workers compensation. The district will receive a 24 percent credit on workers compensation rates because of the lack of claims in recent years.

The board approved superintendent goals for 2006-07.

These goals will be used in evaluating the superintendent's performance and also as long range goals for the district. They provide guidance in the areas of fiscal management, curriculum and instruction, facilities, communications, positive work environment and student success.

Gary Hartman, director of the technology/assessment department, reported that Oregon is evaluating the achievement standards for statewide testing. The review is required as part of the No Child Left Behind Act. At this point, the "cut scores" (cutoffs for meeting standards) have been reviewed and rec-

ommendations are being made for adjustments. The adjustments will be reviewed and adopted in March and will apply to tests that have already been taken this academic year. As a result, some students who met standards may end up not meeting and vice versa. State School Superintendent Susan Castillo asked the U.S. Department of Education to delay implementation of the new standards until the 2007-08 school year. The request was denied and is currently being appealed.

The school board has received a report from the facilities committee that was devel-

oped last spring. The volunteer committee was composed of a spectrum of citizens in the district and was to look at how the district should cope with current student enrollment and predicted increases. The report includes a comprehensive examination of the district's buildings and options for adding educational space. The board will examine this report in the coming months. "It's an impressive report and an impressive effort by the volunteers," Director Will Moore said. "This report will help to guide the district for the next ten years."

Now it's time to learn boating safety if you are sixty or younger

The Mandatory Boater Education program is past the half-way point of the age required phase-in. Beginning in 2007, powerboat operators 60 and younger will be required to take a boating safety course and carry their boater education card when operating boats greater than 10 hp.

registered boat owners," said MariAnn Koloszar, Education Coordinator for the Oregon State Marine Board. "There are approximately 36,000 registered boat owners between 51 and 60 years old who will need their education cards in 2007."

Boaters have several options to meet the mandatory education requirement. "We

encourage boaters to take advantage of classroom courses," said Koloszar. "It's the best learning environment because instructors use various teaching techniques that cater to different learning styles. Classroom course materials are organized to make learning easy, fun and interactive. Boaters also have an opportunity to

learn about local hot spots and hazards - information you can only get in a classroom with other boaters." Koloszar adds.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U. S. Power Squadrons, Oregon State Marine Board volunteer Instructors, and other private providers offer classroom courses.

Your local Sheriff's office offers free equivalency exams that are designed for the experienced boater. Approved internet courses are also available, and course information can be

found at the Marine Board's website: www.boatoregon.com. Costs of the various education options range from free to around \$45. Classes and equivalency exams are scheduled to fit boaters' needs.

So far, the Marine Board has issued almost 150,000 cards and has one of the top compliances for mandatory education in the nation. The fine for not carrying a card, along with other law enforcement violation fines, was increased in 2006 from \$94 to \$97.

Firefighters are ready to cook breakfast

Banks Volunteer Firefighter's Annual Breakfast will be Sunday, February 18, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Banks High School Cafeteria.

ham or sausage, eggs, fruit, coffee, milk or orange juice.

Ticket prices for this year's breakfast will be \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children (6-12

years of age), free for children under 6 years of age, \$5.00 for seniors. A family ticket (maximum of six persons) is \$25.00. Purchase tickets at the door.

The menu includes pancakes or biscuits and gravy,

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