

Boy Scouts from Troop 581 earn merit badges for public meeting



Above, Debi Wyckoff is about to receive a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Branstitre for donating office furniture to the city. Left, Boy Scout Troop 581 attended the January 8 City Council meeting to earn merit badges for attending a public meeting.

Josh Netzer, Outreach Specialist for Ride Connection, was a special guest at the January 8 meeting of the Banks City Council.

Netzer presented information about Ride Connection, a non-profit transportation service that networks with over 30 providers and is available to the whole community – seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income job commuters and the general public. "Historically," Netzer said, "the organization started out with older adults, but the service is available to a lot of people; we give kids rides to Banks Christian Academy."

Ride Connection is funded by the state, Tri-Met, Spirit Mountain, and donations. In August, 2007, Spirit Mountain Community Fund and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde awarded a \$50,000 grant to be applied to transport and mobility solutions in rural Western Washington County. The areas served are the rural communities outside the urban growth boundary and west of 185th Avenue, including Banks,

Gaston and North Plains.

Netzer said that "currently they are providing 380-500 rides per month; I would like to see that number around 1,000 to 1,500 monthly." Ride Connection has a 5-Step Guide: Make a decision where you would like to go, what day and time and when you want to return; call Ride Connection at 503-266-0700 at least two days in advance; speak with a Ride Connection Navigator to set up your profile; await confirmation (you will be contacted one day in advance to confirm your request); make sure you are ready for your trip – Enjoy your ride!

According to Netzer, Ride Connection can provide transportation for a lot less than Tri-Met, and he wants to get the information out to the general public. Netzer will speak to local groups, churches or organizations; he can be reached by email at jnetzer@rideconnection.org, or call (503) 528-1738.

Boy Scout Troop 581 also attended the council meeting. The boys are working on merit



badges that require them to attend a public meeting. Mayor Teri Branstitre gave them a warm welcome.

Deputy Tran summarized the city police report. The sheriff's office received 17 calls for service in the city, resulting in four arrests, and 13 citations were issued following 54 traffic stops. Tran attributed another quiet month in the city to holiday spirit.

Deputy Tran said that the hit and run accident on Main Street and NW Banks Road has been resolved. The company whose truck was involved is working out a civil compromise with the city for \$5,000 in damages.

Deputy Tran was asked by council about the January 7 incident when a clerk at the

NAPA Auto Parts store, across the street from Banks City Hall, was accosted by a knife-wielding robber who demanded money. Tran, who was not on duty at the time, said he was currently unable to share any details about the crime because it is under investigation. He did say "...the people of Banks will be happy with the outcome; this was a serious offense." At the time of the incident, the sheriff's office contacted the school district, which immediately locked the doors to all of the schools. Banks City Recorder Jolynn Becker said

that the city office was notified, as well.

Mayor Branstitre presented certificates of appreciation to seven Banks citizens in recognition of their contributions to the city. Debi Wyckoff was recognized for donating office furniture for the city hall and council chambers; Wyckoff's son, Devin, was recognized for significant public service to the city by assisting in refurbishing city hall and council chambers. Steve Derfer and Art Hayden, both of Banks Lumber Company, and Randy Sheldon of Shel

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An advertisement for Jim's Thriftway. It features a large basket of red apples, a smaller basket of green apples, and a bowl of red apples. The text "3 lb bag" is written in a cursive font. Below the baskets, it says "Red Delicious, Granny Smith, Gala or Fuji Apples" and "2\$5 for".

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