

Banks School Board hears that eighth grade gets second elective

Banks school board held their regular business meeting, December 8, before the work session, reversing their usual schedule. Board chairman Duane Lundsten requested the change because he is now commuting to Salem. He told the board that they should be able to resume their previous schedule in January, much to the relief of all, with the work session beginning at 5:30 p.m. before the business meeting of the board. All board meetings

are open to the public.

The board heard two presentations, first was the annual summary and report from Northwest Regional Educational Service District (NWRESD). Laura Cummings, eighth grade language arts and journalism teacher told the board that a second elective was added back [after being removed during the last round of extreme budget cuts] to the schedule. Last year, the junior high added an elective course in advanced

writing; this year, journalism was added. Assignments can be very short and students have more choice about subject matter and, according to Cummings, this type of writing "that students are invested in" is much better at getting students to participate in writing than the standard language

arts curriculum.

Cummings told the board that students have spent most of their time during this first semester deciding what they wanted to do. Having decided on a junior high newsletter, the students produced their first edition in early December. Their goal is to produce an is-

sue every two weeks. Cummings said that, while she is available to help students and does the final proofreading, 100 percent of the work on the newsletter is done by students, including interviews, reporting, layout and design, and feature articles.

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Cornelius-Schefflin to close on Jan. 5

Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation will close Cornelius-Schefflin Road will be closed from south of Verboort Road to Spiesschaert Road, between January 5 and February 3, 2009, as part of a major road reconstruction project. Local traffic - residential, emergency vehicles, mail delivery,

and school busses - will still have access. Traffic will be detoured onto Verboort Road to Martin Road to Quince Street (Highway 47) to Tualatin Valley Highway.

The closure is necessary to remove the Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID) line at five

crossings of Cornelius-Schefflin Road and to install casings with new irrigation lines. Additional relocation of the TVID line will occur with the road reconstruction project in the summer of 2009.

Cornelius-Schefflin Road will
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