

Banks BBQ offered fun and food

by Debi Wagner

The 66th annual Banks BBQ has come and gone for 2011, running from Friday, August 19 through Sunday, August 21. This annual event was, as usual, well attended and enjoyed by all. The weekend was a success due to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who start planning in January for the upcoming year.

New this year at the Lions Club concession stand were elephant ears, corn dogs and French fries. Approximately 152 breakfasts were served totaling over 300 pancakes. Choosing to stay anonymous, one satisfied customer said "they were delicious. I had eight pancakes." The famous BBQ sandwiches went on sale at noon and there was a long line formed in anticipation. The BBQ sauce is a secret recipe

handed down for four generations. No one went away hungry or disappointed, as could be seen by all of the smiling happy faces.

For the second year in a row, Drew Carney from KGW News Channel 8, filmed a short video of the combine demolition. Drew donned a helmet and took control of the Raminator, a huge combine, but he surrendered within moments.

Several ribbons were given out for the parade floats. Jim Addington, a park ranger from Stub Stewart State Park, was exploding with pride, "This was our third year of trying and we finally got a Blue ribbon." May Trussell, from Jim Dandy Farm Market, has their Blue ribbon proudly on display behind the counter, but will gladly show it if asked. Congratulations to all and see you next year.



Banks PTO seeks help with math books

Banks Elementary School children need your help! The math textbooks that are being used are severely out of date. Currently, math books range from 9-13 years old. Why is that a problem? Most textbooks are updated every five years to keep up with teaching and testing standards.

In the most recent state testing, only 74.61% of BES students received passing scores on the math tests. This is due, in part, to the implementation of new state math standards, and an increase in scores to meet these standards. It is exacerbated by the fact that the old math books do not align with

the new standards to such a degree that many elementary teachers don't even use the outdated and obsolete textbooks.

The state of Oregon has made drastic cuts to the state education budget. This has affected every school district,

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Banks School Board says no to bond

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At their August 8 meeting, after lengthy consideration the Banks School Board decided that the bond issue will be put

to rest for the time being. Taking into account the shaky current economic situation and the fact that property taxes come out in November, it was a unanimous decision to not

present the much-needed school bond levy, at this time.

Making it clear that they are not abandoning the plan for a future bond vote, the Board issued this statement:

"The Banks School Board has decided to postpone indefinitely putting a construction bond on the November ballot.

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Left and above; two of the entries from the parade at this year's Banks BBQ. Photos by Debi Wagner.

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