

## Banks/Vernonia Linear Trail named OR APWA Project of the Year

The Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association (OR APWA) has recognized two transportation projects managed by the Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation.

OR APWA selected the Banks/Vernonia Linear Trail Extension and Trailhead project as its Transportation Project of the Year. The award recognizes quality, innovation and cooperation among the managing agency, its partners, consultants and construction con-

tractors. Evaluation criteria included public outreach efforts, environmental design considerations, timely completion, and overall safety factors.

The project completed the final two-thirds of a mile of the 21-mile Banks-Vernonia State Trail, extending it to the City of Banks. The trail provides pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians with a pleasant and safe travel route. In conjunction with the trail project, the County also managed construction of the Banks Trail-

head parking area. These projects represented a collaborative effort between Washington County, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the City of Banks. The \$1.4 million trail project was funded by a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Oregon Parks and Recre-

ation Department, and Washington County. Carter and Company was the primary contractor. The project commenced construction in May 2010 and was completed in October 2010.

The Project of the Year award was presented to County Engineer Gary Stockhoff and Project Manager Matt Meier on October 20, during the OR APWA Fall Conference in Redmond. It was presented to the Board of County Commission-

ers at their regular board meeting on Tuesday, October 25. Chairman Andy Duyck said "This project presented a unique opportunity for several jurisdictions to pool resources to successfully deliver a regionally-significant recreational transportation enhancement."

The other project, given an Honorable Mention from OR APWA, was the Hwy 99W/Greenburg Road-Main Street/Hall Blvd. project.

## Washington County DAVS seeks input

There is still time for the community to voice their opinions and have them included in Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services' (DAVS) next strategic plan. The new strategic plan will be for three years beginning in 2012 through 2014. DAVS is interested in the opinions of Washington County residents about retirement and what services and activities they need and want as they grow older. A survey is available through December 31, 2011. To access the survey, go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CVL58YN>.

"Our society has never experienced a time when so many people are living to advanced ages. Right now, more than 25 percent of Washington County residents are over the age of 50. Planning for such a large group of individuals is challenging for agencies like DAVS charged with developing services to meet the needs of older people as well as veterans and those with disabilities. We need the community's help to make sure we are on the

right track in planning for current and future needs," states Chris Larson who is serving as the contract facilitator.

The 3-year plan will address the needs and the gaps in services for seniors, veterans and people with disabilities.

Anyone interested in taking the survey is invited to complete it online or, if you would like a paper copy of the survey, call Janet Long at 503-846-3081 or E-mail to: [janet\\_long@co.washington.or.us](mailto:janet_long@co.washington.or.us).

## Property tax statements explained

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Appeals of value may be filed from October 26, 2011, until January 3, 2012. Information pertaining to the appeal process is available on the back of the tax statement and the County website.

Taxpayers are also encouraged to call the Appraisal Division at 503-846-8826 for assistance in determining how their property was valued.

Taxpayers have several payment options. Taxes may be paid in three installments due November 15, February 15 and May 16. There are also provisions for full payments with a 3 percent discount or a

two-thirds payment with a 2 percent discount. Payments must be postmarked by November 15 to receive a discount. Property owners who do not receive a tax statement by November 1st should call the Tax Collections Office at 503-846-8801.

Washington County is now able to accept payments via the Internet using a credit card, debit card or a direct transfer from a customer's bank account. This payment method can be accessed through the Washington County Website.

Taxpayers also have the option to pay via telephone by calling 1-888-510-9274.

### Between the Bookends

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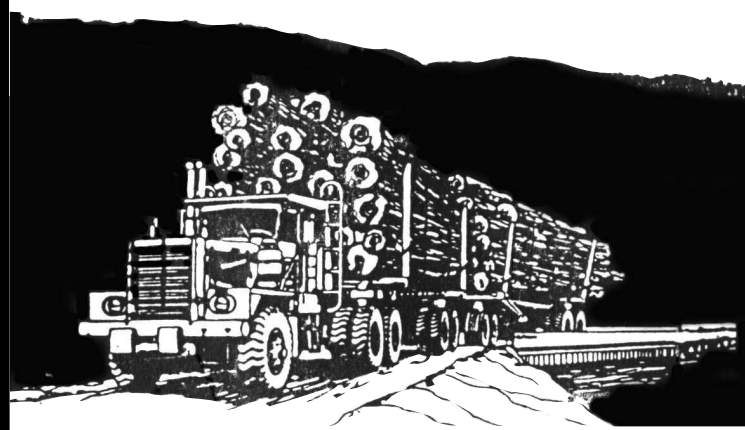
days," a story about a vampire couple, Cat and Bones, and their otherworldly friends and family. They are looking forward to a normal holiday until a stranger shows up and reveals long-buried family secrets that threaten to take a bite out of their cheer or worse.

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