

Come meet the finalists for Banks School Superintendent on April 10

During the March 24, Special Board Meeting of the Banks School District Board of Directors, the following three candidates were selected as finalists for the position of Superintendent of the Banks School District:

- Brian Gander, Superintendent, Jewell School District
- Darryl Smith, Human Resources Director, Jefferson County School District, and
- Bob Huston, Principal,

Banks Elementary School, Banks School District.

The Board will be conducting site visits during the week of April 2 - 6.

There will be a community forum for the public to meet the candidates on Tuesday, April 10, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Banks Junior High School.

Community members are encouraged to attend the forum to meet the three finalists and provide feedback to the board.

Hearing to discuss address changes

The Banks City Council has announced that it will conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a "House Numbering and Street Identification Ordinance". The hearing will be held at or shortly after 7:00 p.m. on April 10, 2012 at city hall, 100 South Main Street, Banks.

The proposed ordinance will establish standards for naming new streets and assigning addresses to individual properties. The ordinance will designate all streets in Banks with a Northwest (NW) quadrant pre-

fix identification, and will not change existing street names. All existing addresses having a three-digit number will be changed to a five-digit number.

The ordinance conforms with the Washington County addressing system, and will establish a uniform citywide addressing system that should also assist calls for emergency response and special deliveries. It is proposed that the ordinance become effective on September 1, 2012, which will be the official date for three-digit address properties to convert to the five-digit address. However, the post office will continue to deliver mail to both three or five-digit addresses for up to one year from the effective date of the ordinance. Affected parties will need to make change-of-address notifications and other actions, as necessary, to change-over to the new five-digit addressing system.

The proposed ordinance is available for public review on the City's web site at www.cityofbanks.org by selecting the following links: City Services; Planning & Zoning; Addressing. A hard copy of the document is also available for review at the City's administrative

office, 120 S. Main Street, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Banks Public Library, 111 Market Street during their regular hours.

The public hearing on this matter will be conducted pursuant to the rules of procedure adopted by the Council. Both oral and written testimony are invited and will be received in favor of or in opposition to the proposed ordinance during the hearing. Written testimony may also be submitted to the City Recorder at the City administrative office prior to the hearing and no later than 1:00 p.m. on April 9, 2012. Contact Jolynn Becker, City Recorder, at 503-324-5112 with further questions. Persons with disabilities should contact the City Recorder if special accommodation is needed.

Following a City Council decision to adopt the ordinance, the City staff will notify affected parties in writing about their new five-digit address. Also, on April 5, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., City staff will be hosting an open house at City Hall for the public to attend and view project mapping and related information.

Beware of tax scams, says AG Kroger

With tax season upon us, Attorney General John Kroger warns Oregonians to steer clear of scam artists looking to cash-in on tax season. The overwhelming majority of Oregon tax preparers provide honest and valuable services to their clients. Nonetheless, whether it is in person, online or via email, there are con artists who market themselves as tax practitioners - but are only out to steal your money.

Fake tax preparers employ a number of fraudulent tactics, including manipulating figures to claim inflated expenses, false deductions, unallowable credits or excessive exemptions. When the fraud is detected, however, it is the taxpayer - not the return preparer - who can suffer the consequences, which can include paying additional taxes, plus interest and other penalties.

Under both state and federal law, all paid tax practitioners must possess a Personal Tax Identification Number issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and enter it on the returns he or she prepares. This includes attorneys, CPAs, enrolled agents and unenrolled tax preparers. Anyone who prepares personal income tax returns for compensation in Oregon must also be licensed by the state Board of Tax Practitioners.

Attorney General Kroger offers the following advice to Oregonians seeking professional help this tax season:

- ALWAYS verify that your tax preparer is properly licensed by the Oregon Board of Tax Practitioners at: www.oregon.gov/otpb.
- Never give out personal information such as your Social Security number, bank account

or mortgage receipt to a tax preparer unless you know they are licensed.

- Be wary of tax preparers who promise larger than normal refunds or a greater refund than their competitors.
- Don't fall for any solicitations that imply credits or refunds are available without proof of eligibility.
- Do not sign your return unless it contains a valid Personal Tax Identification Number.
- Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of your income or a percentage of

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