



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

June 16, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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DOWNTOWN FESTIVITIES – On Saturday, June 17th, The Coos Bay Downtown Association will be sponsoring a Recreation Fair. This event, held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., will feature all types of recreation vehicles and activities for South Oregon Coast fun. Displays will be set up in the parking lot north of the Chamber of Commerce building and on Central Avenue from Broadway to 2nd Street. Come experience the fair.

MINGUS PARK STAGE NEARS COMPLETION – The Mingus Park Stage Project is nearing completion with paving, brick work and topsoil placement due to be completed this week. The dedication of the stage is set for the 4th of July at 10:30 a.m. Plan to attend the dedication and the festivities in the Park on July 4th. This year's 4th of July in Mingus will be the biggest and best yet due to the many hours volunteered by Marty Crouse organizing the event.

LIBRARY CLOSURES FOR COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADE – Coos Bay Public Library joins other Coos County libraries in closing all day Friday, June 16th. The annual software upgrade for the countywide Coastline computer system will take place and will incapacitate all terminals for public transactions. Several new efficiencies will be available with the upgrade. The closure is one day only, contrary to some publicity that has evidently been heard or seen. Regular open hours continue in Coos Bay starting Saturday.

CRAIG BERKMAN KICKS OFF LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM – Well known Oregon political figure Craig Berkman makes a brief appearance at North Bend Public Library on Thursday, June 15, to kick off this year's statewide summer reading program for children. Both North Bend and Coos Bay libraries are taking part in "Ticket to Tomorrow," sponsored by the Craig Berkman family, the Oregon Library Association, the Wells Fargo Foundation and Oregon Public Broadcasting. Coos Bay's program begins June 24th and includes storytimes, independent reading, and special performers and presentations throughout the summer. All programs are free of charge and are locally sponsored by Friends of the Library.

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION – The Oregon Police Academy class # 238 graduated June 9th in Monmouth. Coos Bay Police Officer, Darrell Babb, walked away with three of the five awards presented to academy graduates. Awards presented to Officer Babb include Outstanding Health & Fitness, the Academic Achievement Award, and the prestigious Victor G. Atiyeh Outstanding Student Award. The announcement from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training sums it up best, "A special congratulations to Officer Babb and the Coos Bay Police Department! Way to go!!"

SUMMER FUN BEGINS FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS – The Coos Bay Police Department extends congratulations to the recent graduating classes at Marshfield and North Bend High Schools. The police department also offers thanks to the students in the North Bend and Coos Bay Schools for their cooperation and support during the past school year. We wish you all the best this summer!

POLICE SCHEDULE WORK SESSION – The Coos Bay Police Department schedules monthly work sessions dealing with a variety of topics affecting the police department and the local community. This month's work session includes the Youth Investment Program, Field Training, Security Issues, Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Senior Services, and other topics. The police department is continually seeking ways to better serve our community. Regularly scheduled work sessions help us keep our focus on community needs.

LABOR TRENDS – The U.S. Department of Labor has released an updated list of labor surplus areas as authorized by Executive Orders 12073 and 10582. **Employers in labor surplus areas are eligible for preference in bidding on designated federal contracts.** The purpose in providing preference is to direct the federal government's procurement dollars into areas with significantly higher-than-national rates of unemployment. The latest classification is effective from October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000.

To be designated for the labor surplus classification, an area must be a county or civil jurisdiction of at least 25,000 in population and have an unemployment rate, determined by the Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, of at least 20 percent above the national average (including Puerto Rico) for the previous two calendar years.

In times of low national unemployment a "floor" concept of six percent is used for an area to qualify as labor surplus. The six percent "floor" comes into effect whenever the average unemployment rate for all states during the two-year reference period was five percent or less. For the current classification period during which time the U.S. average unemployment rate for calendar years 1997 and 1998 was 4.8 percent, the "floor" concept is in effect and therefore **any areas above six percent are considered to be labor surplus areas.** The labor surplus area listing and a complete description of the classification criteria, as well as updates to the annual listing, are published in **Area Trends in Employment and Unemployment**, a monthly publication prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. *(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)*