



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 25, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LANCE CPL BRYAN BERTRAND - A memorial service for Lance Cpl Bryan Bertrand will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 27th in the Marshfield Auditorium. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Senator Gordon Smith will read a letter from President Bush.

OPENINGS ON THE CITY BUDGET COMMITTEE - There are three positions open on the Budget Committee. Two positions are for three-year terms and one position is to complete an unfulfilled term which will expire December 31, 2003. Applicants must reside in the City of Coos Bay and are appointed by the City Council. The committee is responsible for reviewing the proposed budget and the meetings are held during the months of April and May in the evening. Applications are available from the city manager's office during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912 and will be accepted through February 11th.

STUDENTS PERFORM LITTER PICK-UP - Student Council Officers from the Millicoma Middle School picked up litter and cleaned the signs along Coos River Highway from the Isthmus Slough bridge to the Catching Slough bridge this Friday. The students are working under the direction of Rex Miller, Al Hendrickson and Mindy Stemmerman. Rex has become a vocal advocate in getting this section cleaned up and looking nice along the Coos River Highway corridor and working with the City on future development in this area. This is a big help to the City of Coos Bay to have volunteers pick up the litter and debris along the City's streets and highways. The City will be supplying bags and signs for the students. **A BIG THANK YOU** to Rex, Al and all the students that participated in this worthwhile event.

HISTORIC RAILWAY SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT - The local Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society received a \$20,000 grant from the Coos Curry Douglas Regional Investment Board recently, and will be using the funds for site improvements. Coming soon will be a new, six or seven-foot wrought iron fence around the entire property. The Society needs the fence in place to protect the engine from vandalism while they work to restore it to working condition. Also provided by the grant will be landscaping and some additional site fill to prepare the site for future stages. The Society is always seeking funding to restore the engine, and their next site funding task will be to find funds to put a cover back over the engine to protect it from our coastal environment. The cover that had been over the engine while it resided in North Bend can not be reused as it no longer meets building codes and was significantly dry rotted after protecting the engine for so many years.

The Society is also planning for its future. They recently hired local consultant, Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning and Development, to help them develop a Master Plan for the site and eventual museum. If you are interested in providing funds for any of the Historic Railway's projects, or are interested in being a member of the Society and helping them fulfill their goals, please contact President John Kruse at 541-269-5627.

OMI MONITORS WATERFRONT OIL - Oil has been reported in Coos Bay around the stormwater outfall at the end of Market Avenue, near Sause Brothers. OMI responded for the city to the call, and is monitoring the situation. It does not appear that significant oil is in the storm water system as there is no build-up of oil in the manhole, and oil has not been detected in the absorbent pads kept in place for the last

week. (Last winter when oil appeared in the Central Ave. outfall there was a significant build up of black goo on the inside of the manhole.) OMI will continue to monitor the situation for the city. If you have any questions, please contact Community Services at 269-8918.

CROSS WALK ETIQUETTE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC MEETING - Ever wonder what the “rules of the road” truly are at a crosswalk? If you stand on the corner should all the cars driving both directions stop for you? If you are driving, what are your rights? These questions and more have come up as the city has worked with a group of citizens from the Empire area that are concerned about the Schoneman/ Newmark intersection. A public meeting, open to all, will be held at 7:00 pm, February 7th at the Sunset Middle School Commons. City of Coos Bay Police will provide information on the laws and what the responsibilities are for vehicles and pedestrians.

A portion of the meeting will also review what actions are being taken by city staff at the corner of Schoneman and Newmark to make the intersection safer. Recently, existing signs have been moved to make them more noticeable, and some additional signage has been ordered. Significant work will be done to the street legends at the corner to try to make the crosswalk more noticeable to drivers. Please plan to attend the meeting at Sunset Middle School if you have questions about what is happening at Schoneman, and if you have questions about other intersections in the city. Contact Community Services at 269-8918 if you have questions.

RECYCLING BUILDING MATERIALS IMPROVES CITY INFRASTRUCTURE - OMI associates and the city Streets crew are working together to improve the retaining wall between Blossom Creek and Pump Station located on 10th Street next to Blossom Gulch School. The retaining wall was built using salvaged wooden beams, old signposts, and concrete rubble. At the Blossom Gulch Sanitary pump station (PS#4), the creek was starting to erode the bank and foundation around the station. The work provides an inexpensive approach to protecting the pump station from erosion. The additional high ground created next to the pump station will be also be appreciated by the Blossom Gulch students this spring when they assist with the annual salmon smolt release at the Mill Slough Box.

QUILT RUN 101 COMES TO COOS BAY - January 25 - February 3, 2002 quilters from all over will be traveling up and down the Oregon Coast for the first Oregon Coast Quilt Run. Quilters who visit each of the 13 participating shops in cities from Cannon Beach to Brookings will have their passports stamped in each participating business. Upon completing the Run, quilters have the opportunity to enter the drawing for prizes such as the \$100 gift certificates from each store (1st prize), \$50 gift certificates from each store (2nd prize), \$25 gift certificates from each store (3rd prize) and Runner up gift baskets from each store. Quilters will have to retrace their tour to pick up their prizes. Each store will also have rules for the Quilt Challenge available. The Challenge is for quilters interested in creating quilts out of fabrics chosen by each of the 13 stores. Grande prize is a Brother Nouvelle 1500 Sewing machine valued at \$1199.

Two businesses in the Coos Bay area are represented in the Quilt Run. Threads that Bind, 120 Central, 541-267-0749 is owned by Sharan Thompson. Dyeing Art Studio, 990 Newport Avenue, 541-266-0612 is owned by Linda Mason. Other businesses on the south coast involved in the Quilt Run include Jodi's Quilts & Fabrics (Florence), Forget-Me-Knots (Bandon), Quilters Corner (Port Orford) and Country Keepsakes (Brookings).

Local business owners have been working to be sure the quilters streaming through town will remember Coos Bay. Early on they involved the Coos Bay Downtown Association and the Coos Bay-North Bend Promotions and Convention Bureau to be sure the community can leverage the 1000 quilters that are expected over the two-week period. A master quilt show has been set in the empty space in the old Hub Building, across

Central Avenue from Threads that Bind. Wood carvings from the local Wood Carvers association members, tourism displays and information about other downtown businesses will also be available in order to entice quilters and their families to tarry awhile before moving on to their next stop on the Quilt Run and to help them plan their return to the area.

Threads that Bind, Dyeing Art Studio, and the quilt show will be open each day of the Quilt Run, January 25 - February 3, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you have additional questions, please contact Linda Mason at 541-266-0612.

POLICE K9 REX SUCCESSFULLY UNDERGOES SURGERY - Coos Bay Police Department's only patrol K9 Rex was injured while on duty in late 2001. Rex underwent successful surgery January 25th at a veterinary clinic that specializes in animal surgery in Beaverton, Oregon.

Rex had a bone spur removed from his elbow during arthroscopic surgery and will remain at the clinic overnight to make certain he recovers fully from the anesthesia. After Rex returns to his Coos Bay home, where he lives with his handler Officer Scoville and family, he will be required to rest and heal for one month before being re-evaluated to see if he can return to duty as a patrol K9. Dr. McCarthy, the veterinary surgeon at the clinic, was very upbeat and positive about Rex's return to work. Dr. McCarthy said that both the elbow and shoulder look the best of any similar injuries that he has treated in German Shepherds. After the month of recuperation the return to work will be slow and may require a few weeks to months to regain his strength and stamina.

The citizens of Oregon have responded to a request for support in ways that have softened the hearts of many officers at Coos Bay Police. Sergeant Hedgepeth has spoken to well wishers from throughout Oregon and received cards and letters from almost every city along the Oregon coast and cities as far east as Burns, north into the Beaverton, Tigard, and Portland. Salem, Eugene, and Springfield have also contacted the department. Locally, the citizens have been stopping by the department to inquire about Rex and drop off a few dollars to help defray the cost of the surgery and recovery. The Bay Area Jaycees are holding a fund raiser for the Coos Bay Police Department K9 teams on **Sunday, January 27th** at the Holy Redeemer Church in North Bend. A spaghetti dinner and raffles are being offered to help get Rex back on all four feet. A Coos Bay pet rooming business has put a donation bowl on its counter and drops off donations daily.

On behalf of Rex, Officer Scoville, and all of Rex's extended family the Coos Bay Police thanks its many supporters.

OREGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS COORDINATING COUNCIL - OTCC Council seeks input from Oregonians on telecommunications. How fast is your connection to the digital age? Or do you even have one? Members of a new state task force would like to hear from the public about how best to expand and improve broadband, digital communication services throughout Oregon. Citizens with access to the Internet are invited by the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council to complete a brief online survey about the accessibility, quality and affordability of high-speed data transfer services in their communities. The survey form can be found at: www.ortcc.org/survey.html

The call for public input is one of the first official acts taken by the Coordinating Council, a 15-member panel created by the 2001 Legislature and Governor Kitzhaber to recommend ways to provide broadband telecommunications services to underserved and unserved areas of the state. Council members include representatives of local governments, regional telecommunications groups and telecommunications companies.

"Every community in Oregon deserves the same opportunity to succeed in the emerging, digital economy. We are asking Oregonians to help us identify the gaps in telecommunication services that are hindering our state's ability to create jobs and sustain our quality of life," said John Irwin, chair of the council.

The council also welcomes input from citizens without access to the Internet. Comments and suggestions can be sent to the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council care of Milo Mecham at the Lane Council of Governments, 99 East Broadway, Suite 400, Eugene, Ore. 97401-3111.

The council has scheduled its next meeting for 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 28, in Salem. The council plans to announce an exact meeting location next month. For more information contact Milo Mecham (541) 682-4023 Lane Council of Governments