



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 1, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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SOUTH COAST DIXIELAND CLAMBAKE JAZZ FESTIVAL - The 14th annual South Coast Dixieland Clambake Jazz Festival is scheduled for March 8th - 10th. This year's festival is featuring 17 great bands from Oregon, Washington, California, and Nevada. The music features Traditional Dixieland Jazz along with Big Band, Swing, and a little Cajun and Zydeco. The music begins at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and continues through Sunday until 8:30 p.m. The four festival sites are The Red Lion, Old City Hall, The Mill Casino, and the North Bend Community Center. Daily or all event badges are available at any of the sites.

This year's festival has new features. On Thursday March 7th at 7:00 p.m. a pre-festival event will be held at the new Southwestern Performing Arts Center. "To Bessie With Love", an award winning production written and performed as an historical tribute to jazz/blues singer Bessie Smith, known as the "Empress of the Blues". This features San Francisco's dazzling vocalist Pat Yankee and Her Gentlemen of Jazz, with writer, director, and narrator Frank E. Rielly, with guest artist "Fast Eddie" Tickets are available at the door.

The second new feature is a Youth Venue at the Celebration Center in North Bend. Admission is free to all at this site starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. This site will feature several high school and youth bands from Florence, North Bend, Coos Bay, Coquille, Myrtle Point, and Bandon. In addition, Oregon Coast Lab Band and the New Traditionalists, a youth band from Sacramento, will also be featured at this site as well as other jazz venues during the weekend. Further information is available by calling 888-0100 or 396-5373.

FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW HIRES - The Fire Department welcomes two new firefighters to the department this week. After a testing process which included a written exam, physical abilities test, extensive background check and a medical exam Kevin Cunningham and Kevin Haagen will join the department on March 1st. Both Cunningham and Haagen are local residents and have been active with other fire departments in the county. Welcome aboard!

BATTALION CHIEF ANDERSON APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE - Battalion Chief Mark Anderson has been appointed to a state-wide committee that has been established by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to review firefighter certifications in the State of Oregon. Twenty-four fire service leaders from throughout the state gathered in Monmouth this week to review the current status of firefighter training and certifications in the state. The goal of the committee is to evaluate Oregon fire training standards and to make recommendations on how to correlate those standards with National standards. It is expected that this process will take approximately six months.

SOFTBALL FIELD READY FOR USE - The City Parks crew worked with School District 9 maintenance personnel to prepare the Mingus Park softball field for the upcoming high school girls softball season. Each year when the field was groomed before a game a hump develops between the infield and the grass in the outfield creating a hazard to the players. This year, the school district removed the hump and did some work on the infield to make it a better and safer place to play. A big thanks to the school district maintenance

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personnel for doing the work. It is nice to partner with other agencies to do work and minimize the impact to one agency. THANKS again to all involved.

CITY TRAINS PERSONNEL - City Streets staff have been cross-training on pieces of equipment for many years. Cross-training insures availability of trained staff for any situation and staffing level. This year additional staff are being trained on the use of the road grader. Training took place on Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board roads around the water shed. This location provided a safe environment to learn, free from traffic and other obstacles that are associated with grading in the roadway AND lowered the cost of road maintenance for the Water Board. A great partnership for all!

CHECK OUT THE NEW BANNERS - New banners will be appearing in the next few weeks around town. Music festival banners will remain up until after the South Coast Dixieland and Clambake Jazz Festival which is scheduled for March 8th -10th throughout various Coos Bay and North Bend locations. The following week, the music banners will come down and new spring banners will be installed. Throughout the year, the City will have various banners on the period lighting poles along Newmark in the Empire area, and along Bayshore and Broadway in downtown. There are five different banners that will go up over the year. Keep your eyes open for the new banners, they make a major impact to the traveling public.

MAYOR AND CITY STAFF PARTICIPATE IN READ ACROSS AMERICA - Mayor Benetti, City Manager Bill Grile, Police Chief Knight, and Fire Chief Stan Gibson participated this week in the Read Across America Program at Marshfield High School and elementary schools in Coos Bay.

METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION PROJECT - Officer Gary McCullough and Chief Knight attended the community coalition meeting this week in which project coordinator, Larry Frerkes outlined the project goals to community members. Chief Knight is a member of the task force and along with Officer McCullough represented the Police Department at the meeting. The department is in full support of the project aimed at dealing with the methamphetamine problem on the south coast.

NORTH COOS 9-1-1 ANNUAL REPORT - An annual report for the 9-1-1 Communications Agency located at Coos Bay City Hall was recently published by Communications Supervisor, Tia Akers. The report reflects a total of 33,815 computer entries at the communications center, including 12,621 9-1-1 calls, 1,403 calls for Coos Bay Fire Department, and 4,888 cases referred to the Coos Bay Police Department for investigation.

DR. SEUSS IS A HIT AT THE LIBRARY - Approximately 300 children turned out for "Dr. Seuss Night at the Library" Thursday and had a great time. Theodor Geisel, American author and illustrator known to millions of children over the past six decades as Dr. Seuss, wrote the popular Cat in the Hat, How the Grinch Stole Christmas and hundreds of other stories. Favorite Dr. Seuss stories were read Thursday night by Marshfield High School students who are members of the National Honor Society, wearing the familiar tall, striped hat. There were drawings throughout the evening for free books donated by the Coos County Literacy Council and the Coos Bay Education Association (CBEA). Children and their parents were treated to cookies and punch donated by the CBEA. The children went home with activity sheets to complete later.