



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 5, 1999

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**SENATOR RON WYDEN TOWN HALL** – Senator Ron Wyden has scheduled a town hall meeting in Coos Bay on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Coos Bay City Hall, 500 Central Avenue from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to meet with the Senator and share their concerns and ideas.

**CITY COUNCIL HOSTS ECONOMIC FORUM #2 LAST FRIDAY** – Mayor Verger and the Coos Bay City Council held the second in a series of public forums in which a number of professionals working to promote economic development here joined State Senator Veral Tarno and Representatives Mike Lehman and Ken Messerle in offering advice and perspectives about what can be done to improve the joblessness in Coos Bay and surrounding areas. The invited panelists included Martin Callery (Chamber Economic Development Committee), Allan Rumbaugh (Oregon Int'l. Port of Coos Bay), Chris Claffin (Oregon Economic Development Dept.), Tim Bishop (Friends of New and Sustainable Industry), Loran Wiese (Coos County Economic Development Dept.), Beve Saukko (Coos Bay-North Bend Tourism and Promotions Committee) and Dr. Roy Feitz (Southwestern Oregon Community College Business Development Center).

Speaking candidly about the effects of term limits, Representative Lehman remarked: "Doing things for the South Coast is a very difficult job when you're essentially irrelevant." Translation (if needed): Lamed ducks lose political clout! We appreciate the commitment and dedication that all three of our local legislators are demonstrating as the session progresses.

It was very clear that a lot of hard work is being done to create jobs here, but the question Mayor Verger and City Councilors are wrestling with is whether existing efforts can be improved, and what niche the City of Coos Bay can identify for itself in any increased effort to create jobs in the Bay Area. Next, Mayor Verger and City Councilors will decide about perhaps a third and likely final forum, along with ways to seek public input before they make any decisions in behalf of the citizens of Coos Bay. Stay tuned.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS: TERRY WOODWARD!** – Congratulations and a special "thanks" to another of our great employees: Terry Woodward. Join us in celebrating with Terry his twentieth anniversary with the City of Coos Bay! Terry keeps our vehicles and heavy equipment running at maximum efficiency and is always on the lookout for ways to make our operation work better. His "can-do" problem-solving approach to issues is an inspiration to many. Thanks Terry! Celebrate!

**CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH COOS BAY FIREFIGHTERS PROGRESSES** – Negotiations between the City of Coos Bay and the Coos Bay Fire Fighters Association made progress this week. "All I can say is that I hope to be able to publicly announce following the February 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting that a settlement has been reached with our paid fire fighters," said City Manager Bill Grile this week. "I appreciate the movement that has been demonstrated on their part," he added. CBFFA is the last of Coos Bay's three bargaining units to conclude bargaining over contract extensions.

**STUDENTS PRODUCE THEATER!** – Thanks to Teresa Martindale, we've learned of another great community event worthy of your support. AYA (Alternative Youth Activities) and YPP (Young Parent Program) in cooperation with the On Broadway Theater and funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission, are putting together a pilot project. In this project, students from AYA and YPP in Coos Bay, Coquille and Reedsport are working on a theatrical production. In this endeavor the students are the actors, set designers,

constructor, program design and layout people, ad salesmen, poster designers, etc. These students along with teachers and key theater staff have put in many hours and will put up their first show of HOME AT SIX this weekend. HOME AT SIX is a comedy in one act by Lee Falk. (PG-13) The second half of the show will be musical variety.

Teresa reports that last night's dressed rehearsal went very well, and that she has seen the students discovering their talents and really grow as people. Grades and attendance are improving in their regular school work, as well. "It is very exciting to be a part of something that is sure to catch on nation-wide," she said. Show times and dates are Feb. 5th at 8 p.m. and February 6th at 2 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 general, and \$4.00 seniors and students. On Broadway Theater is located at 226 S. Broadway, across from the Egyptian Theater in downtown Coos Bay.

**ODOT ACCOUNTABILITY CONCERNS OREGON LEGISLATURE** – Ongoing concerns by the Oregon Legislature about the Oregon Dept. of Transportation were described in a report received last Friday from the League of Oregon Cities: "The Accountability and Efficiency of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was the subject of two public hearings before the House Transportation Committee last week. HB 2478 is sponsored by Rep. Jane Lokan (R-Milwaukie) and has several other members as co-sponsors including House Speaker Lynn Snodgrass (R-Boring), House Transportation Committee Chair Bob Montgomery (R-Cascade Locks) and Ways and Means Chair Leslie Lewis (R-Newberg).

"The bill requires ODOT to report to the legislature quarterly on the progress of state projects in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), and also requires more detailed budget reporting. The legislature is barred from earmarking funds for specific projects according to one of the measures provisions. Local government projects are excluded from the bill's provisions.

"Rep. Lokan filed the bill to ensure that legislators receive the information that they need in a form that they can use to set priorities for ODOT. Speaker Snodgrass has stated that the issue of accountability had to be addressed before a transportation funding bill can come to the floor of the House.

"Among those testifying in support of the bill were Newberg Mayor Charles Cox and Dundee City Manager George Lewis. Supporters of the measure include the Associated Oregon Industries segments of the Oregon Trucking Industry, the Associated General Contractors as well as the League and the Association of Oregon Counties. "The League has participated in a work group with legislators, ODOT and several other interested parties to refine the bill and it expected that an amended version will back before the Committee on Monday."

**SPEAKING OF THE LOKAN BILL** – Yesterday the Chamber's Transportation Committee met and, among other things, expressed concern about Representative Lokan's transportation bill, fearing that an unintended effect of the legislation would be to subject future regional ODOT transportation projects to review and scrutiny by the Legislature, should the bill be approved. Speaking for the Committee, member John Whitty remarked: "Our area would do fine as long as we have rural areas controlling the legislature, but that may not always be the case!" Amen.

**BAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORUM** – The Chamber's Forum for February will feature The State of Our Cities addresses from guest speakers Coos Bay Mayor Joanne Verger and North Bend Mayor Lee Golder. The forum will be held at the Red Lion Inn on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by contacting the Chamber of Commerce at 269-0215.

**COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY** – Company's Coming! The annual Governor's Conference on Tourism will be held in Coos Bay April 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. It is estimated that between 350 to 500 people from throughout Oregon will come to the conference. The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce has been working to improve the appearance of our area through its Community Enhancement Committee. As you look around you can see many locations look better than they used to.

Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> has been designated Coos County's "Company's Coming" Clean-Up Day. This

project will target properties along our “visitor corridors” – primarily Highways 101 and 42 and Cape Arago Highway. Everyone is encouraged to join in this effort to mark our communities attractive to our visitors, not only to those coming to the Governor’s Conference on Tourism, but also those who come year-round to enjoy the vacation, recreational and cultural opportunities we have in our area. There are several ways you can be a part of the clean-up effort.

- Take a good look at your business or other property to see if it could use a little sprucing up – New paint? Trash pick-up? Landscaping? Let the Chamber know how many people you want to help you with your project.
- Talk to members of service clubs or other organization you belong to, or your employees and co-workers, about joining us on March 6<sup>th</sup> as a group to help tidy up the Bay Area.
- Report to one of the three Bay Area visitors centers – Coos Bay, North Bend or Charleston – at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and we’ll assign you to specific tasks that will not only make the Bay Area look better, but will make you feel great!
- Contribute funds toward offsetting our committee’s costs of collecting and disposing of litter, brush cuttings and other trash.

If you would like more information about this countywide effort, please call the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce at 269-0215. If you live and work in Myrtle Point, Coquille, Lakeside, Bandon, etc. call your local Chamber of Commerce to learn what they have planned for March 6<sup>th</sup>. Information courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce.

***Bay Area Pride ... Clean it up! Paint it up! Show it off!***

**H.M. BARK ENDEAVOUR TO VISIT COOS BAY!** – The tall ship H.M. Bark Endeavour, a replica of Lt. James Cook’s 18<sup>th</sup> century sailing vessel, will be arriving at the Coos Bay Boardwalk for ten days of tours at City Dock this summer. Mark your calendars and don’t miss this one! July 9<sup>th</sup> through July 19<sup>th</sup>. Endeavour is three times the size of the tall ship Lady Washington, which has become a favorite visitor at City Dock. We’ll have lots more to tell you about Endeavour before this summer, but for now, why not pay a virtual visit to this beautiful ship? See <http://www.barkendeavour.com.au/>

As part of the ship’s educational outreach program, the Endeavour Foundation is providing half-fare educational grants for four young adults (ages 18 and up) to sail with the Endeavour crew from Eureka, CA to Coos Bay. Any young adult interested should call 541-269-8921.

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN** – At Tuesday evening’s City Council meeting Fire Chief Stan Gibson presented the City’s Emergency Operations plan. This plan has been under development with Chief Gibson, City Manager Bill Grile and City Attorney Randall Tosh. Members of the City Council and the Mayor approved the plan feeling that it will serve the City well. Coos County Emergency Management Director Lisa Wampole also praised the plan saying that the county plans to use it as a model for other cities for developing their own emergency plans. Chief Gibson commented the plan forms partnerships with other response agencies in the area. Training for city departments and other agencies will begin soon. Chief Gibson will be sending letters to other partners in the plan who will play a roll in setting up an emergency preparedness forum. Mayor Verger noted the concern about the vulnerability of city hall in the event of an earthquake. That’s a valid concern! The city manager and Coos Bay Police Chief Chick Knight will be approaching other governmental partners to see if a more secure site can be found for a Bay Ara 911 emergency operations center.

**COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TEAM** – State agency department representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Economic Development Department and a special representative from the Governor’s office sat down with Mayor Joanne Verger and City staff to discuss Front Street development on Thursday, February 4. The

Community Solutions Team concept is intended to bring state agencies together to achieve a coordinated approach to addressing local development issues. This meeting was productive, with substantive progress made with issues of concern to the Departments of Environmental Quality and Transportation. Unresolved issues remain to be addressed with the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The cooperative approach envisioned for the Community Solutions Team is beginning to work for the City of Coos Bay. Some agencies have shown a passion to help the City accomplish its Front Street redevelopment plan. “This is about improving our economy,” stressed Mayor Joanne Verger at the meeting. We are encouraged and will keep you informed as further progress is achieved.

**EASTSIDE BOAT RAMP** – The City Council, at their Tuesday, February 2 meeting, approved bids submitted to pave the parking lot and construct restrooms at the Eastside Boat Ramp. Area lighting and curbs around the parking lot will be a part of these projects. Funding for these “Phase II” projects is a combination of funds from the Oregon State Marine Board, the Department of Fish And Wildlife and the City of Coos Bay.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** – The Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee meets monthly to discuss local area issues with staff from the Department of Transportation. With the legislature in session, these discussions will focus more directly on legislative initiatives that could affect Coos County and the Bay Area. In addition, the Department of Transportation is in the final stages of approval for the State Transportation Improvement Program (2000-2003) (STIP), which describes highway improvement/maintenance projects to be undertaken over the next four years. STIP can be viewed at [www.odot.state.or.us/tdb/planning/stip](http://www.odot.state.or.us/tdb/planning/stip) – then selecting the “SEARCH THE \*\*\* STIP” option.

There will be a public hearing on the State Transportation Improvement Program at the North Bend Library in mid-March.

**COUNCIL APPROVES REVISED PARKING REGULATIONS** – The City Council approved amended parking regulations for a sixty-day trial period at the February 2, 1999 council meeting. The City Council in approving the parking committee recommendations took a big step in making downtown parking even more user friendly for downtown merchants, employees, customers, and tourists visiting our area. Highlights of the revised parking regulations include the following. Employee permit fees are being reduced to six dollars and fifty cents per month (\$6.50) effective March 1, 1999 which will allow permit holders to park in any of the three hour parking lots. The existing parking lots will be converted to three hour time limits for free customer parking with the exception of the spaces specifically reserved for thirty minute parking adjacent to the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce offices.

During the sixty-day trial period city staff will closely monitor the regulations and will make a report and recommendations to the City Council at the end of the trial period. Monitoring will consist of random tracking of the parking lot usage by individuals with parking permits, other vehicles, and empty spaces in each of the lots. To facilitate the changes, the Community Services Department has been busy changing the signage for the various parking lots in the downtown area. City staff within the City Manager’s Office, Community Services Department, Finance Department, and the Police Department are committed to working as a team to monitor the downtown parking regulations to make Coos Bay a friendly place to work, shop, and visit.

**MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL REPORT** – Attention all senior citizens! Marshfield Student Council will be hosting a Senior Citizen Dance on Saturday, February 13th. The dance will be held at the Coos Bay Convention Center from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a live band, door prizes and a cake walk. Admission is free!

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> all semester report cards will be mailed home. Students prepare for your punishment or congratulations (depending on what Mom and Dad think of your grades).

Congratulations to Doug Jadin, the January Boy of the Month. Doug has participated in football,

## **The Friday Update – February 5, 1999**

### **Page 5**

wrestling and track during his four years at Marshfield High School. He is currently a cadet teacher at Sunset Middle School.

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> Marshfield's Girls League will be hosting a Valentine Semi-Formal Dance. The theme for the dance is "Moonlight Sail". The dance will be held in the Marshfield Cafeteria from 8-11 p.m. Cost will be: \$4 for singles and \$7 per couple when purchased in advance February 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, at the door each person will be charged \$5. This year's Valentine Princesses are: Senior - Carli McCord, Junior - Skia Parsons, Sophomore - Natasha Bledsoe and Freshman - Joy Agner.

Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be no school due to Presidents Day. All students enjoy the day off!