



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

February 26, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY PROGRAM AIRS THIS MONTH – Providing an additional way for citizens to keep up with what is happening in their community, the City is sponsoring a monthly program entitled “Focus”. Mayor Verger and City Councilors will host the program from Marshfield High School. Jim Baird’s communications class will manage the production of the program, gaining valuable on-the-job training in television production. The first program was taped this week and is currently airing on the government access channel. Guest speakers were Capt. Dan Scherer and Chief Warrant Officer Terry Smock is discuss the events surrounding the New Carissa incident.

DIXIELAND CLAMBAKE JAZZ FESTIVAL – The Southcoast Dixieland Clambake Jazz Festival returns to the Bay Area March 12th, 13th, and 14th. There will be four sites for music listening and dancing beginning on Friday at 4 p.m. and continuing until 10 p.m. Sunday. Free shuttle service will be provided and a free Gospel Service will be held at Marshfield High School on Sunday. Bands featured during the festival are the New Reformation Jazz Band from Saginaw, Michigan, Golden Gate Rhythm Machine from San Francisco, California, Uptown Lowdown from Seattle, Washington., Strumptown Jazz Band from Portland, Oregon, Sidewalk Stompers from Pasco, Washington., Bo Grumpus with Pete Clute and Carl Lundsford, from Oakland – San Francisco, California, and Rise & Shine from Lynnwood, Washington.

Local Bands feature the Coos Bay Clambake, The Jazz Beaux, The It’s About Time big band, North Bend and Marshfield High School Bands, and The Oregon Coast Lab Band. Join us for the coronation of the King and Queen of the festival on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Red Lion.

All Event or Daily badges can be purchased in advance by calling the Jazz Festival Hot Line at 888-0100 or at The Mill Casino General Store. Visit our web site at <http://presys.com/~schweitz>

CITY OF COOS BAY READIES FOR THE MILLENNIUM – It has been said, “...a Y2k-Ready community will be operating and interacting normally into the Year 2000 and beyond, both privately and publicly.” The City of Coos Bay is committed to Y2K Readiness by addressing the issue directly.

A Y2k Task Force of ten plus members has been assigned to assess and establish our technical requirements and directions into the year 2000. A four-phase process of Awareness, Assessment, Remediation and Validation is being followed to secure a smooth transition of day-to-day operations for the City. The Task Force has moved into the assessment phase with each internal department inventorying and documenting their current computer and electronic equipment, software, and operational applications. This information will be used to establish budget dollars, mission critical arenas and a contingency plan for the City. The Awareness and Assessment phases are considered to be ongoing; however, the Task Force has set up deadlines to implement Remediation and Validation during the 1999 budget cycle. Each of the City’s internal departments will maintain a Y2k Readiness notebook within their operational work area. The City of Coos Bay will compile a master document from these departmental notebooks.

The City of Coos Bay has no control over the year 2000 problem, but is positioning itself to address the effects of the problem with a significant amount of resources and knowledge.

OREGON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPT. HELPS WITH CITY GRANT APPLICATION –

The Oregon Economic Development Dept. is providing invaluable assistance to the City of Coos Bay by taking the lead in putting together a \$200,000 grant application, seeking funding assistance from the federal Environmental Protection Agency for a project that would assess environmental clean-up issues on Front Street and outline any necessary remediation actions. Last week City, OEDD and Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff met with Front Street property owners to discuss the grant and its potential benefit to them. Although initially skeptical, their ultimate response was very favorable, and a letter of endorsement is being prepared for their signature. This week OEDD's Steven Santos traveled to Coos Bay for an evening meeting with environmental and other community groups to discuss the project. Although the meeting was well-advertised, the only persons attending were Santos, Bill Grile and Karen Turner from City staff, DEQ's Mike McCann and City Councilor Kevin Stufflebean. March 22nd is the deadline for submission of the application, with awards announced in May. Stay tuned.

By the way, OEDD's involvement here is a direct result of the great work that OEDD regional development officer Chris Claflin is doing for the City, acting in his capacity as coordinator of the regional Community Solutions Team. We really appreciate this tremendous and unprecedented support.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMN. RESUMES WORK ON SOUTH COAST TRANSMISSION LINE NEEDED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

– Earlier this month BPA announced that it has resumed work on the power line needed to support NUCOR's Coos Bay project. Here's a February 3rd BPA press release making that announcement:

Portland, Ore. - The Bonneville Power Administration announced today it will resume environmental studies on a proposed high-voltage transmission line to the southern Oregon coast. "The environmental studies are critical to the proposed project that would reinforce BPA's transmission system in the southern Oregon coast, making it possible for Nucor to build a steel mill there," said BPA Administrator Judi Johansen. "Nucor has agreed to pay for these studies whether they build the plant or abandon their plans. If for some reason BPA is unable to build the power line, the agency will shoulder an equitable share of the costs of the environmental studies. Johansen met earlier today with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) who supports the project. During the meeting, Johansen and Wyden spoke with Nucor's Chief Executive Officer John Correnti and hammered out the agreement. If Nucor decides it will not build a steel mill in North Bend, Ore., the steel company will reimburse BPA for 100 percent of the costs incurred from this time forward. BPA would pay for the additional costs of the Environmental Impact Statement if BPA decided not to complete the transmission line project .

"This is good news for the south coast. It is an important step forward in the long march to secure high-skilled, high-waged jobs for Coos County, a community with one of the highest unemployment rates in the state," said Senator Wyden. Johansen emphasized that this is not a decision to build the proposed transmission line. BPA is examining four alternatives, including not building a line. "Nucor's willingness to accept its share of the risk for the cost of the environmental studies will help us determine if it is at all feasible. I am pleased with Nucor's openness and John Correnti's accessibility." The Bonneville Power Administration, a federal agency under the Department of Energy, is committed to providing reliable transmission service to electric utilities in the southern Oregon coast. Growth will eventually require some additional transmission capacity. Even greater capacity is required more immediately if Nucor decides to build a new steel mill.

For additional information about this project, contact: Crystal Ball, BPA, 503-230-5133.

COUNTY PARKS RESERVATIONS BEING ACCEPTED – Coos County Parks and Recreation are taking shelter reservations for 1999 group picnics and special events. Reservations can be made by telephone or by stopping by the Parks Department office at 1309 West Central in Coquille. Staff members are on duty from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for reservations and information. Requests may also be made by mail to: Coos County Parks and Recreation, Coos County Courthouse, Coquille, OR, 97423; or by e-mail to: coospark@icceinternet.com.

U.S.S. DOLPHIN SCHEDULES COOS BAY VISIT – Coos Bay-North Bend Tourism Promotions Director Beve Saukko reports good news! The USS Dolphin, a navy submarine, will arrive here on September 11th and depart on September 13th. Tours will be given on Sunday, September 12th. Dolphin is a research sub. It is 165 feet in length and gross tonnage is 961. There will be 48 crewmen aboard. This will be a fine experience for the Bay Area. We'll keep you posted as details evolve.

“PEACE TEAM” HOLDS IT’S FOURTH MEETING THIS WEEK – Dubbed “The Peace Team” by some, this week the City’s new union-management committee held its fourth meeting in the Police Dept. conference room over lunch. Topics discussed included Y2K, streets maintenance, Fourth and Anderson, insurance, 9-1-1 dispatching and the FY 1999-2000 budget. The committee will be meeting again on March 25th when the main topic of discussion will be the city manager’s recommended budget.

OREGON CITIES IDENTIFY INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS – According to the February 19th League of Oregon Cities Legislative Bulletin ...

“On Wednesday, League of Oregon Cities representatives appeared before the House Subcommittee on Trade and Economic Development at the invitation of Chair Jerry Krummel, former Mayor of Wilsonville. Representative Krummel asked for a presentation on city infrastructure needs in relation to HB 2153, which authorizes the sale of lottery bonds to pay for various infrastructure programs.

Oregon Economic Development Department lead off the hearing with a description of an inventory of local infrastructure needs. Working with the League to develop the inventory, the Department found an outstanding need of nearly \$2 billion over the next four years in primarily water and wastewater needs across the state. Since the Department’s focus is on rural and distressed communities, the need is anticipated to be even greater when urban communities are taken into account.

The League presentation was lead by the Local Government Coalition Co-Chair, former League Board of Directors member and Albany City Manager, Steve Bryant. Steve provided convincing testimony on the League’s survey which showed a four-year need for \$1.5 billion of water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure in Oregon’s cities. Steve also walked the Subcommittee through the issues surrounding where the need comes from including federal mandates, growth, and economic development. Steve also gave the Subcommittee a real look at how communities are stepping up to the plate to pay their share of these costs through rates, systems development charges and sound fiscal planning. Although local efforts can pay for a share, for our smallest communities in particular, state assistance is needed to ensure these expensive projects can be completed.

The Subcommittee also heard testimony from Steve Wilson, Mayor of Sisters, about what it takes for small communities to pay for the infrastructure they are mandated to have. Sisters currently has no central wastewater treatment system. As a result, the city’s groundwater source is in jeopardy due to the number of failing septic systems in the community. Furthermore, the community has been unable to attract industry due to a lack of a wastewater system. A new system would cost \$12.2 million. The community (population 805) recently passed a bond measure in the amount of \$7 million which would raise current rates by 200%, however, the city still needs \$5.2 million to build the system. Philomath City Manager, Randy Kugler, also gave the Subcommittee a glance at a community that has engaged in sound planning to meet their stormwater needs by exhausting local efforts through the establishment of a stormwater rate, city general fund revenues, and urban renewal funding. However, the city is still short about \$800,000 in financing for its project which does not currently meet the priorities of state or federal funds.

Subcommittee members were clearly moved by the presentation. Representative Bob Montgomery (R-Cascade Locks) said, “You’ve got my vote, but what we have to do is educate the rest of my colleagues in this building that we’ve got to have this funding.” The Subcommittee members complimented the city presenters for the quality of their presentations. Subcommittee members include Representatives: Jerry Krummel (R-Wilsonville), Jim Hill (R-Hillsboro), Bob Montgomery (R-Cascade Locks), Ryan Deckert (DBeaverton), and Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland).”

LEGISLATURE MOVES FORWARD WITH GAS TAX INCREASE – According to the February 19th League of Oregon Cities Legislative Bulletin ...

“By a vote of 54 to 5, the House passed and sent to the Senate HB 2478, the ODOT accountability and efficiency bill. The bill requires ODOT to report to the legislature quarterly, on the progress of state projects in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) as well as mandates 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

House passage of HB 2748 is an important milestone on the road to a transportation funding bill. House Speaker Lynn Snodgrass (R-Boring) has stated that the issue of accountability had to be addressed before a transportation funding bill came to the floor of the House. Several members echoed the Speaker’s sentiment stating in their floor speeches that the legislature needed to pass this bill to move onto the important issue of fixing Oregon’s roads.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Jane Lokan (R-Milwaukie) stated during the debate that, “This is not an ODOT bashing bill, it’s a win for ODOT in establishing credibility. It’s a win for legislators because we can vote with more confidence, and citizens will have more confidence in us as legislators.” Rep. Lokan spent the interim working with local governments, ODOT and the business community to develop the bill so that it provides useful information to legislators and doesn’t unduly burden the agency.

The bill’s opponents cited the fact that ODOT has made major strides in efficiency over the past several years and that the reporting requirements are cumbersome and costly. The five representative that voted against HB 2478 are: Chris Beck (R-Portland); Jo Ann Bowman (D-Portland); Barbara Ross (D-Corvallis); Jackie Taylor (D-Astoria) and Judy Uherbelau (D-Ashland).

The bill will likely be referred to the Senate Transportation Committee, where Chair Senator Marilyn Shannon (R- Brooks) has a keen interest in ODOT accountability.”

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY – Company’s Coming! Plan to help clean up our community on Saturday, March 6th in preparation for the Governor’s Conference on Tourism April 11th through 13th.

The 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 make 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. 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 6th. Information courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce.

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

LOCAL CONTRACTORS MEETING – Almost 80 local area contractors attended last Tuesday’s session on construction code and permitting issues. The session was held at the North Bend Library and featured presentations by state Building Codes Division managers and inspectors. A “Question and Answer” period followed the presentations. The session went beyond its scheduled two hour time period, with local contractors raising numerous issues of concern. Building Codes personnel from the state’s Coquille office, the City of North Bend and the City of Coos Bay were also at the session. Attendance at this session was very high, definitely exceeding expectations. That attendance level is a good indicator that such sessions are valued by the contracting community; some local contractors who were unable to attend have said they hope another such session can be put together. Community Services Department workers are looking at that possibility. Last Tuesday’s session was more successful than anticipated, but there’s definitely room for improvement – City staff will be asking local area contractors **how** those improvements should be made.

MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL NEWS – Congratulations to Josh Witty, Josh Snoddy and Justin Traver, the February Boys of the Month. This trio was selected by nominations from the Marshfield staff. Josh Witty

is involved in many extracurricular activities. He is the President of Key Club, a member of OSSOM (Oregon Student Safety On the Move) and Secretary for the National Honor Society. Josh Snoddy has been a four year member of the Marshfield baseball team and is currently a member of the National Honor Society. He takes many challenging courses such as, calculus and college prep English. Justin Traver has been a four year member of the Marshfield football, basketball and track teams. He was recently named the Register Guard Athlete of the Week for basketball.

Congratulations to Sarah Robertson and Naomi Boatright, the February Girls of the Month. Sarah is an active member of Marshfield Drama and community theatre. Sarah is currently starring in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at the On Broadway theatre. Sarah is the President of National Honor Society and has been a member of the girls soccer team for the past 4 years. Naomi is an active member of the Marshfield band. This year Naomi was elected to the position of Drum major. This year Naomi is currently the Associated Student Body Treasurer.

Friday, March 5th, there will be no school due to a professional in-service day. The Mr. MHS candidates have begun carrying around their money jars. This money goes to the Sacred Heart Neo-Natal Unit. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The Vice Principal of Marshfield Paul Swank, his wife Robin Swank and senior Sarah Robertson are all starring in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof". This play is being presented at the On Broadway theatre, from now until March 12th. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office in down town Coos Bay, near Walt's Western World. "Twelve Multi-Colored Frozen Christian Rubber Chickens" – sounds kind of funny – this is the title of a new band made up of Marshfield students. Members include: Anthony Munoz, vocal - Don Harvey - guitar, and back up vocal Eric Perry, baritone saxophone - Tim Eilen, alto saxophone - Jake Pewit, trumpet - Scott Besser, drums - Jenny Robeson, bass guitar. This group made their first debut at Young Life. They call their music Ska-Core, a retroed style of pop/punk/swing. The band has been invited to play at the Tom Fest which is a huge four day concert. Currently the group is raising money for recording and in order to attend the Tom Fest. Members are carrying around change jars in attempt to raise \$200. Donate some extra change to what could be the next, Rolling Stones.