



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

June 25, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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NEW CARISSA EXHIBIT AND INFORMATION CENTER

OPENING JUNE 20TH IN COOS BAY – The New Carissa Exhibit and Information Center opened in Coos Bay on June 20th. A mobile unit housing the display has been placed in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot across from the Coos Bay Boardwalk. Banners and signs are in place and the facility may be accessed from highway 101 south and 101north.

The exhibit features displays, pictures, maps, and memorabilia set up to showcase the saga of the New Carissa after she ran aground in early February. There is no charge for visiting the exhibit and visitors can pick up directions to other Carissa sites. The exhibit is being staffed by the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, members of the Coos Bay City Council, and others. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except on Wednesdays when it will be closed and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit will be open through September 20, 1999. Additional information may be obtained by calling Beve Saukko at 541-269-8921.

NEW COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM PLANNED FOR DOWNTOWN COOS BAY!

– With more appreciation than we can possibly express to an anonymous donor, a new Coos County Historical Museum will be built on or adjacent to the site where the Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Information Center resides at the foot of Central, next to the Coos Bay Boardwalk! A donor is gifting \$1 million to the Coos County Historical Society to make this dream come true. The Society and City will be working together closely to secure grants to leverage the gift and produce an even greater project. After being approached by the Society for a site, and after looking at several alternatives, the Chamber of Commerce site was universally accepted as the best of all. A 20,000+ square-foot, two-story building is planned. The Society's theme is "Tidewater Highways." This makes a site adjacent to City Dock and the Boardwalk especially fitting. The next step is for the Society to select an architect to propose a design for the structure, and to suggest to the city a precise "footprint" for construction of the structure. Coos Bay urban renewal funds will be used to establish a new tourist information center to replace the existing structure, which has been outgrown and is inadequate. The new center may be established in conjunction with the new museum, or perhaps on another site. Opportunities for public input will be provided as the project moves along.

COOS BAY AWARDED FRONT STREET GRANT

– As previously announced earlier this week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$200,000 "Brownfields" grant to the City of Coos Bay to assist with ongoing efforts to redevelop Old Marshfield's historic waterfront and implement the Front Street Master Plan. "Brownfields" are areas where known industrial activity has left pollutants in the earth that must be "remediated" before development can be allowed. Coos Bay joins 56 other communities across the country selected for funding under EPA's \$11 million program. The grant funds will be used to evaluate the nature and extent of the pollutants identified in the Front Street area, then to plan how best to remove these hazards. Publicly funded site assessments will hopefully relieve landowner apprehension about potential liability under federal Brownfields law, and subsequent clean-ups should be more manageable thanks to the project. The funds can not be used to do actual cleanup work. With guidance from Community Services Director Bill Finney, Engineering Administrator Karen Turner will administer the grant, which will be overseen by the Oregon Economic Development Department in coordination with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Stay tuned for more details.

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CONGRATULATIONS NANCY PRICE! – Congratulations to Library staffer Nancy Price for reaching her fifteen year milestone with the City of Coos Bay. She joined the city on June 11, 1984. Congratulations!

A VIRTUAL VISIT TO THE NEW CARISSA EXHIBIT – Thanks to BLM's Alan Hoffmeister, you can now take a "virtual visit" to the New Carissa Exhibit, which is on display in the temporary trailer parked in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot downtown Coos Bay. Alan prepared a WEB site presentation of the incident's significant events. Visitors to the exhibit can view the site on a PC set up in the trailer. You can view the site by visiting <http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/infocenter/blm-page.htm>.

And by the way, folks wanting to learn more about BLM's Coos Bay District should visit <http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/>. There's a ton of great information there. Thanks Alan!

CITY MANAGERS MEET AND CONFER – Following last weeks joint meeting of the Coos Bay and North Bend City Councils, this week Coos Bay city manager Bill Grile and North Bend acting administrator Aaron Geisler met at NB City Hall to discuss issues of mutual concern to both cities. Key issues discussed included public access TV and ambulance services.

CITY STAFF AND TRUCKERS TO MEET IN THE MORNING – A Saturday morning meeting between local truckers and City staff will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The public is invited to attend as well. Earlier this week Community Services Dept. staff sent out a mailing to known trucking companies outlining the thoughts that came together at a meeting with truckers on June 3rd. City staff appreciates recognition by the truckers that there are some legitimate public concerns and issues that merit attention, and believes that these can be addressed satisfactorily without a comprehensive ordinance for citywide truck parking restrictions. It is anticipated that a final set of recommendations concerning the matter will be forwarded to the Coos Bay City Council for consideration on August 3rd.

CITY OF COOS BAY COMMENDED FOR Y2K PREPAREDNESS – This week the City received a letter from its public liability insurance carrier, City County Insurance Services, acknowledging Coos Bay for the "commendable" job it has done in preparing for Y2K contingencies. "Y2K," "The Millennium Bug," and related names are given to the concern that some computers will not recognize the date: January 1, 2000. The city of Coos Bay is prepared! A plan is in place and is available for inspection by those interested. Later this year city staffers will hold a town hall meeting to explain the plan to interested citizens and hopefully allay any fears about how Y2K may affect the delivery of our municipal services. Stay tuned.

POLICE CHIEF NAMED "DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS" – Southwestern Oregon Community College named Chief Chuck Knight as this years distinguished alumnus for his outstanding contributions to the College. Chief Knight was honored at the graduation ceremony on June 12th where he delivered a commencement address to the graduates. Congratulations Chief Knight!

POLICE OFFICERS COMMENDED FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE – Chief Knight recently recognized Police Officers Robert Lounsbury, Gary McCullough, and Andy Osborn for putting the service in "to protect and to serve" into practice. Thanks to these officers a Coos Bay man was located which allowed him to witness the birth of his daughter at Bay Area Hospital, and a handicapped Eugene man was aided when he became stranded on the highway by Officer Lounsbury who was off duty and returning from court in Coquille. The police department, and the residents of Coos Bay are fortunate to have police officers who are committed to quality service to the community.

WELCOME AMERICAN LEGION – Mayor Joanne Verger and Police Chief Chuck Knight joined dignitaries from North Bend in welcoming the American Legion delegates to their 81st Annual convention which is being held this week in the Bay Area. The City of Coos Bay extends a warm welcome to the Bay Area to the American Legion, we hope you enjoy your time with us and come back to visit again soon.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION – The Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters will be assisting in the American Legion Convention on Friday evening by

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cooking up the steaks and chicken for their Friday night banquet. Volunteers will cook for the event which will be held at the American Legion Hall in North Bend.

OVFA CONFERENCE – Volunteer and career firefighters are heading over to Ontario, Oregon this weekend for the annual Oregon Volunteer Firefighter's Conference. This annual conference provides departments with valuable training and well as a chance for state fire departments to get together.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN MINGUS – The July 4th family celebration will be held in Mingus Park on Saturday, July 3rd. Please note the date of the celebration is **Saturday, July 3rd**.

The event begins with a Kids Run at 9:30 a.m. and the Mayor's Firecracker run at 10 a.m. The South Coast Runners Club organizes the run; for more information and registration call Pete Dawson at 267-6329. The celebration begins at 11 a.m. with the presentation of the flag and pledge of allegiance by the Boy Scouts, followed by welcoming remarks from Mayor Verger and presentation of the Mayor's Essay Contest winners. The Coos Bay Fire Department will provide the children's fishing derby, various activities for children will be around the lake, free popcorn, cotton candy and flags for all, a variety of food booths will be located along the 10th Street entrance to the park, and entertainment on the stage from 11:15 until 5 p.m. Music will feature Tumbleweed, Little Ole Opry, Mike Stewart and Opic 295, and the Frank Turner Jazz Quintet. The City's fireworks will be on Sunday, July 4th over the bay, and will be arranged by the Fire Department. The Mill Casino will have their fireworks on Saturday, July 3rd. There will be fun and entertainment for the whole family – come on out and have a great time!

HM ENDEAVOUR TO VISIT COOS BAY JULY 9, 1999 – The HM Endeavour is a replica of Captain James Cook's 18th century ship of discovery. The vessel will visit Coos Bay from July 9th to July 19th as part of its west coast visit to the United States. The Endeavour is a museum-quality reconstruction of the ship in which Captain Cook explored the south Pacific as part of a scientific expedition. In addition to taking astronomical sightings and collecting samples of flora and fauna, the crew was charged by England with finding a new site for a penal colony to incarcerate American revolutionaries and other criminals their choice was Botnay Bay in Western Australia. The Endeavour's explorations were major feats of seamanship, navigation, and geography.

The ship will be open to tours daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 10 - 18. Additional information may be obtained by calling 541-269-8921. Teachers, educators, and youth groups are welcome to book tours during Endeavour's visit. Any person who would like to volunteer or help sponsor the visit may also call the Coos Bay / North Bend Promotions and Convention Bureau at 541-269-8921.

MARITIME ART EXHIBIT – The 6th annual maritime art exhibit will be held at the Coos Art Museum July 9th through September 11th. A juried exhibition of maritime art created by members of the prestigious American Society of Marine Artists (ASTHMA) featuring the work of this year's guest artist, Louis Stephen Gadal from Los Angeles. Mr. Gadal is a two-time winner ('92 & '96) of the Maritime Art Award for the "Arts for the Park" and also Region I Silver Medal winner for that same prestigious competition

A special commemorative exhibit of the wreck of the New Carissa will be part of the exhibit. Opening Reception will be held July 9th from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The public is invited to the reception to meet some of the participating artists and cast their vote for the "People's Choice Award". A gourmet dinner will follow the reception at the Red Lion Inn featuring awards, a presentation by the guest artist, Louis Stephen Gadal, and lots of great good. The cost is \$40 per person and reservations may be made by calling the Coos Art Museum at 267-3901. Reservations must be made by the end of Wednesday, July 7th.

Major funding for the maritime art exhibit is provided by Security Bank. Additional support received from Sause Brothers Ocean Towing.

LABOR TRENDS - WAGE GAUGE – Listed below are the year to date totals for job orders placed with the State Employment Department field offices located in North Bend, Gold Beach, and Brookings through May 30, 1999:

<u>Number of jobs</u>	<u>Low Wage</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>High wage <35hr/wk</u>
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Bay Area	2,488	\$6.50	\$8.12	\$27.67	1,147
Gold Beach	529	\$6.50	\$8.21	\$30.00	293
Brookings	697	\$6.50	\$8.52	\$30.76	260
Florence	470	\$6.50	\$7.31	\$26.12	287

NOTE: This information refers to the number of request to fill a position received from employers. These wages are not a guaranteed indicator of the applicant's starting wage, only the advertised wage. However, it does give us a useful starting point for calculating area wages. (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)

FRONT STREET – The Urban Renewal Agency's South Front Street Improvement Project was completed nearly nine months ago. Recent monitoring of the project has revealed overwhelming satisfaction by the adjacent business owners. The new drainage system performed well during the wet winter months and with the passage of time, more residents are becoming aware of this alternate route to south town businesses. Although traffic patterns at this location will continue to be monitored, usage does not warrant further expansion of the project at this time.

EASTSIDE BOAT RAMP – The Eastside Boat Ramp Project is now complete. The final inspection of the facility was completed this week and everything is go. If you have not had a chance to look at the area, drive by and take a look. The total project cost for both phases was over a half million dollars. The Oregon State Marine Board and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife funded most of the project's cost; \$23,000 came from the City and \$15,000 from the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay. The Port was also instrumental in donating the land for the facility.

MANUFACTURED HOME CODE INFORMATION ON THE WEB – The BCD manufactured home installation Web page is up and running. Want to see if an installer is licensed? Don't have your copy of the Oregon Manufactured Dwelling Standard handy? Want to see how to register for an inspector or installer training course? Want to know the inspection requirements for an alternate-construction home? Check it out at: www.cbs.state.or.us/bcd/sws/saahome.htm

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – A recent report released by Services for Children and Families, Department of Human Resources shows that in the State of Oregon Child Abuse rates per 1000 children rose 4.6 percent from 1997 to 1998. In Coos County our victim rate per 1000 children went from 19.8 in 1997 to 24.2 in 1998, a 22 percent increase. The state victim rate of children is 12.3 per thousand. In Coos County that rate is 24.2 per thousand.

There are other issues related to young children that need attention in Coos County. Many of you attended the Violence Prevention Training in April where nationally recognized researcher Robin Karr-Morse spoke to about the relationship between a child's earliest experiences and their action in later life. This is not theory about somewhere else, but about us, right here in Coos County. Things happening today and every day to our very young children will ultimately affect your classroom, your police department, your agency, your neighborhood and our community.

In order to continue the dialogue on these issues the Commission on Children and Families has obtained the services of Kathy Ingram, Ph.D. to do a study of Early Childhood in Coos County. In the last month she has been interviewing local community leaders and reviewing best practices and research surrounding early childhood issues. On July 8th Dr. Ingram will present her findings at a community meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Education District, 1350 Teakwood, Coos bay. It is our hope that after listening to and learning from her report, we can better understand and hopefully address, the needs of our youngest children. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend the meeting to hear first hand our county strengths and our county needs.

LIBRARY CLOSURE CONTINUES AS CONSTRUCTION MOVES AHEAD – The library remains

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closed as staff members finish their move into permanent office space and construction continues. Remodeling of the north half of the existing building is nearly complete. The shelving contractor will arrive on Monday to begin moving into the newly remodeled area the large book stacks that have contained the adult collection. Staff is moving thousands of books off those shelves right now onto the floor or onto the few tables that were not already covered with books. The moving process will take approximately two weeks and then remodeling can commence on the remaining part of the building. The library is scheduled to open on Monday, July 12th. The Grand Opening for the expanded building is scheduled for Friday, August 20th at 4:00 p.m. in the new meeting room.