



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

July 16, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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NORTH BEND - COOS BAY SOFTBALL GAME IS TOMORROW ... AT A NEW LOCATION! –

Tomorrow's annual intercity softball game will be held at Bangor Elementary at 4:00 p.m. and NOT at Ferry Road Park as for previous years. We learned of the change just yesterday afternoon, so heads up here – and let's PLAY BALL! To the victor goes the traveling trophy – a beautiful golden glove – and bragging rights. Last year Coos Bay eked out a narrow 9-7 victory, and holds a 6 win to 3 loss edge over North Bend since the annual games began in 1990.

“We're loaded with players and we're strong,” said Coos Bay team captain Randy Miles. After reviewing the CB roster, city manager Bill Grile was overheard saying, “It's a good thing that I can claim a bum knee to keep me off the field. I wouldn't have even made the cut!” So it's 4:00 p.m. tomorrow at Bangor Elementary.

TALL SHIP ENDEAVOUR VISITS ARE STILL POSSIBLE! – Don't let an overcast sky scare you away from this once in a lifetime opportunity if you have not yet gotten your family down to visit the replica of Captain James Cooke's sailing ship, H.M. Endeavour. It's not just a big, beautiful tall ship. It's a floating museum! Daily guided tours are available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., but time is waning. She sails Monday! Learn more about Endeavour and take a virtual tour by visiting <http://www.barkendeavour.com.au/>.

By the way, Tourism-Promotions Director Beve Saukko – who deserves a huge pat on the back for arranging Endeavour's visit – reports that six to seven hundred people a day have been visiting the ship, with downtown businesses reporting back about the fruits of increased activity downtown. On that point, Coos Bay Downtown Association President Jim Berg commented earlier this week that Endeavour has really been a boost to local business. “The place has really come alive!” he said. “We can hope the new historical museum downtown will generate similar results,” said city manager Bill Grile

CITY COUNCIL HOLDS JOINT MEETING WITH DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION – This week the Coos Bay City Council met informally with the Coos Bay Downtown Association board of directors to discuss issues of mutual concern. It was an excellent meeting that seemed to produce general agreement in at least two key areas.

First, the CBDA will be working hard over the next few weeks to better organize itself so that it can return to the Council with a punch list of suggestions and requests, speaking as “a unified voice for downtown.” Second, the Association will give direct attention to answering Mayor Joanne Verger's central question: “How can the City be a better partner to help downtown businesses be successful?” Mayor Verger invited the Association to return with a list of ways that the City could assist them in accomplishing specific, short-term goals. She asked for a written report from the Association so the Council can consider its recommendations after they are formulated.

Perhaps most importantly, the meeting seemed to provide clear agreement that the City and Association are motivated to accomplish the same goals, and that both wish success for downtown and the community.

The agenda covered items addressing the new historic museum in downtown Coos Bay, discussion about the location of the new Tourist Information Center that will be needed once the Chamber building is displaced, downtown parking and other items. Clearly, the City Council hopes the Association's recommendations will detail a specific plan for any core area parking changes it would like to see implemented. Association members openly acknowledged that key parking spaces needed for downtown

shoppers are being occupied by employees. At the same time, Councilors said they hoped any plan developed would prioritize parking convenience for customers but would be open to consider any recommendation presented to them this fall. Support for a two-season parking scheme seems to be growing. Stay tuned.

HOORAY FOR THE GAS LINE SUPPORT! – A special thanks is in order to State Representative Ken Messerle, FONSI, port manager Allan Rumbaugh, Mayor Verger and everyone who have worked so hard in public and behind the scenes leading up to this week's signing by Governor Kitzhaber of the legislation that will provide \$20 million to Coos County for the new gas pipeline from Interstate 5. The money will depend on Coos County voters authorizing matching funds through favorable passage of a ballot measure this fall. There will be lots of dialogue about this before then of course! For now, three cheers for the opportunity to decide!

REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY – Fire Chief Stan Gibson attended a visionary planning session at Southwestern College this week to provide input for this first step in developing a regional public safety training facility at the college. The training facility will serve law enforcement, emergency medical and fire service personnel throughout the south coast. The creation of the facility will enable agencies to accomplish more cost efficient and effective training.

FIRE SEASON IS IN EFFECT – Warm summer days have brought with them the start of fire season in Coos County. Although burning permits are not required within the city limits of Coos Bay burning regulations are always in effect. If you have not received a copy of the regulations or just need a reminder please call the Coos Bay Fire Department at 269-1191.

POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE MOTORCYCLE OFFICER TRAINING – Coos Bay Police Officers Rob Scoville and Gary McCullough recently received Motor Officer training courtesy of Springfield Police Department. Officer Scoville is now a "certified" Motor Officer Trainer. Our thanks to Springfield Police Department for providing the training, and congratulations to Officers Scoville and McCullough for a job well.

CHIEF'S PARTICIPATE IN VISIONING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING AND EDUCATION – Police Chief Chuck Knight, and Fire Chief Stan Gibson joined other professionals from Police, Fire, EMS, and private sector community at a visioning meeting for Southwestern Oregon Community College to determine long range training, facility, and resource needs. Southwestern hosted the meeting which was facilitated by Mike Gaudette of Southwestern. Both Chief's are excited about the prospects for enhanced training opportunities at the local level for police and fire professionals.

LIBRARY CLOSURE EXTENDED – After much discussion, the decision has been made to extend the Coos Bay Public Library closure until building construction is completed and the facility can be opened to the public with full service and accessible conditions. Actual opening date will be announced when it is known, but the library will open, at the latest, by August 20 when Grand Opening festivities are scheduled. Opening the library just briefly would actually be a disservice to the public under current conditions. This will give library staff the opportunity to become trained in new equipment so that staff can later guide the public in its use, and to organize book collections. Inconvenience now will mean a fully functioning as well as beautiful library in August. Meanwhile, children are invited to attend special summer programs at the library even though it may be closed. The new children's department will be made available after these programs so children may check out books, although other portions of the library will not be accessible. Also, Coos Bay patrons may go to the North Bend library and request Coos Bay books for pick-up at North Bend.

LIBRARY COMPUTER SYSTEM INSTALLATION IS ON TARGET – As various construction

activities continue at the library, installation of the new computer network is underway and is right on schedule. To clarify earlier announcements, all of the vendors supplying computer equipment to the library have done so on time. The project is very complex and involves coordination of four contractors for the installation as well as individualized installation of each workstation based on its function. All is going well and takes time to complete. The extended closure of the library will make efficient installation possible.

LABOR TRENDS – Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 5.1 percent in May from 5.3 in April. At the same time, the U.S. jobless rate dropped to 4.2 percent in May from 4.3 in April. The U.S. jobless rate is at its lowest level since 1970, while Oregon's unemployment rate is the lowest it has been since 1995. On the South Coast, Curry County's unemployment rate dropped to 5.9 in May from 7.6 in April. Counties, like Curry, with smaller total labor force (8,080) tend to have larger percentage changes from month to month since actual employment changes have greater overall impact. As was the case with the state, this is the lowest rate since 1995. Coos County's May unemployment rate was seven percent, down from 8.2 in April. Coos County tends to have higher unemployment than other coastal counties. However, May's rate is good news; this is the lowest monthly figure in several years. Last year in May, unemployment in Coos County was 9.4 percent.

FOURTH OF JULY CLEAN-UP – A big thank you goes out to our Boardwalk caretaker Leo Langlais for clean-up of the Boardwalk on July 5th after the fireworks. Leo was down there bright and early picking up the expended fireworks left by the people watching the fireworks. After he had finished he ended up with four large garbage bags full of debris. Thanks again Leo for your dedication to the Boardwalk and the City of Coos Bay.

NORTH EIGHTH STREET WORK – A big thank you to Brad Carlson for coordinating the work along Eighth Street. Community Services received a complaint about a broken curb, Brad looked at the situation and felt that the sidewalk needed work. He was able to work with the property to have them pay for sidewalk and City to correct the curb problems. Good job Brad!

MINGUS PARK LIGHTING – Community Services has looking for grants to place lighting on the west side of the lake and on up the hill to 14th Street. Parks Commission several years ago approved the first phase of the lighting along the east side of the lake. Currently there are no grants available to help with the lighting. The City has been placing about \$7,000 a year for the last three years in a Bike/Pedestrian fund and will be able to light the west side of the lake soon. A request for quotes will be going out in the near future. Staff will continue to pursue grants through State Parks and Bike/Pedestrian Section of the Oregon Department of Transportation.

OCDBG - SWOYA PHASE 4 – The City of Coos Bay has received notification from the Oregon Economic Development Department that the SWOYA Phase 4 plans and specifications have been approved. Through a Oregon Community Development Block Grant, the City of Coos Bay has received a \$600,000 grant to assist SWOYA in completion of Phase 4 of the Boys and Girls Club. The architect, McSwain and Woods, is in the process of preparing to go to bid on this project very soon.

PLANNING COMMISSION – The City of Coos Bay Planning Commission recently approved the Site Plan & Architectural Review for the new building at Marshfield High School which will be located about 150 feet west of the East Branch. After the new building is completed the East Branch will be torn down. Construction is scheduled to begin Sept. 1999 and completed Sept. 2000.

The Commission is also reviewing draft provisions for riparian vegetation setbacks on fish-bearing streams in the City. Review was continued to August 10th.

OMEGA FIRE SPRINKLER RECALL REMINDER - Building and homeowners with sprinklers are urged to find out if they have Omegas by calling (800) 896-5685 to request a notice packet that contains information on how to identify an Omega. To request replacement sprinklers and to receive reimbursement, customers must submit proof of claims and waiver and release forms (both found in the notice packet) no later than August 1, 1999.