



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

October 29, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420

(541) 269-8912

See us at <http://www.coosbay.org>

Email the city manager at bgrile@ucinet.com

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB BUILDING PROJECT – Tuesday evening the City Council will be asked to execute a \$1,071,928 construction contract with Don Thompson Construction in order to move ahead with the long-awaited interior finishing of the Boys and Girls Club facility in Coos Bay. With available funding limited to \$1,150,000, project alternates totaling \$390,072 had to be cut from the planned project. Funding to support the project is from three main sources:

\$600,000	City of CB Community Development Block Grant
\$300,000	SWOYA cash donations
\$250,000	Grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust

Mayor Verger commented earlier this week that assisting the Boys and Girls Club as the City continues to do is a worthy priority since paying attention to the needs of youth in our community is a paramount concern. Amen!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE KICKS OFF IN CYBER-SPEED STYLE – Last Monday the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's brand new technology committee gathered for the first time and spent an hour brain-storming about how best to accomplish its two-pronged assignment: (i) plan and organize a symposium on technology to help local businesses and the community learn to embrace computer-age innovations to the area's advantage, and (ii) then prepare a short punch-list of recommendations for the Chamber and community to consider that will advance growth in this area.

"We don't want Coos Bay to become a digital dust bowl," said committee chair Bill Grile. Others participating in Monday's meeting included Deborah Wright, Lynda Hatfield, Jon Richards and John Berman from Southwestern, Angie Van Burger from Pacificorp, Andrea Knudsen from The World, Ty Button from Cardinal Employment Services, Dan Morin from NB High School, Tim Enright from CB Public Schools, Cathy Pennington and Heath Edwards from Ucinet, and Romelle Renner from the Oregon Employment Division. Southwestern President Dr. Steve Kridelbaugh is very interested in the committee's charge, but was unable to attend. Others expected to join the committee at its next meeting on November 1st include Pixie Toliver from South Coast Business Employment Corporation, Teri Pointer from South Coast ESD and local business leader Gary Rifkin.

Monday's meeting left participants enthused about the potential to really help the community improve its market position and competitiveness by putting on a one or multiple day symposium that will kick off an education program about technology and how to harness it for business and personal advantages. The committee will be meeting again on November 1st with a focused agenda designed to rapidly advance its objective.

OREGON FAMILY INCOMES TOP THE CHART – Oregon's median family income is topping the growth charts among states...according to the US Census. (www.census.gov also reported in 101799 Register Guard). For a family of four, the 1994 median income of \$44,432 climbed 22% by 1997) to \$54,226. Oregon's 22 % increase is the largest among all states, but not the highest median family income. That distinction goes to New Jersey at \$67,335. However, this information doesn't express the relative cost of

living. This could mean states like Arkansas (income up 6%) or Wyoming (up 1%), could still offer a family a higher standard of living (more buying power).

Using the Salary Calculator from <http://homefair.com/calc>, the Oregon Employment Division's Romelle Renner compared the Roseburg, Oregon income of \$54,226 to Muncie, Indiana (the middle of all median family incomes, at \$53,581). Cost of Living adjustments account for a \$7,000 difference, with Muncie coming out ahead. "But, would you live in Muncie?," asks Renner. Compared to Little Rock, Arkansas, Roseburg's cost of living is at par. Compared to Cheyenne or Laramie, Wyoming, Roseburg families require an additional \$500-3,000 to cover cost of living differences. And for those who want to live in New Jersey? Well, the Roseburg family moving to Middletown would need \$11,000 more income to live at an equivalent standard of living, from \$54,226 to \$66,160. [NOTE: This article courtesy of Romelle Renner, Oregon Employment Division.]

MORE WORKSHOPS PLANNED ON HOW TO USE THE INTERNET, "SO IT DOESN'T USE YOU!" – Two workshops are planned to assist employers in using the Internet more effectively. The first is on Friday, November 12th from 9-11am at the Newmark Center in Coos Bay (registration is open) with the second on Wednesday, November 17th in Reedsport at the High School computer lab from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (contact Delaine Humphreys 541-271-9502 at the Family Resource Center to register).

Websites are offering more data, more information, and there's more of them. The data available can be overwhelming. As the technology advances, our skill at locating and using these powerful websites require frequent review. Join this interactive trip into the awesome depths of some of the best sites on the Internet. Each participant will be operate a PC for their use during the session. You'll come away learning:

- How to choose the best search engine
- When to use subscription-based databases
- How to narrow the search and find the needle in the haystack
- When to use other resources (like people)
- What databases can provide and what they can't
- What to look for in a quality site

There will be time to look over your favorite sites, and participants will add their most effective (and perhaps least effective) sites. The presenter, Romelle Renner, is a Workforce Analyst for the State Employment Department. Renner serves employers from Florence to Brookings and has a special interest in increasing our effective use of the Internet along the South Coast. Renner is available to employers as a resource at their workplace.

Contact her in Florence at 541-902-0604 or through email Romelle.P.Renner@state.or.us. [NOTE: This article courtesy of Romelle Renner, Oregon Employment Division.]

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING ... THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING! – The Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club and the Bay Area Rotary Club invite you to meet a delegation of Russian entrepreneurs who are visiting Oregon's Bay Area as part of the Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP), run by the Center for Citizen initiatives. PEP brings Russian business leaders to the United States to study with their American industry counterparts. The recipients of the training will then return to Russia to pass on the knowledge they have gained, creating a multiplier effect.

The program is premised on the experience of the Marshall Plan, which rebuilt Europe after World War 11, and demonstrated to the world that a change in surroundings can change thinking. "Until you take the Russian entrepreneurs out of their native environment, they can't see all of the possibilities", says Sharon Tennison, President of the Center for Citizen Initiatives.

During their visit eleven non-English speaking managers of Russian wood processing facilities will learn about all aspects of the American wood processing industry in a training program organized by the Southwestern Business Development Center. These Russian managers will also meet with local businesses related to the process of wood and the marketing of wood products. If you are interested in learning more,

or if you have Russian language competency, you may call the Coos Bay/North Bend Promotions and Convention Bureau at 541-269-8921. *[Article courtesy of Beve Saukko, CB-NB Promotions and Convention Bureau.]*

INVITATION TO A RECEPTION FOR THE VISITING RUSSIANS – A public wine and cheese reception for the visiting Russian delegation will be held from 5:30 - 7:00 PM at the Coos Art Museum on Tuesday, November 9th. The event is being sponsored by the Coos Bay-North Bend Rotary Club and the Bay Area Rotary Club, and is open to the public.

RIDE WITH SANTA CONTEST – All Coos Bay Area third graders are invited to enter a contest for an opportunity to ride with Santa in a horse-drawn carriage during the City's downtown tree lighting ceremony. The event will take place on Friday, November 26th at the Convention Center at 158 Central Avenue.

Entry blanks are available at the Coos Bay Public Library and Coos Bay City Hall. To be eligible children must live in School District 9's boundary, be in the third grade, and have your parents' permission. Eight names will be drawn and announced at the November 16th City Council meeting. The city manager's office will notify contestant winners the following day. Santa and students will meet at city hall at 5:45 p.m. on the 26th to begin the ride with Santa down Central Avenue to the convention center. For more information contact the city manager's office during normal business hours at 269-8912. Deadline for entering the contest is Monday, November 15, 1999 at 5 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE COMING – The "Babe Moulton Book Sale" will be held in the library meeting room on November 6 and 7 and will honor long-time library and Friends volunteer Babe Moulton. Babe will celebrate a special birthday in November and will be recognized at a reception on November 30 in the library. The book sale opens on Saturday, November 6 at 10:00 a.m. and proceeds will fund library children's and adult programs, materials and equipment.

PACIFIC EDGE TAPESTRY EXHIBIT – A show of woven tapestries by West Coast and Canadian artists will be the final Coos Art Museum exhibit for 1999. The exhibit will open November 5th with a public reception and runs through January 8, 2000.

Woven in the traditional method of centuries old European tapestries, these contemporary works are mural size or miniature, realistic or abstract. The traveling show comes to Coos Bay from the Mendocino Art Center. New York tapestry artists Archie Brennan and Susan Martin Maffei were jurors of the show.

Brennan started weaving in his native Scotland and was an apprentice at, and later director of, the Dovecot Studios in Edinburgh. In the 50 years he has been a tapestry weaver, he has lived, woven and taught in Australia, New Guinea, Hawaii and now, Manhattan. Maffei received tapestry training at Les Gobelins in Paris, and was an apprentice at the Scheuer Tapestry Studio in New York.

SOUTH COAST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO BE PRESENTED – Last Spring a series of economic forums were held in Coos Bay to gather together ideas for encouraging job growth on the South Coast. One offshoot of these forums was formation of a "Livability Committee" to 1) explore what other regions had done to stimulate economic development, 2) pick and choose from the best of those, and 3) draft a proposal for an organization to help foster a healthy economic environment on the South Coast.

A proposal for a South Coast Development Council has been completed and the Livability Committee would like to present it to those who participated in the economic forums and to other interested citizens. The presentation will be made on November 4, 1999 at 7 p.m. at Eden Hall at SWOCC. The committee hopes to see you there – your input at this meeting is the next important step toward implementation of the ideas discussed at the economic forums.

CEMETERY CLEANUP EFFORT – A big thank you goes out this week to the members of the Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association for their efforts in cleaning up the IOOF Cemetery this past weekend. Approximately 90 manhours were volunteered to clear brush & police the cemetery. A job well done!

LABOR TRENDS – Unemployment rate trends were mixed throughout the state in August. Some labor market areas had higher rates, some lower. The unemployment rate for Coos County dipped from 8.0 percent in July to 7.9 in August. To the South, the jobless rate for Curry County rose over the month from 4.7 percent in July to 5.2 in August. There were 92,500 unemployed Oregonians in August, down from 93,000 in July and only slightly more than a year ago. *(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)*

1999 JAMES C. HOWLAND AWARD FOR URBAN ENRICHMENT – The City applied for the James C. Howland Award for Urban Enrichment sponsored by the National League of Cities (NLC) and CH2M Hill Company several months ago. Even though the City did not win in their category, the NLC did state that the Empire Street Scape Project was an excellent example of how communities can enrich the quality of the urban environment through thoughtful, innovative and collaborative planning and implementation of local projects. For this reason the Empire Street Scape Project will be included in a book featuring the 1999 applications. The City will receive a complementary copy when it is published in January.

ODOT PUBLIC MEETING – The Oregon Department of Transportation will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, November 4th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library meeting room. The main topic of discussion will be the effects of HB 2082 - where and how the funds generated from the 5-cent gas tax increase and the car registration fee increase will be spent. Please join others in the community to show your support for projects that could positively affect our community.

PROPOSED COQUILLE TRIBE DEVELOPMENT – Coquille Tribe Cultural Resources Coordinator Don Ivy and Consultant John Mitchell, Mitchell Nelson Group, Inc., met with City staff on October 15th to discuss the development of a golf course, which would be open to the public, RV park and residential area on tribal land south of the Empire district. It is proposed that the golf course and RV park will be accessed off of Cape Arago Highway at Wisconsin Avenue.