



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 3, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MAYOR VERGER SPEAKS AT NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE – Mayor Joanne Verger’s work load hasn’t slowed any since last month when she completed her year as President of the League of Oregon Cities. She’ll continue to serve on the League Board for another year in the capacity of Past-President, which gives the South Coast still another year of “voice” representing local interests down here. This week Mayor Verger traveled to Los Angeles to attend the annual conference of the National League of Cities where she is on the program agenda to speak on a panel with NLC President Clarence Anthony, who also serves as the Mayor of South Bay, Florida. No local tax dollars have been used for Mayor Verger’s attendance at the conference.

SENATOR GORDON SMITH SPEAKS AT CITY HALL – It was great to have U.S. Senator Gordon Smith visit Coos Bay City Hall Tuesday morning to hold a town hall meeting with local citizens and public officials. About thirty folks attended, with the event covered by The World, KCBY-TV and Dunes radio.

Sen. Smith answered questions on a variety of topics, ranging from the process for confirming federal judges to the relationship between presidential executive orders and the Constitution, to President Clinton's proposal for "paid family leave," to the "marriage penalty tax," to management of renewable resources, management of Salmon, and other matters of interest. Concerning the Salmon issue, the Senator spoke to the importance of the Columbia River dams to the people of the Pacific Northwest and asked: "Why are we ethnically cleansing Salmon?" – speaking to the "hatchery fish" v. "wild fish" issue.

North Bend Mayor Lee Golder spoke to the importance of Federal aid to local government, with the Senator stressing the importance of meaningful assistance as opposed to "lollipop" programs that don't last. Sen. Smith defended the importance of "family values" as he answered a number of the questions presented to him. "The real war on drugs begins in your own medicine cabinet," he said. "Democracy belongs to those who care enough to get involved," he concluded. Amen to this!

CAPTAIN WASHBURN BEGINS “DAY ONE” AS ACTING CHIEF – Newly appointed CBPD Captain Eura Washburn jumped in with both feet this week, assuming her new responsibilities as Captain AND serving as Acting Chief at the same time while Chief Knight is traveling in Israel. She’s certainly up to the challenge and has had a very busy week that included a first-ever department-wide staff meeting and a meeting with the Blossom Gulch Neighborhood Group. “Chief Knight and I have received a tremendous amount of positive feedback about the Washburn appointment,” said city manager Bill Grile this week. “She is already doing a great job and will compliment the Chief’s management style exceptionally well,” he continued. Again, congratulations to Captain Washburn.

MINGUS PARK POOL BATHHOUSE – As the construction of the new bathhouse nears completion, many future uses and activities are already being planned. The community at-large has shown their support in many ways throughout the process. The City of Coos Bay wishes to thank GTE, specifically, for their recent donation of time and materials in the provision of a needed communications line into the new remodeled building. Their community support in the form of technical expertise is greatly appreciated.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB GROUNDBREAKING SET – The groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 4 of the Boys and Girls Club of Southwestern Oregon will be held on Tuesday, December 7th at 3 p.m. Meet at the tennis court facility for the ceremony.

STUDENTS RAISING FUNDS FOR CHOSHI TRIP – Students planning to make the trip to Choshi, Japan (Coos Bay's sister city since 1983) are selling Christmas wreaths to help fund the trip. The trip is planned for June 15th through 25th. The wreaths are being sold for \$15 and include free delivery to your home or place of business. To place your order call Sue Walberg at 888-4190.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL 1999 – The Sons of the American Revolution Central Coast Chapter have issued a proclamation commemorating the life of George Washington which will be presented at the December 7th City Council meeting. Governments, businesses, communities, schools, and places of worship throughout the nation on December 14th are invited to join in flying the flag of the United States at half-staff from dawn to dusk and tolling bells for the duration of one minute commencing at 12 o'clock noon, central standard time (10 a.m. Pacific standard time). *[Information submitted by James Ives, President of the Sons of the American Revolution Central Coast Chapter]*

WINNER OF DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DECORATING CONTEST ANNOUNCED – The winner of the downtown business holiday decorating contest was announced by Downtown Association President-Elect Ken Larsen at the Tree Lighting Ceremony last Friday evening. Congratulations to Gloria Osten of Wayne's Color Centre for outstanding holiday decorations! Honorable Mention Awards go to Checkerberry's, Kaffe 101, Purkey's Interiors, The Quilt Shop, and The Electric Hospital. Thank you to all the businesses who participated in decorating for the holidays – you look wonderful!

TREE LIGHTING EVENT KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON – The Tree Lighting Ceremony last Friday was a wonderful success. Children enjoyed decorating cookies, taking carriage rides, Christmas Bear door prizes, and visiting with Santa. Music was provided by the Bay Area Concert Band and The Lab Band, refreshments provided by the Downtown Association, and two beautiful Christmas trees were donated by Dr. John Flanagan. The success of the event was possible due to the help of many volunteers, including RSVP and Explorer Troop #511 and donations from area businesses. Thank you to everyone who helped with the event and to all who attended.

POPULATION ESTIMATE OUT – The Population Research Center at Portland State University recently released population statistics. The preliminary estimate for July 1, 1999 is 15,630; the certified population figure for July 1, 1998 was 15,615; and certified census figure for April 1, 1990 was 15,076.

The census will again be done in the year 2000. Census information is vital to all communities in that it determines the apportionment of seats in the United States House of Representatives and the Oregon State Legislature, and is the basis for the allocation of billions of dollars of Federal, State, and County funds for social and other programs. All citizens are urged to complete a census questionnaire in a timely fashion and return it to the Census Bureau.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH CENSUS BUREAU – The U.S. Census Bureau has employment opportunities available as census takers and office clerks for Census 2000. Job qualifications include working approximately 25 to 40 hours per week, some evening and week work possible, vehicle required for some positions, bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply, and applicants must take a 30 minute written test. Pay is \$7.50 to \$9.75 per hour. To schedule an appointment for testing please contact Eugene Local Census Office at (541) 465-6585, ext. 120.

OREGON COAST MUSIC ASSOCIATION PRESENT HANDEL'S MESSIAH – The Oregon Coast Music Association and the Music Department of Southwestern Oregon Community College invite you to a

gala performance of Handel's Messiah, Sunday, December 12, at 2 o'clock at Little Theatre on the Bay. The Southwestern Oregon Messiah Choir and Chamber Orchestra, directed by Dr. Christian Rosman, will perform the Christmas portion of this great baroque oratorio in a Sunday matinee hosted by Little Theatre on the Bay. Tickets for the performance are \$6, and are now available at Farr's True Value Hardware in Coos Bay and in Coquille. Tickets will also be available at the door Sunday December 12, from 1:15 p.m. Farr's is the sponsor for this special holiday event. For additional information, call the OCMA office at 267-0938. OCMA and the Messiah Choir and Orchestra invite you and your family to enjoy this cherished holiday tradition, Sunday December 12 at 2 o'clock at Little Theatre on the Bay, 2100 Sherman Avenue in North Bend.

LABOR TRENDS – South Coast workforce development professionals joined several business leaders to present their awarding-winning program 'Relevancy in Education' to over 80 participants at the 16th annual Work Now & in the Future conference, at the Portland Convention Center on Monday November 8, 1999. "We had people turned away at the door, the room was overflowing," said session organizer Romelle Renner of the Employment Department. The conference draws over 1500 workforce and education professionals from all over the west.

The Relevancy in Education program brings teachers knowledge of the business environment and provides opportunities for them to partner with business in a 2-day conference, a workplace application project, and a summer internship with local employers. The program has received strong support along the south coast, and is well received throughout the state. The leadership for the Relevancy in Education program comes from Bill Lansing, President of Menasha Corporation's Forest Products Group, Timber & Land Division, who led Monday's session. Also presenting at the conference were Tom Bennett, Internship Coordinator for Southwestern Oregon Community College (and a 20 year human resources veteran), and Dan Smith, longtime Clinical and Support Services Vice President for the Bay Area Hospital and a member of SWOCC board of directors.

Businesses and organizations seeking more information on the Relevancy in Education program may contact Laurie Mazzotta, the Regional School-to Work Coordinator for the South Coast Education Service District, by phone 541-269-4535 or email LaurieM@mail.scesd.k12.or.us

[Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department]