



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 28, 2000

CITY OF COOS BAY

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BAY AREA TELECOM WEEK WAS BIG SUCCESS – Judging by the feedback we've heard and the quality of the speakers featured in this week's four events, Bay Area Telecom Week was a big success. Thanks to Deborah Wright, Jon Richards, Lori Capps and Cheryl Scott at Southwestern, Andrea Knudsen and Greg Stevens at the World, Kathi Joy at the Chamber, and city manager Bill Grile for organizing the week's events. Thanks also to Southwestern President Steve Kridelbaugh and Chamber President Johanna Dillard for moderating the Tuesday morning local officials breakfast. We learned lots of things by attending the several sessions but if there was one consistent theme that transcended all, it was this: We'd better take charge of our telecommunications future or be left in the digital dust by other communities that have! Tune in to Coos Bay's government access television Channel 14 to see the Tuesday morning session and last night's outstanding panel of speakers. A Channel 14 TV Guide is now published on Coos Bay's WEB site: <http://holodeck.ucinet.com/coosbayjb/index.htm>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S CHAMBER AWARD RECIPIENTS – As announced at last Saturday evening's annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet, here's a list of those honored for their special accomplishments and contributions:

- 1999 PREFONTAINE ATHLETIC AWARD: Travis Burgher, for his outstanding athletic performance at Marshfield High School
- SPECIAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD: Tricia Schreck, for her outstanding contributions to the cause of promoting local tourism
- CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Marti Giles, for her efforts organizing The Governor's Conference on Tourism
- BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry, recognized as a role-model local business
- CITIZENS OF THE YEAR: Doug Fletcher & Tim Bishop, for FONSI and their effort to bring the gas line project to Coos County.

Congratulations to all these truly outstanding local citizens, and to outgoing Chamber President Allan Rumbaugh for his leadership and contributions throughout the year. Best wishes to incoming Chamber President Johanna Dillard as her year begins.

A BOAT IN A BOTTLE? – No kidding. It's true! And so are reports that Coos Bay's proposal made national news last Friday as folks around the country learned about the city's unique proposal. Thanks to a generous donation of The Irene by Curt Sause, and to the creative thinking of local architect Stuart Woods, the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency is contemplating a project that would display The Irene encompassed in a huge bottle and displayed at some appropriate location for locals and visitors to enjoy. Gauged on what we've heard, this can be a strong tourism magnet for the area. By the way, did you read the letter to the editor

this week written by an individual who said he didn't want "his money" used to pay for the project? Here's the answer: IT WON'T! City urban renewal funds are generated mostly from property taxes paid by the local business owners whose properties are located within one of the City's two urban renewal districts, neither of which encompasses property owned by the letter to the editor contributor. Stay tuned for details about this. We're still working on plans.

AN "EVENING IN TUSCANY" WITH THE OREGON COAST MUSIC ASSOCIATION – The Oregon Coast Music Association and interior designer Rita Todd-Kornbau invite you to an after-hours party at 6 o'clock this evening, January 28th, at Design Renaissance, 160 South 2nd Street in Coos Bay (between Headlands and Security Bank on 2nd Street) Festivities include a variety of premium wines including select Eola Hills vintages, hors d'oeuvres and finger foods prepared by Chris of The Sconery, musical entertainment, convivial spirits and lively conversation. Guests at Rita's October soiree found the evening so enjoyable they asked us to repeat the event.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, and are available at Design Renaissance and at Checkerberry's. All proceeds from the event help pay for the 2000 Oregon Coast Music Festival. So join Festival friends and supporters for an evening of gustatory and social fun! For more information, call the Music Association at 267-0938 or Design Renaissance, 269-2577.

120 NEW TAX INITIATIVES FILED IN OREGON – In a recent article from *Oregon Education News* (Seattle-Northwest Securities Corporation December 1999 newsletter) it was reported that roughly 120 tax initiatives have been filed with the State for the November 7, 2000 general election. A summary of some of the initiatives and referendums relating to local government finances is available on Seattle-Northwest's web site www.seattlenorthwest.com. The site provides a comprehensive list all proposed initiatives, referendums and referrals in the State of Oregon. Complete text of the various initiatives, referendums and referrals is available on the State's 2000 Initiative Log at www.sos.state.or.us:8080/elec_srch/IRR01_2000

DESIGN STANDARDS – The Planning Division of the Community Services Department is moving forward with design standards for future development on Front Street. Also, as a result of interest shown by the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency, design standards are being drawn for the area adjacent to Cape Arago Highway in the Empire area.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT – URS Corporation of Portland, Oregon has been awarded the contract to begin environmental assessments of the properties included in the proposed Waterfront Heritage District. This area bordering North Front Street between Market Avenue and Fir Avenue is to be the recipient of grant money from the Environmental Protection Agency to be used to remove the barriers to redevelopment associated with properties identified as brownfields. The City of Coos Bay's project was chosen to serve as a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot - an honor given to only 50 projects nationwide. As such, the area will also be eligible for future cleanup and redevelopment funds made available from a wide variety of government agencies and programs.

MINGUS PARK STAGE – The City Council has approved using the money from the settlement on the Park House sewer damage to construct the stage in Mingus Park. A Mingus Park Stage Committee meeting will be held sometime in mid to late February to review and approve the final drawings before it goes before the Council in early March for their approval.

SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM – Smoke alarms save lives. The early discovery of a fire can provide the precious seconds needed to escape a deadly fire. The Coos Bay Fire Department is concerned about your safety. If you live within the city limits of Coos Bay, if someone in your home is over age 65 or you are low income with children in your home and do not currently have a smoke alarm you may qualify for a free

smoke alarm. These smoke alarms were donated by local merchants for this program. Please call the fire department at 269-1191 for more information.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ATTENDS CAREER CLASS – Fire department members participated in the career class at Sunset Middle School last week. Approximately 60 eighth graders had an opportunity to hear about the fire service as a career as well as participate in some hands-on skill stations.

OPENING ON THE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD – Coos County currently has two vacancies on the Parks Advisory Board. The appointments would be for a four-year term and anyone interested in applying may submit a letter to the Coos County Board of Commissioners indicating interest and qualifications for the position. All letters must be received no later than January 31, 2000.

COMMUNITY ASKED TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY – SWO Community Action Food Division greatly appreciates the community response to their last request for meeting the needs of the hungry. It is estimated that it takes 1400 pounds of food a day to meet the needs of hungry people in Coos Bay and North Bend alone. Oregon has the highest ranking "Food Insecurity" in the Nation and single moms with children are the primary users of the Oregon Food Bank Program. Food or cash donations may be dropped off at any Western Bank in Coos or Curry County through February 14th. For more information contact Polly Parks or Phil Handsaker at Community Action at 888-7020.

KINDER KONZERT COMING – The Coos Bay Public Library will host the Oregon Coast Music Association's annual Kinder Konzert in the library meeting room this Saturday, January 29th, at 11:00 a.m. This year's original and innovative presentation, "Women in Music Throughout the Ages," was developed by Chris Rosman, head of the Southwestern music department. Designed for 3rd to 5th graders, students of all ages and adults are welcome. A planner for this program was Nancy Price, President of the Oregon Coast Music Association and library Data Base Specialist.

AROUND THE LIBRARY IN 80 DAYS – The Coos Bay Public Library independent reading program for students in grades K-12, "Around the Library in 80 Days," begins January 31st and continues through April 19th. As thousands of kids have learned over the past twelve years, this program brings together the excitement of reading with the chance to win really great prizes, many of which are donated by local merchants and organizations.

LIBRARY SENIOR FILM PROGRAM – Over 50 seniors attended January's film program to view a beautiful film on Alaska and to sample refreshments by long-time volunteer Dorothy Foss. The monthly program continues the second Tuesday afternoon of each month in the library's large meeting room. This popular program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

LIBRARY HOSTS INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED STORYTELLER – Award-winning author and storyteller Heather McNeil will present two exciting programs at the Coos Bay Public Library. An adult program on Friday, February 11th, 6:30 p.m., will focus on family-oriented storytelling and tales from around the world, and will emphasize the importance of reading to children from an early age. Heather will share many fascinating stories with her adult audience. At a Valentine's Day program for children on Saturday, February 12th, 11:00 a.m., Heather will tell stories of friendship and caring, animating musical tales with her autoharp and voice. There will be many opportunities for audience participation. Children, parents, grandparents and listeners of all ages are welcome. Both programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

LIBRARY BEGINS CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAM SERIES – The first in a series of Chautauqua

programs will take place on Saturday, February 19th, 1:00 p.m. in the library meeting room. "Oregon Trails, Oregon Tales" will be presented by Tom Nash from the Southern Oregon State College Department of English. He will combine storytelling and song to provide a kaleidoscopic view of Oregon's diverse cultural legacy. The Chautauqua series is made possible by the Oregon Council for the Humanities and is locally sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

LIBRARY RECEIVES STATE GRANTS – The library has received funds through two state grant programs. The Net Lender Reimbursement Program brought \$6,320 to compensate the library for loaning out more books to Oregon libraries on Interlibrary loan than are borrowed from them for Coos Bay patrons. \$2,712 was received from the Ready to Read Program, designed to serve children ages birth to age 14. Those funds will be used to equip a special science table in the children's department purchased with earlier Ready to Read funds.

GIANT FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE – The Friends of the Library group is hard at work preparing for a huge used book sale – the first in two months – on February 5th and 6th, in the library meeting room. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon - 4 p.m. Books will be half price on Sunday.

POLICE CHIEF CHUCK KNIGHT ADDRESSES ROTARY – Chief Knight joined The World Newspaper Publisher, Greg Stevens, and State Representative, Mike Lehman, in addressing the Coos Bay North Bend Rotary Club this past week regarding the Methamphetamine problem on the South Coast. The Rotary Club has been issued a challenge to become educated about the problem and join together in making a difference in our community.

CAPTAIN WASHBURN SPEAKS TO RENTAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION – Captain Eura Washburn was the guest speaker at this weeks meeting of the Rental Owners Association. In the wake of last weeks concerns expressed by Association members of a proposed Chronic Disorderly Property Ordinance, Captain Washburn spoke to the group about how they can partner with the police department in keeping good tenants. The meeting has already prompted phone calls the Police Department offering to assist in making the City a better place to live. Chief Knight expressed his gratitude to the Rental Owners Association for their eagerness to work with the police in keeping our neighborhoods safe.

CENSUS TAKERS NEEDED – The Millennium is coming to Coos Bay and so is Census 2000! The US Census Bureau is recruiting and hiring people 18 and above to work on this once every ten year (decennial) event. At least 160 census takers and team leaders are needed to accurately count the population of Coos County. Tests will be given each Wednesday at the County Commissioner's Conference Room (in Coquille) and Thursdays at the Oregon Employment office in North Bend. Alternate testing sites will be available from time to time throughout the county. To reserve a place call (collect if you like) (541) 465-6410. Wages start at \$8.25 per hour plus 31 cents per mile for fieldwork. For local questions call or leave a message at (541) 396-3121 ext. 224.