



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 25, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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FIBER COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT SIGNED THIS WEEK -- As a charter member of Fiber South Consortium, the City of Coos Bay and the whole community becomes one of the major beneficiaries of this week's historic signing of an agreement between the Consortium and PCINW, the Lakeside company that will bring the Consortium's fiber into the Bay Area and Southcoast region. Fiber optic cable consists of strands of very thin glass through which millions of pieces of data and voice messages can pass at the speed of light. "This is absolutely great news for our area," said city manager Bill Grile after Tuesday's contract signing. "We all owe a debt of gratitude to Coos Bay Councilor Don Spangler and North Bend Councilor Larry Garboden for representing the Bay Area on the Fiber South Board of Directors since they've done a great job ensuring that the Coos Bay - North Bend interests are represented," he added. Councilor Spangler continues to serve as the Consortium's vice-chair.

CITY MANAGER AND POLICE CHIEF FIELD QUESTIONS ON KBBR THIS WEEK -- Yesterday morning Coos Bay police chief Chuck Knight joined city manager Bill Grile and KBBR's John Fus in a lively discussion about a range of local issues on the radio at Newstalk 1340 on the "AM" dial. Topics ranged from whether city police conduct speed traps to the timing of traffic signals, the move of the steam engine "The 104" to Coos Bay, historic preservation and other things. The city manager is now appearing weekly on the KBBR show at 8:00 AM on Thursday mornings. He also gives a weekly progress report on the K-Light radio morning show (98.7 on the "FM" dial) each Friday morning around 8:35 AM. Both stations are available online at <http://www.1340kbbbr.com/> and www.lighthouseaudio.com.

VERIZON FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO UPGRADE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS - A \$3,500 grant has been awarded to the Friends of the Coos Bay Public Library that will be used to upgrade the adult non-fiction collection in the areas of self-help materials and bilingual items. Outdated books or videos will be replaced with new items in the areas of job-seeking, personal development, self-help legal matters, household repair, health issues, etc. Bilingual materials will be purchased for those whom English is a second language, those learning a language, or those wanting to become familiar with another culture through its literature. The Friends group has also contributed \$2,000 towards this project.

LIBRARY CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY - Coos Bay Public Library will be closed Saturday May 26 through Monday May 28, 2001 for the Memorial Day holiday. While the library is closed, books and other materials may be returned to the outside book drop. Library users can get assistance from library staff regarding book renewals or other library business by calling 269-1101 when regular hours resume at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

FIRE CHIEF ATTENDS TSUNAMI WORKSHOP - Fire Chief Stan Gibson recently traveled to Portland to attend a tsunami warning workshop funded by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Emergency personnel attended from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii. Presentations were given from the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami warning centers. Different types of tsunami warning systems were discussed, including Reverse 911, NOAA Weather Radio, Emergency Alert Systems and Sirens. Discussion also centered around the need for uniformity in the warning systems and procedures state to state.

HEALTH ALERT - The discovery of a small discharge of wastewater into a drainage ditch leading to Chickses Creek has prompted the posting of the affected area. Although the possibility of human contact is slight in this remote area below Empire Lakes, the public is encouraged to avoid the Chickses Creek area from Harris Street to the bay until June 1st. The Oregon Emergency Response System, Department of Environmental Quality, and Coos County Health Department were all notified of the discharge which apparently resulted from a blockage in the sewer system. OMI, wastewater contractor for the City, quickly remedied the situation and cleaned up the area.

BAYSHORE THEATER DISTRICT STREET SCAPE PROJECT - The Bayshore Theater District Project is on schedule. Currently the contractor is waiting for 30 days while the concrete cures under where the brick will be placed. This is to prevent any cracking in the mortar holding the brick in place. The first brick can be laid around June 7, 2001 and then continue until the brick work is complete. The lights will be installed once the brick mortar has set up, usually a couple days later.

CHOSHI BRIDGE TO RE-OPEN - Choshi Bridge will be open this weekend after completion of temporary repairs. Steve Auer Construction placed 4 temporary support columns under the glu-lam beams and the City Parks crew shored up the handrails and vertical supports to prevent any movement of the handrails. The temporary work will give the City some time to look for funding to repair/replace the bridge in the future.

BAYSHORE STREET SCAPE PROJECT - The flower baskets for the Bayshore Street Scape Project were hung this week. The baskets are two feet in diameter and the flowers will grow up to four feet in diameter when in full bloom. The baskets are on an irrigation drip system that will water the flowers each day.

\$5,000 AWARDED TO WINNERS IN COOS ART MUSEUM EXHIBIT - Purchase awards of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 from the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation were presented to artists for the top three paintings in this year's *Expressions West* exhibit at the Coos Art Museum. Portland artist William LePore's *Chalktalk: Juxtaposition #5* was the first place winner. Second place went to Gail Lapins of Cambria, California, for *If You Listen You Will Hear*. Cora Lasson of Myrtle Creek was the third place winner with *Port Orford*. The winning paintings are on view through June 9, 2001 at the Museum, and will become part of the collection of The Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation.

WINE, CHEESE & TREASURES - On Friday, June 23, 2001, the Coos Art Museum will host a sale of surplus art and other treasures. There will be live musical entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and a no-host wine tasting. Admission will be \$5.00. "Treasures" will be on display in the Atrium on the 2nd floor of the Museum starting Friday, June 1, 2001. The "Treasures" can also be viewed at the Coos Art Museum's grand opening for the popular annual Maritime Exhibit on June 15, 2001 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The Coos Art Museum is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. For further information call 267-3901.

FARMER'S MARKET OPENS THIS WEEK - The Farmer's Market opens in downtown Coos Bay on Wednesday, May 30th and will continue through October 31st. The market will be located in the in the parking next to the Chamber of Commerce. Vendors wishing to participate in the market should contact Diane O'Brien at 759-2526 or Chris Coles at 269-1544.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD - Gloria Hillstrom received the "Women of Distinction Award" in the environment category at the 2001 Soroptimist Awards Ceremony for her efforts in the development and growth of Choshi Gardens in Coos Bay's Mingus Park. She is instrumental in raising donations and

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supervises the development and maintenance of the gardens. She is also a past president and treasurer of the AAUW, past president and life member of Soroptimist International and a docent and volunteer at the Coos Art Museum.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN AWARD - Kathe Stufflebean, Mingus Park pool manager, South Coast Aquatic team head coach and School District 9 swim lesson instructor received the "Women Helping Women Award" in recognition of her professional and volunteer contributions to countless children in our community over the last 24 years at the 2001 Soroptimist Awards Ceremony. She has enabled young women in our community to grow educationally and socially through her mentoring and encouragement. She was also the 1984 Oregon Swimming Coach of the Year and received the 1999 Oregon Governor's Council on Fitness and Sports Award.

MINGUS PARK BALLFIELD BLEACHER WORK - City crews this week removed the old bleachers at the Mingus Park softball field to prepare the area for a concrete slab on which to place a new aluminum bleacher. The old wooden bleachers were determined to be unsafe due to rotted and decayed wood. Several cross beams were rotted to the point that they were not providing the adequate load support if the bleachers were filled to capacity. The new bleachers will hold approximately 130 people. The City has applied for a State Parks and Recreation grant to place an additional bleacher on the pad and to replace the lighting around the ballfield. lot next to the Chamber of Commerce.

THE "OLD NO. 104" MOVES TO A NEW LOCATION! - Events surrounding the move of the "Old No. 104" came off without a hitch this week. On Monday, May 21 a "Driving of the Golden Spikes" ceremony was attended by Mayor Briggs of North Bend and Mayor Benetti of Coos Bay, as well as Coos Bay City Councilors Don Spangler and Judy Weeks. Each official took a swing at sinking the last two spikes in the engine's temporary home. The Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society uncovered the new "Future Home" sign, Millicoma Middle School students provided music and members of the local Model A Car Club attended. On Tuesday, West Coast Contracting, Bonneville Power Administration, Pacific Power and a host of Historical Society members and other volunteers loaded the engine onto BPA's lowboy, and the engine moved down the highway with escorts from the Coos Bay and North Bend Police and Fire Departments. The Historical Railway Society is thrilled to have the engine in a location where work can take place more easily and has a long list of new projects already scheduled. The Society plans to restore the engine, construct a railway museum and gain access to the railroad to provide scheduled excursion trips for residents and visitors. Watch for a dedication and ribbon cutting for the arrival of the engine on the site by Senator Gordon Smith on July 3 at 9:00 am.

COOS COUNTY HISTORIC SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDED BY STATE DIRECTOR Bill Scott, Director of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department provided the keynote speech at the annual meeting of the Coos County Historic Society. Mr. Scott spoke on the Department's efforts to work in rural, distressed communities in the new information age and the challenge for small communities to differentiate, or "Brand" themselves in a global economy where companies can exist almost anywhere and still compete. Scott expressed the belief that the leadership the City has taken in providing such a prominent location for the new Historic Museum, together with the other projects Coos Bay has completed or plans along a historic/cultural theme, will provide the "Brand" that will make Coos Bay unforgettable when retaining and growing current businesses or recruiting new businesses.

For most of the Historic Society members attending the meeting, the high point of the evening was viewing the scale model of the new Historic Museum. Spread throughout the room were also color renderings of the themed exhibits planned for the museum. Doug Fletcher, Development Director for the new museum, spoke on the fund raising activity that is planned over the next 2-3 years to acquire the \$5-6 million dollars needed to build and sustain the new building.

LIBRARY BOARD OPENINGS - The deadline is fast approaching to submit an application to fill two

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openings on the Board. The Library Board is comprised of seven members. Up to three members may, at any **The Friday Update - May 25, 2001**

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one time, reside in Coos County within the boundaries of School District 9, but outside the city limits of Coos Bay. The term of office is four years and board members are limited to serving no more than two full consecutive terms, however, any person may be reappointed after an interval of one year. Applications are available from the city manager's office at city hall during normal business hours or by calling 269-8912. Deadline for submitting an application is 5 p.m. May 31st.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MEETS IN EMPIRE TO DISCUSS "GATEWAY" OPTIONS - On Wednesday, the Design Review Board along with Mayor Benetti, Architect Rich Turi, Councilor Spangler, city staff and members of the general public met in Empire. After a lengthy discussion, the Design Review Board recommended that Mr. Turi draw up some sketches of monuments for the intersection of Ocean and Newmark taking into consideration the recently adopted design review goals for the Empire district.

BAY AREA HISTORIC HERITAGE - The City of Coos Bay hosted the State Advisory Committee meeting on Historic Preservation on May 24th and 25th in the Council Chambers. The Committee met to review proposals for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places with no action taken at this meeting. One of the items on the agenda for consideration was Coos Bay's South Fifth Street Historic District. This district is being considered for nomination and is in the public comment and review period. Listing of a historic property in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage. There are several individual houses in our area which are already listed on the National Register. For more information on a free historic walking tour, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 269-0215.