



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

May 10, 2002

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**CH. 14 TO AIR "LOCAL FOCUS" TV PROGRAM ABOUT THE CITY BUDGET** - Coos Bay Budget Committee Chair Roger Gould, Finance Director Janell Howard and City Manager Bill Grile spent time this week at Marshfield High School taping a special edition of the "Local Focus" television show conducted formerly by then-mayor Joanne Verger. The program's topic was Coos Bay's budget problems and some of the considerations the Budget Committee faced this spring as it wrestled with allocating scarce resources at a time that pressing needs demand more. Consolidation with North Bend, shared services and other cost-saving ideas were discussed during the program, which was moderated by John Pundt, general manager for New Northwest Broadcasters. Channel 14 will begin airing Local Focus next week. Watch for it! Thanks John Pundt and Roger Gould for volunteering your time for the program.

**PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL** - As was reported in the Friday update last week, a Peace Officer Memorial has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Discovery Center boardwalk in Reedsport. The memorial is in observance of peace officers slain in the line of duty in the United States this past year. The week in which May 15<sup>th</sup> falls each year has been sanctioned as National Police Week, which includes memorial observances for slain police officers. The memorial service is being coordinated by Chief Bob Gross, Reedsport Police Department.

**POLICE ACADEMY VISIT** - Police Chief Chuck Knight and Captain Eura Washburn met with Officer Ryan Wolgamott and academy staff at the Eugene Police Academy this week in preparation for Officer Wolgamott's graduation next month. Wolgamott is the first officer from Coos Bay to attend the academy in Eugene. Officers prior to this have attended the Oregon Police Academy in Monmouth.

**BATTALION CHIEF PROCESS UNDERWAY** - The City received a total of 23 applications for the two Battalion Chief positions in the Fire Department. Eight applicants have been selected to participate in an assessment center and interview process May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Business and professional citizens from the Bay Area will serve on the assessment panel, including Councilor Jeff McKeown. The assessment center is designed to test the skill level of the applicants in handling a variety of fire and administrative situations. The final part of the process will be an interview with the Fire Chief. Of the 23 applicants, eight are fire chiefs, eight are subordinate chiefs, and five are company officers. The average number of years of fire service is 21.7 years. On education: 19 have Associate Degrees, 11 have Bachelor Degrees, four have Masters Degrees, and three are executive fire officer level. Seven of the applicants have EMT Basic, two have EMT Intermediate, and eight are EMT Paramedics. The City has always been proud of the high professional level of training and service of public safety officers - a tradition that will be continued!

**BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF FY 2002-2003 BUDGET** - Tuesday night the Coos Bay Budget Committee met for a fifth time to discuss the City's budget for the fiscal year that will begin on July 1st. After adding \$2000 in support funding for the Women's Crises Center and considering possible revenue enhancements for FY 2002-2003, the Committee passed the budget along to the City Council with a recommendation to adopt it. The Committee continued on with more discussion about the grim future facing the City due to the cost of delivering services has risen, but revenues have risen at a much lower rate. The City Council will have as an agenda item for May 21<sup>st</sup> a discussion on possible avenues for increasing the City's revenues, and the public is invited to give input. City Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the council chambers at city hall beginning at 7 p.m.

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**POPULAR CHILDREN'S AUTHOR TO VISIT BAY AREA** - Eric Kimmel, popular award-winning author of books such as "Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock," will appear at Coos Bay Public Library on Saturday, May 11, 11:00 am. He is a former Professor of Education at Portland State University who now writes full time, visiting schools and libraries to share stories from around the world. On the Friday before his visit to the library, Kimmel will visit Blossom Gulch Elementary School in Coos Bay and Lincoln Elementary School in Coquille. Kimmel will sign his books following his talk at the library. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Library, who are offering a free autographed book by Kimmel to any school library which has eight of its students or staff present at the May 11 event.

**OUTDOOR'S AUTHOR TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AT THE LIBRARY** - You can explore the watery reaches of the south coast with author Ron Wardman on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, at Coos Bay Public Library. He will share information from his book, "Oregon's Coos Region Canoe and Kayak Guide," from riding the tides along the Coos and Coquille Rivers, to venturing onto lakes and rivers of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Wardman will discuss exploration of the peaceful reaches of the nation's first estuary preserve, and paddling the waters of the Bandon National Wildlife Preserve.

**COOS BAY NATIVE RETURNS TO DISCUSS HIS EXPERIENCES IN WORLD WAR II** - John Busterud, author of "Below the Salt," will read from his work, talk about his unique World War II experiences, and sign copies of the book on Saturday, May 18, 1:00 pm, at Coos Bay Public Library. During the closing weeks of the war, soldiers of the 90th Division uncovered a great treasure buried deep in a salt mine in Germany - all the gold reserves and priceless art works which had been removed from war-torn Berlin. The 90th Division had landed on Utah Beach on D-Day and fought its way to the Kaiseroda Mine in Merkers, Germany. There, the much-decorated division discovered what was "Below the Salt." Busterud grew up in Coos Bay and is the son of long-time local and state library trustee Mary Busterud.

**FLOWERS ON THE WAY** -This year's streetscape flowers ordered by the City are due this Friday and will be planted next week in various locations throughout the City by Professional Landscape Maintenance. Flowers will be planted along the east side of Broadway by the Chamber building, City Hall, Empire bump-outs, North Bayshore Drive, and the City sign on Highway 101 at the north City limits line. In all about 900 plants will be placed in the ground using a red, white and blue theme.

**I.O.O.F. CEMETERY TO GET CLEANING** - The IOOF Cemetery by Marshfield High School will be cleaned in the next couple weeks preparing it for visitors over the Memorial Day Weekend. The City Parks crew along with Shutters Creek inmates will be mowing and weed eating the area around the plots. The cemetery will be open to the public from Friday (May 24) until Tuesday (May 28) when the gates will then be locked again. A key can be checked out from the Community Services Department at City Hall for entry at other times. **Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 25 at 11:00 in downtown Coos Bay. The Coos County Veteran Group sponsors the event each year and we appreciate their hard work and dedication.**

**SPORTSMAN PEDWAY PROJECT MOVES AHEAD** - The Sportsman Pedway project is back on track this week with Bracelin & Yeager drilling through the concrete walls to add additional ties to the floor and ceiling joists. The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in early June with the final step of painting the walls occurring in mid to late June.

**CONSTRUCTION STARTS ARE UP** - There have been 15 new housing units started in the City of Coos Bay since July 2001. This is up from the same time period in 99-00 period when there were 10 new housing unit starts and the 00-01 period when there were 13 new housing unit starts.