



# The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

August 6, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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**CHOSHI GUESTS VISIT COOS BAY** – Mayor Verger welcomed eight high school students and their chaperones from Choshi, Japan at city hall Wednesday morning. Following a tour of city departments, the guests were given a walking tour of the downtown area and lunch at Choshi Gardens in Mingus Park. Our guests arrived in Eugene on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be hosted in area homes through August 8<sup>th</sup>. Visits to local points of interest, a jet-boat trip on the Rogue, a day at Rex Miller's family farm, and a picnic trip to Gold and Silver Falls are planned. Guests included Yuriko Sata, Kei Takagi, Saori Iijima, Naomi Tamura, Ryo Miyauchi, Haruki Kase, Mayumi Ito, Manami Hanawa, Tomoya Iwai (chaperone), and Kay Tsubaki (chaperone). For more information contact Sue Walberg at 888-4190 or [walberg@ucinet.com](mailto:walberg@ucinet.com)

**FRIENDS OF THE COOS BAY LIBRARY BOOK SALE** – The Friends of the Coos Bay Library are planning a huge book sale for the weekend of August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be the last sale at the 390 South 2<sup>nd</sup> facility and will give citizens a great bargain on books, magazines, record albums, and yes, even plywood and sawhorses. The hours for the sale are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday with a special on Sunday of \$1 per bag of books.

**LIBRARY GRAND OPENING CEREMONY** – The much-awaited completion of the Coos Bay Public Library remodel is becoming a reality and will be celebrated with a special grand opening ceremony on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The community is invited to participate in the celebration and visit the expanded and remodeled library facility. Be sure to mark your calendar.

**BAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORUM** – The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce will hold their monthly forum on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion in Coos Bay. Jack Roberts, Oregon Commissioner of Labor and Industries, will be speaking on Oregon's Prosperity. A special no-host breakfast menu with three options at \$4 or less will be provided. Reservations are required and may be made by calling the Chamber's office at 269-0215.

**BLACKBERRY ARTS FESTIVAL** – Mark your calendar for a Bay Area tradition – the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Blackberry Arts Festival will be held in downtown Coos Bay on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Enjoy arts, crafts, jewelry, photography, paintings, woodworking, entertainment, blackberry treats, food, and much more. The event is sponsored by the Coos Bay Downtown Association and organized by the Bay Area Jaycees. The North Bend Air Fair will be held on Sunday at the North Bend Airport, adding to a full weekend of summer fun. Hope to see you there!

**CITY COUNCIL REJECTS WASTEWATER RATE INCREASE** - Tuesday evening the Coos Bay City Council considered then rejected a set of recommendations by consulting firm Brown and Caldwell concerning proposed adjustments to the way that the City's wastewater system users pay for the cost of the system's operation and maintenance. The Council's decision came during its regular meeting, but following a 90 minute work session with City staff and Brown and Caldwell's Marv Winer. This year's adopted City budget provides for a 10% rate increase to help pay for capital

projects addressing several sewer collection system elements. The 10% would have raised about \$140,000, but the rate increase would have come at a time when clearly the entire Council felt local users could least afford to pay due to the area's economic downturn. It's hard to argue with that reasoning. Roughly \$140,000 will now be trimmed from the capital projects list for this year, but there will be no cuts to urgent system repairs that are scheduled for FY 1999-2000. Even without the \$140,000, Coos Bay does as good or better job investing in the maintenance of its infrastructure as any other jurisdiction on the Coast. Coos Bay's sewer rates will remain lower than neighboring North Bend's and most other coastal jurisdictions.

**OREGON MAYORS MEET IN BURNS** — Mayor Joanne Verger joined other Oregon mayors from around the state for the annual Summer Mayors' Conference, held this year in Burns. On Tuesday night Mayor Verger briefed the City Council about this year's conference, which featured keynoter and former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts. The mayors toured the Steens Mountains during the conference, and coincidentally the Steens were the site of a visit yesterday by Governor John Kitzhaber and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. Environmentalists have been urging the National Parks Service to take over management of the federal public lands in the Steens, which have been under the care of the Bureau of Land Management. Local ranchers are anything but pleased about the environmental community's proposal that they give up federal grazing leases as part of the deal. Looks like the mayors "got out of Dodge" .... err, Burns just in the nick of time to avoid this nasty controversy.

**THE NEW AND IMPROVED COOS BAY MUNICIPAL COURT** — The new and improved Coos Bay Municipal Court convened yesterday afternoon at City Hall, the honorable Judge Patricia Hinrichs presiding as CB muni judge for the first time. Matters were pretty cut and dry, and included adjustments to several parking tickets and setting a hearing September 9<sup>th</sup> hearing date for three citations pending concerning the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Representing the Mission, local attorney Jerry Lesan informed the Court that an agreement with City officials to resolve the violations is hopeful before September 9<sup>th</sup> arrives.

**THE COOS COUNTY FAIR** - August 11-15 is fair time at the Coos County Fair in Myrtle Point, with the theme this year being "Razzle Dazzle Memories." This is Coos County's 87th annual fair and rodeo. General admission is \$6 for adults or \$20 for a season gate pass (\$5 Sunday - Family Day only), \$3 for children six to 12 or \$10 for a season gate pass. Children under 6 years old are free when accompanied by an adult; senior citizens are same as adult prices except \$3 on Friday only. This is great fun for the whole family -- carnival rides, competitions, midway shows, rodeo, a family dance on Friday night, food, talent contest, and much more!

**CHARLESTON SEAFOOD FESTIVAL** - The 10th annual Charleston Seafood Festival will held on August 21st and 22nd at the Charleston Marina. There will be plenty of great tasting fresh seafood, a wine and beer garden, S.T.E.P. fishing pond, kid's games, exhibits, live entertainment, and special guest appearances by Smoky the Bear, Sparky Dog, Cleo Claim, Crustacea Crab, the Oregon State Parks' Beaver, Captain Beware, and Charlie Tuna. Also featured is a Charleston Area Barview Area Parks Association dunk tank featuring Coos Bay-North Bend celebrities, and rumor has it a few in the tank will be from City Hall. Any comments about - Fire Chief Stan Gibson and City Manager Bill Grile. For those of you who think the city manager's all wet, this might be a time to prove it! Come on out, bring family and friends and enjoy a wonderful time.

**NEW CARISSA REVIEW COMMITTEE PLANS THIRD MEETING** — Under the leadership

of committee chair and state representative Mike Lehman, the New Carissa Review Committee will be holding its third meeting on Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> in Newport. The meeting will be held at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Room 109, commencing at 9:00 a.m. and likely running all day. Others on the committee from this area include Mayor Joanne Verger, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay General Manager Allan Rumbaugh and Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission Executive Director Nick Furman. Mayor Verger wants us to stress that the general public is always welcome to attend these meetings.

**URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY TO MEET ON AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>** — The Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency will meet again on August 17<sup>th</sup>, with an agenda that will include a proposal for moving ahead with renovation of the plaza on Central in front of City Hall, an update on pending projects, and discussion about whether to ask the City Council to schedule an advisory vote concerning the question of whether the Agency should issue urban renewal bonds to accelerate completion of priority projects. Bonds issued by the Agency could be repaid by existing and future urban renewal property taxes without asking taxpayers to dig deeper into their pockets.

**WELCOME POLICE OFFICER ROGERS** – Terry “Scott” Rogers began duties as a police officer for the Coos Bay Police Department this week. Officer Rogers was previously employed as a Corrections Officer at Shutter Creek Correctional Facility. Officer Rogers resides in Coos Bay with his wife and three children. Rogers has also worked as a Police Officer in Kansas City prior to moving to Coos Bay.

**POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT BEGINS** – In anticipation of more retirements in the Police Department later this year recruitment has begun to establish a hiring list for the position of Police Officer. Application packets are available from the Finance Department, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay City Hall, by telephone (541) 269-8915 Ext 244, or Email [garrett@presys.com](mailto:garrett@presys.com). The applications close September 3, 1999.

**POLICE TRAINING NEEDS PRIORITIZED** – Police Chief Knight, Sergeant Ron Robson and local law enforcement representatives met at the Coos Bay Police Department recently with Karen Evans, Regional Training Coordinator for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to prioritize training needs for the next one to two years. Chief Knight is pleased to see the cooperative partnership between the Police Academy Staff, Southwestern Oregon Community College and local law enforcement administrators.

**OCDBG - SWOYA PHASE 4** - Phase 4 of the SWOYA construction project is out to bid and the bid date has been changed from August 10th to August 17th. All prospective bidders are encouraged to contact the architect, McSwain & Woods, at 269-0618.

**1999 OREGON MECHANICAL SPECIALTY CODE** - Effective October 1, 1999 the Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code is the 1998 Edition of the International Mechanical Code, as published by the International Code Council, as amended by the Building Codes Division. The fastest way to obtain a copy of the 1999 Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code is to contact the Building Tech Bookstore, Inc. 1-800-ASK-BOOK.

**MINGUS PARK LIGHTING** - The west side of the lake along the trail in Mingus Park will have new lighting this fall. A contract with Reese Electric has been signed and work should begin soon. The lights will be the same as those on the east side of the lake. There also will be a light installed in the play area south of the shelter. In the future the City would like to have lighting all the way

up to 14th Street.

**LABOR TRENDS** - On a seasonally adjusted basis, Oregon's jobless rate increased from 5.1 percent in May to 5.5 percent in June. The unadjusted or "raw" rate rose from 4.7 percent, to 5.5 percent at the same time. In spite of the recent slowdown in non farm job growth, Oregon's unemployment rate is still below that for a year ago(5.7%).

Most labor market areas within the state saw their unemployment rates increase in June, perhaps due to persons entering the labor market looking for work during the summer. Exceptions to the higher rates occurred in parts of rural Eastern Oregon. Lower rates occurred primarily among those counties just coming off the "spring break up."

The jobless rate also fell in Curry County on the southern Oregon coast. Curry's economy experiences large seasonal swings in unemployment and had a significant decrease in unemployment claims filed over the month. Coos County's rate while more that a percentage point higher than in May, was less than a year ago. The increase could well reflect more job seekers in the work force.(Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES CERTIFICATE** – Fire Chief Stan Gibson accepted a certificate of appreciation from the American Legion at this week's council meeting. The certificate was in sincere appreciation of the members of the Coos Bay Volunteer Firefighters Association who cooked for their Legion Conference held here several weeks ago.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT"** – Members of the fire department participated in this year's "National Night Out" in conjunction with other local agencies. The community event to promote crime fighting was held at Woodland Apartments on Schoneman St. The department provided demonstrations of the aerial ladder truck and FLARE car, as well as handing out fire prevention materials and an appearance by Sparky the Fire Dog.