



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

Nov. 26, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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MAYOR RECEIVES AWARD AT LOC CONFERENCE – To Mayor Verger’s surprise and to the delight of City Councilors and City Staff, Council President Cindi Miller presented an special recognition award to Mayor Verger at the League of Oregon Cities conference Sunday morning. Following the presentation Mayor Verger received a standing ovation. We are proud of you Mayor Verger for a job well done on both the local and state level!

President Miller’s comments when making the presentation “Each of us are blessed with individuals in our lifetime that touch some area of our lives in a special way – whether it be on a personal, business or political level. There are even fewer individuals who’s impact is felt in all those areas. For many, Joanne Verger is such a person. Last year, we, the Coos Bay City Council announced how honored we were to share our mayor with you as your League President. Now a year later you have all learned how outstanding Joanne Verger is. She holds a special place in the lives of her family who are here today: Husband Lawton, son Jim and wife Diane, daughters Anne and Kathie, and grandsons Aaron and Logan. Unable to attend, son John David and wife, and special grandson James.

She holds a special place in her community, with her Council here today, Joe Benetti, Kevin Stufflebean, and Don Spangler; with staff, Assistant to the City Manager Joyce Jansen and City Manager Bill Grile. She holds a special place too in the hearts of friends and citizens on the South Coast and Statewide. Somehow she makes room for and balances all those roles with ease. For me she has been an inspiration not only as a role model, advisor, but most of all I am proud to have her as a friend.

The list of Joanne’s accomplishments on state and local levels goes on and on; but the one event this last year that comes to everyone’s mind when we are greeted from Coos Bay is the arrival and dogged determination to remain as part of the Oregon’s Bay Area, is the freighter the New Carissa. And what a saga it has been! We could think of nothing more appropriate today than to give her a lasting memory of that event. A Myrtlewood plaque, unique to the South Coast, and a bolt and jar of bunker fuel from the New Carissa. Thank you Joanne for all you do, have done, and for how much you mean to each of us. Congratulations on a job well done.”

The inscription on the plaque read “Like the New Carissa ... it would take a million-dollar torpedo to keep you down. Thanks for your service to the People of Coos Bay and to all Oregonians during your year as President of the League of Oregon Cities. You Continue to set the standard for all of us.”

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY – The 9th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Friday, November 26th at 6 p.m. at the Convention Center located at 158 Central Avenue. Everyone is invited to kick off the holiday season with Mayor Verger and Santa as they light the Christmas trees.

There will be caroling, music, entertainment, cookie decorating, refreshments, and carriage rides provided by the City of Coos Bay, the Downtown Association, the Bay Area Concert Band, and The Lab Band. Santa will arrive by horse-drawn carriage at 6:30 p.m. and children will have an opportunity to have their picture taken with him. Carriage rides will be offered throughout the evening.

The winner of the holiday decorating contest for downtown businesses will be announced by Downtown Association President-Elect Ken Larsen.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING – All City offices, with the exception of the Police and Fire Departments, will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving. Mayor Verger and the City Council and City Staff wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TAKES DELIVERY OF RESCUE – The fire department took delivery this week of the new medium rescue truck ordered in May of this year. Over the next couple of weeks department staff will be outfitting the rescue and receiving training. The rescue vehicle currently serving the downtown area will be relocated to Eastside Station No. 3.

SENATOR GORDON SMITH PLANS VISIT TO SOUTH COAST – Senator Gordon Smith will be visiting the South Coast November 29th and 30th. A town hall meeting will be held at the Coos Bay City Hall Council Chambers at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 30th. For more information contact Senator Smith's assistant, Terry Moffitt at 541-465-6750.

COMMITTEE TO RENOVATE MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TRACK – The Prefontaine Memorial Committee, in cooperation with Marshfield High School, has undertaken a fund raising project to completely renovate the school's track facility. The current track base was laid over 30 years ago and is now settled and very uneven. The 100-meter run is actually run uphill; there is a two-foot elevation difference between the north and south sides of the track; and the track does not meet current track construction specifications. Marshfield's track is the only 4A facility in Oregon with 36" lanes instead of the standard 42" lanes.

The goal is to completely tear out the existing track and replace it with a new base, new track surface, new curbs, improved drainage and new surfaces for all the field event venues. The School District's architect has estimated the project to cost between \$350,000 and \$400,000.

Nike recently announced they are instituting a track rehabilitation grant program and Marshfield will be the first recipient with a grant for \$50,000. The Oregon Community Foundation, established by Steve Prefontaine's college coach Bill Bowerman, has pledged \$15,000 on a matching fund basis. A solicitation letter has also been mailed to all Marshfield High School graduates and so far over 500 alums have contributed funds in excess of \$40,000.

The Prefontaine Memorial Committee is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, so donations are tax deductible and may be made to Pre Committee/MHS Track Restoration, P O Box 1380, Coos Bay OR 97420. Questions may be directed to: Bob Huggins, Executive Director of the Prefontaine Memorial Committee at 541-269-1103; Tom Jenkins, MHS Athletic Director at 541-267-1441; or Arnie Roblan, MHS Principal at 541-267-1401.

ECONOMIC CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE – According to recently published portions of the U.S. Census Bureau's 1997 Economic Census, Coos County's 289 retailers made \$505.2 million in sales during 1997. That works out to \$8,080 in retail sales per capita, below the statewide average of \$10,297 and the national average of \$9,179. Annual payroll for the estimated 3,040 employees in county retail establishments totals over \$53,000,000, according to the report released in October.

The initial report also shows sales or receipts, employment and payroll for 96 different kinds of retail businesses, as well as specific industries within seven other sectors. Data for the other sectors of Coos County are expected within the next few months, according to a press release from Robert Marske of the Bureau's economic planning staff. The Census Bureau will publish all of the new Economic Census data on the World Wide Web and on CD-ROM. New data can be accessed at www.census.gov/econ97

(Information provided by Kathi Joy, Chamber of Commerce Director)