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Testimony mostly favorable at landfill hearing

Testimony on construction of a large landfill in Morrow County, was mostly favorable during a public hearing last week in Heppner.

Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Port of Morrow, and businesses in the county spoke in favor of the 600-acre dump, saying it would be an economic boon to the county.

Opponents on the other hand, said the landfill wouldn't generate as many jobs as claimed, and would drive tourists away with a bad image of Morrow County.

The proposed dump is to be located at Finley Buttes, about 16 miles south of Boardman off Bombing Range Road.

Tidewater Barge Lines, the largest shipper on the Columbia and Snake River System, is behind the project, which could see up to 2,500 tons of residential and commercial garbage shipped into Morrow County every day from communities along the Columbia River. Life of the dump could be up to 25 years.

The hearing in Heppner was just one of four held by the county court to gather public feeling on the project.

Bob Miller of Boardman said the project was endorsed both by the Boardman Chamber of Commerce and the Port of Morrow "because of the jobs and economic development it will bring to Morrow County." Miller is a member of the chamber's economic development committee, and also manager of the Port of Morrow.

Representatives of Tidewater say the project will generate 30 to 50 new jobs in Morrow County, including heavy equipment operators, truck drivers and other landfill operators, for an annual payroll of \$600,000 to \$1 million. Tidewater says spinoff related jobs could total 35 to 65 and have a payroll of \$450,000 to \$750,000.



Miller also pointed out that Heppner's landfill is scheduled to close in several years, and with the high cost of locating a new landfill, the Finley Buttes site offers a solution to the problem. Tidewater officials have said that the dump would be available for use to people in Morrow County.

Other testimony in favor included letters from John Pragg, a Boardman real estate broker, who said that Morrow County has established a reputation for driving business away, and that the landfill would be good economically for the county, and would help solve Heppner's solid waste disposal problem.

Larry Mills, manager of the Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington, said the landfill was a "win, win" project.

Mills pointed out that having the waste shipped to Morrow County in sealed containers, would mean plenty of empty containers would be available for shipment of agricultural products back down the river. Lack of available containers in the past has apparently hurt shipping opportunities in Eastern Oregon.

Mills also said that he has worked with Tidewater Barge Lines in the past and has found them "to be good neighbors."

Other speaking in favor of the project were Cliff Green, president of the Heppner Economic Development Committee, Kent Goodyear of Kinzua Corp. (a Heppner wood products company), Bill Doherty, a local wheat farmer, Bill Cox, a local Heppner citizen, Anne Murray of Heppner, Bill Kuhn of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and the City of Heppner, and Ed Glenn, a Boardman resident and member of the Morrow County health care board of directors.

Glenn said he was probably closer to the project than any other resident of the county, "the lights of the trucks will be shining right in my bedroom window," he pointed out.

Glenn said he favored the project, but thought the county should decide on how to spend the "franchise fees" imposed by the county on Tidewater.

"The county is currently negotiating with Tidewater on a per-ton fee to be paid for dumping in the county."

"I think we should dedicate the money to help small manufacturing companies locate in the county," said Glenn. "Small manufacturing will bring new money into the county," he said.

Four letters in support of the landfill were also read at the hearing. Sunridge Homes, John Gorham, and the Nomad Restaurant, all of Boardman, were in favor of the project as well as Columbia Basin Electric of Heppner, and B & C Repair of Lone. B & C asked that it be stipulated in Tidewater's contract that goods and services be purchased locally. Pendleton Grain Growers, the large grain co-op in Pendleton, also wrote in favor of the project, saying that it would cause more shipping con-



Finished Product

Doug Dubuque of Kinzua Corp. shows members of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce the finished product that comes out of the company's new stud mill.

The chamber toured both the new stud mill, and the regular saw mill, at Kinzua's Heppner plant.

Dubuque says the new stud mill is operating on the swing shift with about 40 new employees. The mill will continue to

operate on swing to utilize equipment also used in the main mill during the day.

The new mill will produce about 30 million board feet of two-by-fours per year. "This is really a smooth operation," Dubuque said of Kinzua's latest addition.

In recent years the company has installed a chipping operation, new small log mill, and a cogeneration plant that produces electricity from wood waste.

First load shipped from stud mill

Last week Kinzua Corp. shipped the first carload of construction 2 x 4s produced by its new stud mill.

Kinzua has hired about 20 people for the stud mill itself and will require an additional 18 in the planer facility, Personnel Manager Doug Dubuque said Friday.

The stud mill, in operation since July 1 allows us to use small logs and White Fir better and more economically than before, he said. Company owned land and many of the timber sales coming up have a lot of White Fir, he continued, "with the stud mill, we can process it more economically than before."

So far the studs have been shipped to the Chicago area, Marketing Manager Kent Goodyear said, because most of the available market is in the north eastern quarter of the U.S. He expects some later shipments to the South Central and Texas area. Sales have been to distribution yards, wholesalers, chain yard and home centers, and some directly to retail chains, he said.

Board elects chair

Mary Michael, Boardman, was elected chairman at the Morrow County Medical Board meeting Monday at the Irrigon City Hall.

Jackie Bergstrom, Lone, was elected vice chairman and Don Eppenbaugh, Irrigon, was elected secretary.

Transportation, medical care survey underway

If they haven't already done so, neighbors of yours will be calling on you to get your opinions and ideas to improve transportation and medical care in the county. These volunteers will be spending the next week and a half meeting with as many people as possible.

The information on transportation will provide the basis for a grant application the County is submitting to fund a transportation system. The questions on medical care address concerns of everyone in the county and it is hoped that citizens will take advantage of this forum to make suggestions to improve service. Everyone is encouraged to take the time to visit with the survey volunteers and join them in taking this first step to enlarge and improve services in the County.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

July 14 - 20 High Low Prec.		
Tues.	100	58 .0
Wed.	82	43 .0
Thurs.	64	49 .0
Fri.	63	51 .04
Sat.	69	46 .0
Sun.	79	47 .0
Mon.	83	50 .01

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, July 21		
Soft White		
July-Aug		\$2.89
Sept.		\$2.90
Barley		
July-Aug		\$83
Hard Red Winter		
11% protein		\$2.81
PIK		
Generic Certificates 106 1/4% cash		

Wind-whipped blaze challenges volunteer firefighters

Two range fires halted harvest operations in much of the county Wednesday afternoon as crews left the fields to help battle the wind-driven inferno.

Sparks started the two fires almost simultaneously, one just north of Lone in a stubble field belonging to Ralph Crum, the other west of Heppner on range land belonging to Keith Lewis.

Ralph Crum related that Tuesday afternoon one of the truck drivers of his harvest crew forgot to close the gate on a hopper bottom dump truck. When the combine man dumped his load of grain into the truck, the wheat ran out the bottom and held the truck from moving. Wednesday, Crum continued, his crew took a combine over and shoveled wheat off the ground into the header to free

the truck. It must have been friction on the belts from the weight of the load that caused the spark, he surmised. Water pressure fire extinguishers on both sides of the combine failed to put out the flames. With 30 mph winds and knee-high stubble from a near 60 bu./acre crop, the fire took off about 2:30 p.m. and burned for more than three hours, leaving scorched fields and

acid air.

It destroyed one of Crum's trucks, an old barn used as a grainery (empty), 300 acres of Crum's stubble, 200 acres of standing wheat belonging to Wayne and Harold Rietmann, and range land to total almost 1200 acres of devastation. The fire burned to within 100 yards of two homes and completely circled a third, but did not damage there. Crum said four other ranchers contributed tractors with discs in addition to his rig for building fire lanes. The wind was blowing faster than the rigs could go, though, he said. The fire jumped the first fire lane and a county road. It burned over a pickup destroying a tire but failing to ignite the fuel tanks full of gasoline on the back of the truck, he said.

The fire west of Heppner started about 3:10 p.m. near where Bart and Assoc. were working on the replacement main power line for Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. A short in the wiring of the power transmission lines which also caused a brief power outage started the fire, Heppner Chief Forrie Burkenbine said. The wind-whipped fire burned 500 acres of rangeland belonging to Keith Lewis and about 35 acres of wheat belonging to Tony Doherty.

Firefighters from Heppner's rural fire district were not able to make much headway in stopping the fire until John Boyer's planes began to drop water, some farmers sent tractors with discs, and the county road department sent a road grader out, Burkenbine said. Flames from the fire shot 15' in the air and the fire was moving so fast we couldn't stay

ahead of it. "When the fire turned and came toward us, we had to hop on the truck and drive away as fast as we could," Assistant Chief Rusty Estes said. "We lost radio contact with the other fire truck until we were away from the fire."

The fire finally burned out about 7 p.m. Charred fields mark its path. Both Burkenbine and Childers said that as always farmers sending equipment and individuals with burlap sacks and shovels helped. Spray planes with tanks full of water and Grain Growers tanker trucks helped, too. Crews from the Grain Growers and Columbia Basin helped the volunteers also.

The tanker trucks from the Grain Growers were a real help, especially around the buildings, Harvey Childers who has been trying to get things rolling for a rural fire district in the lone area said. The district was approved in the 1950s, but a board has never been appointed to propose a tax base and get a measure on the ballot. We need people to express interest in serving on the board and in spending the necessary time to train and take care of equipment, he said, before we can go any further with the district.

Saturday's heavy rains washed mud from the newly burned fields down Rietmann grade undercutting portions of the county road and onto Lone's Main St. Straw bales kept water and mud out of the few threatened homes and businesses. City crewman Jim Rudisill was out cleaning up Sunday afternoon.



Fence posts smolder long after main fire has burned past.