

Lamb-Weston's future is rosey



Steve Jenks, Operation Manager, and twelve-year employee at Lamb-Weston, is looking forward to working with the new owners.

By Joyce Hensley
"What about us?"

If there is an uneasiness in the mind of any Lamb-Weston employees since the announcement by Amfac Inc., of the purchase agreement signed by ConAgra and Golden Valley Microwave Foods to buy the company Lamb-Weston potato products processing division, it can be set aside.

Lamb-Weston employees have been hired, fired, and generally pulled back and forth in recent months, but that seems to be a thing of the past. "The people in the plant are its greatest strength," said Walter H. Casey, corporate communications

Soil and Water Stewardship week April 24 - May 1

Emphasizing everyone's role in protecting soil and water resources for future generations, the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District is encouraging local churches, organizations and individuals to join the nationwide observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 24-May 1.

The local district, which works throughout the year on soil and water conservation measures, is providing literature that highlight man's responsibility to be active stewards of our nation's soil and water resources.

Rudy Bergstrom, chairman of the Morrow SWCD, said that while farmers and ranchers know that good conservation practices help increase

vice president of ConAgra. "We want to draw on that and build on that."

ConAgra, Inc., Omaha, is the world-wide mother conglomerate to such brands as Armour Meats, Chun King, and Banquet. ConAgra is also in the feed and fertilizer business, along with prepared frozen seafoods.

Golden Valley, Minneapolis, is a leader in the development in technology and products specifically for microwave production. A vending machine popcorn labeled Act I and Act II is one of their products.

The combined venture will utilize the strengths of the companies. ConAgra's significant outreach through

yields and improve their profit potential, they also know the importance of passing on well-cared for natural resources for future food producers. "We could give our children all the money in the world, but it would do them little good unless we also give them a productive soil on which to live," said Bergstrom.

Materials especially designed to convey the 1988 theme, "Stewardship Is Our Future," are being distributed by the Morrow SWCD and may be obtained by calling or visiting the district office during business hours at 430 Heppner Lexington Highway, 676-5452.

its various holdings, and Golden Valley's specialized technology in the microwave industry, to continue test marketing a microwave french fry developed by Golden Valley.

"We hope to develop the microwave french fry product along with and on top of what Lamb-Weston is doing now," said Casey. "If we are any good at all together, we should be able to add to that."

"We have been looking for a long time to participate in the potato field," said Casey. "Some of the great advantages of Lamb-Weston are its first class processing plants and excellent technology in its own right."

The completion of the \$276 million dollar sale of Lamb-Weston's seven plants, including Boardman, Hermiston and five in Idaho and Washington, should take place late June or early July according to Dave Kelly, Portland, director of marketing for Lamb-Weston.

"The possibility of combining the capabilities of the three companies is certainly exciting to Lamb-Weston," said Kelly.

Casey's hope for the future is for the newly forming venture with Lamb-Weston to grow. "They have a great reputation for product quality and service," he said. "That kind of reputation comes from good people."

"It is a new opportunity to add growth and business," he added.

Boardman • Irrigon News

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Proposed budget would lower city tax rate

By Ed Glenn

The Boardman Budget Committee received a proposed budget last week that would lower the city tax rate to \$7.55 per thousand but a citizen's group asked that it be even less.

Don Bozarth, spokesman for a loosely organized group of "concerned citizens" presented the City Council with a petition asking for the reduction or elimination of a number of city services signed by some 160 people. Bozarth urged the council to adopt a budget supported by a tax rate of no more than \$6 per thousand and "no increase in water and sewer rates."

The proposed budget, prepared by City Manager Larry Dalrymple,

shows a decrease in taxes of about \$70,000 from the current year. Dalrymple said his goal was to "reduce the tax rate substantially, without totally dismantling the services and operations of the city."

The reduction comes principally from a proposed reduction of the police department from four officers to three and from utilizing cash carryovers in the General, Sewer and Water funds.

All of the tax reduction is contingent upon two land developments coming through in the city's favor. Desert Springs Estates is in arrears some \$28,000 for sewer and water hook-up charges and while collection is budgeted, City Attorney M.D.

VanValkenberg could not assure the Committee that the litigation would be far enough along that any monies would actually be received in the next year.

VanValkenberg did tell the council that he was "confident that some payment" would be received by April 15 on the Knudson Commercial Park LID. A payment of \$150,000 has been due from Locke Enterprises, Inc. on that LID since July 1, 1987.

The LID might add as much as \$155,850 or \$5.88 per thousand to the taxing requirement, according to Dalrymple.

The budget committee set April 19 for its next meeting.

Good Sam visits Boardman



Photo by Joyce Hensley

Members of the Milton-Freewater Good Sam Club fish, visit, and generally enjoy each other's company along the Columbia River in the Boardman Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park. Owners of seventeen

RV's settled in for their annual weekend in the area for rounds of potlucks, coffee and business meetings, said Bill Garrison, owner of a twenty-one foot travel trailer. "This is one of the nicest parks we've been in."

Crime on the rise in Irrigon

By Joyce Hensley

The crime rate is shooting up in Irrigon.

There has been an increase of 63 percent in crime related incidents, according to Police Chief Steve Mackey.

Assaults, fraud, furnishing alcohol to minors and theft of motor vehicle parts from motor vehicles are to blame for the largest share of the increase.

"We've had a lot of vandalism, also," said Mackey.

Even though Irrigon had a large drug bust recently, drugs aren't an intense problem.

The Irrigon Public Service Department has had a rise of 115 percent in the total picture of calls to the department, including calls to find lost children, complaints about barking dogs, and cats which have fallen down wells, according to Mackey.

The rate of crime seems to go up and down in Irrigon, population 865.

Four years ago, the crime rate was very high. The city also had the distinction of housing the highest number of ex-convicts per capita in the entire nation.

After a combination murder and robbery in 1983, the citizens rose up and formed a neighborhood crime watch. Within six months, with teams of housewives, retired people, working people, and young adults patrolling the streets throughout the night, the crime rate was brought down to 80 percent.

Records of crime in each city of the nation are recorded in a national statistics report called the Uniform Crime Report.

RHS Honor Roll

Riverside High School has released their third quarter A and B honor roll.

A Honor Roll

Freshmen: Charlene Finley 4.0, Amy Gantenbein 4.0, Jose Ramos, Maria Ramos, Trina Sayles, Angela Smythe

Sophomores: Matt Andreason, Wendy Dawson, Tina Douglas 4.0, Lea Edwards, Dawnica Flanagan, Estela Garcia, Lenn Greer, Kirstin Jensen, Sherri Lake, Steve Larsen 4.0, Eric Marchek, Melinda Nix, Mary Stevens, Mike Tallman, Scott Timms, Kassie Westmoreland

Juniors: Gale Bailey, Cynthia Ballard, Debi Driver, Harold Glenn, Kristi Medley, Melissa Meinke, Holly Miller, Jennifer Richardson 4.0

Seniors: Carmela Garcia 4.0, Jesus Garcia, Bonnie Guthrie, Kristen Harrison 4.0, Colleen Hensley, Lisa Jurney, Jeff Marchek 4.0, Terri Meyers 4.0, Vicki Preston, Robert Rea, Sheila Town.

B Honor Roll

Freshmen: Dawn Ammons, Randy Beard, Bill Byrd, Peter Ceton, Troy Charles, Angie Copenhaver, Jason Erickson, Margi Garcia, Kevin Guthrie, Tim Hill, Marilee Huffman, Christi Irwin, Kristina Klein, Ty Lappen, Gloria Peterson, Jeannie Roberts, Cecelia Rodriguez.

Sophomores: Douglas Alford, David Barrick, Melanie Bass, Joey Edwards, Shanna Evans, Joy Hellberg, Rusty Jensen, Cindy Kellar, Jennifer LePlatt, Terri McKenney, Joseph Saunders, Leti Sepulveda, Jesus Torres, Lisa Short.

Juniors: Vince Daltoso, Trey Fischer, Cynthia Harrison, Clay Haynes, Steve McCabe, Stacey McCorkle, Tina Palmer, Alicia Pearsall, Melissa Richmond, Pamela Wetzel.

Seniors: Shauna Bates, Danny Byrd, Laura Erickson, Christopher Fox, Jacob Fridberg, Amy Hobbs, Steve Hulen, Wendy Ledbetter, Lisa Mark, Jay Marlow, Jason Michael, Chuck Trueax.

4-H clubs in Irrigon plan plant sale

North Morrow County 4-H Clubs are having their annual 4-H Plant Sale in Irrigon on Saturday April 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday April 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The sale will be held at the Blue Ribbon Fruit Stand on Highway 730. Houseplants, bedding plants, perennials, strawberry and raspberry starts, and flowering shrubs will be available.

WOSC Honor Roll

Western Oregon State College has announced that Robert William Peck has been named to the honor roll. To

achieve this honor, you must achieve a 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average.

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