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The Heppner

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Elves decorate Museum tree



A large number of elves were on hand to decorate the museum tree Tuesday. Cookies and cider were the fare for the day after all the hard work put in to decorate the tree. Their voices rang out loud and clear as they sang some very Merry Christmas songs around the tree.

Tidewater proposals fit Clark County project

Reprinted from the Clark County Washington Columbian:
By Thomas Ryll

Vancouver-based Tidewater Inc. has triumphed over Washington Waste Systems Inc. in the battle for a 20-year garbage exporting contract with Clark County.

Meanwhile, a Washington Waste official said this morning his firm will ask the county commissioners Wednesday to overturn the committee's unanimous recommendation that Tidewater get the contract.

"We're obviously shocked and really disappointed," said Michael Sievers, the company's community relations manager. "We feel we have a better proposal, one that is in the best interests of Clark County."

Unless the county commissioners go along with Washington Waste's request, negotiations could begin within days with Tidewater. If they are successful, owners of the 55-year-old business will walk away with an agreement that could be worth \$400 million or more over the life of the contract.

Under Tidewater's plan, garbage would be collected at a transfer station at English Pit Transfer and Recycling depot. From there it would be trucked to the waterfront just west of Vanalco off Lower River Road and loaded onto barges for shipment to a landfill near Boardman. The Lechner landfill, current destination for most of the county's garbage, is to close by Dec. 31, 1991, so the deadline for readying of a Tidewater solution is Jan. 1, 1992.

"I think we've been working long and hard for that, and I feel good about it," said Tidewater owner Ray Hickey this morning. "I see it (his firm's plan) as very positive and it will solve some problems for a lot of years."

This morning's release of a 24-page report of choosing Tidewater over Washington Waste Systems Inc. came after a half-dozen meetings included one face-to-face interview of representatives from each company.

About two weeks ago, Tidewater began to emerge as the favorite, said

Stillman, the county department or public services director.

"Everyone just assumed that Washington Waste would walk away with it," he said.

Tidewater's Hickey was among them. Hickey indicated this morning: "I don't think there's any question that we were matched up against a big one, but we've done a lot more than what anybody in this community recognizes."

Although it is a new company, Washington Waste is a subsidiary of the biggest solid waste management company on the planet, with 1987 revenues exceeding \$2 billion. Successful by any measurement, Tidewater, with 1987 revenues of about \$22 million, is nevertheless a David to Washington Waste's Goliath.

But committee members found that "huge isn't necessarily better for us because there are too many other factors," Stillman said Sunday afternoon. "We had to look at what is best for the community."

However, Stillman said the committee members are unanimous in their preference for Tidewater.

Lex church holds Christmas program

The Children's Nativity is the theme of the annual Christmas program at the Lexington Baptist Church, December 18, 6 p.m.

The evening will feature a chorus of adults and youth of the congregation, instrumental music by Ethan Burnside as well as the youngest children creating the nativity scene.

Following the musical program will be a time of refreshments in the church social hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Players coming long distances to play in alumni tournament

The First Annual Christmas Tournament will be held in Heppner this week-end. For a good time and lots of laughs, load up the family and attend the games to be held at the Heppner High School gym, Saturday and Sunday.

Friday evening at the Elks club, a social hour begins at 5 p.m. and a no-host buffet. A pre-game program will be held. The first game is at 7:30 p.m.

At the buffet dinner Friday night, the captains of each team will give a brief overview of their teams, stats, merits of award, state championships, etc.

The jerseys will be given out also at the dinner. Teams may pick them up there.

Saturday play begins at 9 a.m. and games begin every 1 1/2 hours throughout the day.

Sunday games begin at 1 p.m. This will be the championship bracket. According to two "experts", the classes of 80-82 and 83-85 are the favorites for the tournament.

Heppner Booster Club will have concessions during the games. Hot dogs, candy, popcorn and pop will be available.

Players will be coming to the tournament from Anchorage, Alaska, Reno, Nevada, San Diego, Calif., and Klamath Falls.

This tournament is the brainchild of Stuart Dick and assisting him is Pat Sweeney.

This is a fund-raising event for youth activities in Heppner, and to be held annually during Christmas break. According to Dick, "unfortunately, this year the tournament conflicted with the out-of-town HHS tournament, but will not do so again."

Admission will be \$1 for high school aged students and under and \$2 for adults per day.

Tidewater triumphs over Washington Waste Systems

By Thomas Ryll
The Columbian

Although the committee that compared garbage exporting proposals from Tidewater and Washington Waste Systems found them similar in many respects, significant differences emerged in several areas. A look at some of them:

Cost: In this all-important category, the nod went to Tidewater, even though its estimate to transfer, recycle, transport and dispose garbage in a landfill near Boardman is \$48.24 a ton, versus Washington Waste's \$46 for an equivalent arrangement.

Other factors tipped the scales toward Tidewater. One was the firm's cost-adjustment formula, the other an item with a curious name, "most favored nation status."

Tidewater's cost formula is a simple one based on the consumer price index; WW's is a complex, 11-element formula. Computations in several different scenarios with both firms' per-ton rates and formulas resulted in numbers in the \$320 million to \$400 million range over 20 years. Because there are so many variables, a decision on that aspect alone "is basically too close to call," said George Stillman, selection committee member and county public services director. Thus, the initial per ton cost difference is insignificant, he said.

Under the oddly named "most favored nation" provision, Tidewater promises that if any future customer gets rates more favorable than Clark County's, the county's rates would be cut to the same level.

However, WW agreed to do so only if "comparable volumes and circumstances" are involved.

Tidewater also offered a more favorable agreement in the event of termination of the contract before the 20 years expires. WW changed that portion of its proposal on Dec. 1 to be roughly equivalent to Tidewater, but it was an "11th hour" effort that was too late, Stillman said.

The "uncontrollable costs" provision of its proposals also won points for Tidewater. Both firms propose to pass additional costs of certain risks along to the county and garbage customers, among them such things as riots, wars, explosions and other major disasters. But WW's list was much more restrictive, and included such things as damage to facilities; injunctions or restraining orders; labor disputes, strikes or lockouts.

Experience: Although Committee members found that both firms have "substantial experience" in all crucial areas of the proposed project, WW was found to be "somewhat stronger" because of its size and larger number of experienced personnel working for Waste Management Inc., WW's parent company. (Tidewater, unlike its WW's parent firm, has no landfill experience but has allied itself with Wastech Inc., of Portland, a firm with a lengthy background in such work.)

The experience category included a study of legal actions against each firm. No unfavorable legal actions involving Tidewater were discovered. WW's parent, Waste Management Inc. of Oak Brook, Ill., was another

matter. The firm and its subsidiaries "have been the subject of anti-trust investigations, charges and convictions, as well as many press accounts of activities allegedly in violation of anti-trust laws," committee members wrote. They reviewed a "detailed report" on those matters prepared for the Metropolitan Service District of Portland, but "did not find any information concerning legal action for or against WW that would disqualify it from consideration." WW, a Waste Management subsidiary, is only a few months old.

Finances: Tidewater reported a net

worth on Sept. 30 of \$17.8 million, vs. Waste Management's \$2 billion. Tidewater's working capital was \$3.5 million, and Waste Management's was a negative \$75 million. Despite that, the firm's overall net worth makes it financially strong. "Assuming that the parent company provides financial guarantees for WW (subsidiary of Waste Management), the committee members wrote, its financial worth is larger than Tidewater."

However, said Stillman, Tidewater's finances exceed the minimum figures set by the county for all applicants for the contract. "Once you set minimum requirements it doesn't matter who you are," he said.

Functionality: This is the committee's category incorporating a host of criteria relating to how well the firms would be able to do their jobs. Tidewater was rated just "slightly stronger."

School Christmas programs are scheduled

Heppner schools will hold their "Winter Concert" for grades 5-12,

Monday, December 19 at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School gymnasium. This will be vocal and band groups performing.

Grades K-4 Christmas Program will be held at the Heppner Elementary Multi-Purpose room Wednesday,

December 21 at 1 p.m.

Directors for these concerts will be Bob Isted and Kitty Bredemeier.

Everyone is invited to attend. In lieu of admission charges, food barrel donations will be accepted to help re-stock the emergency food shelves at the Neighborhood Center.

Masonic lodge to hold installation

Heppner and Ione Masonic Lodges #69 and #120 will hold their installation of officers dinner and meeting, Tuesday, December 20 at

the Heppner Masonic Hall. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Wives and guests are welcome.

Four year lettermen receive awards



Bryan Padberg (l) and Dick Devin (r) were the only two members of the football squad to be presented letters for four years of play. This is an honor given to very few players.

Arts and Crafts to meet Dec. 19

The December meeting of the Morrow County Arts and Crafts will be Monday, December 19 at 1 p.m. at Kate's Pizza. This will be a Christmas party so bring a handmade gift for exchange and a plate of goodies.

Caroling service at Episcopal Church

There will be a caroling service this Sunday, December 18 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Episcopal church. All are welcome to attend.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

Dec. 6 - 12

	High	Low	Prec	Snow
Tues.	57	33	.20	
Weds.	39	31	.01	
Thurs.	54	31	.11	
Fri.	44	37	.02	
Sat.	47	35	.0	
Sun.	56	41	.01	
Mon.	65	40	.0	

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Monday, Dec. 12

Dec.	Soft White	\$4.76/\$4.75
Jan-March		\$4.75
	Barley	
Dec.-Feb.		\$112 T
PIK		99%
New Crop Wheat for Aug delivery		\$4.05

Open House at local banks

Local banking firms have announced their annual Open House:
First Interstate

First Interstate, Heppner Branch invites everyone to stop by their Open House, Thursday, December 22 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Santa will be present for snapshots with children from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be door prizes and the staff will provide goodies.

Bank of Eastern Oregon

The Ione branch would like to invite people to their Open House Friday, December 23 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Coffee and cookies will be served.

The Heppner branch will celebrate their Open House, Monday, December 19 during regular hours. Sign up to win a \$50 Christmas Club account door prize. Coffee, cookies and punch will be served.

Christmas Dance Dec. 23 in Ione

The Ione United Church of Christ youth group is sponsoring a Christmas dance, Friday, December 23 from 8-12 p.m. at the Ione Legion Hall.

Admission to the dance is \$1.50 per person or \$2 per couple. Dress is casual.

All area high school students are invited.

CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNT

Stop by
and Open
Your 1989
Account Today!

BANK OF Eastern Oregon
Arlington • Heppner • Ione
"Your Home Owned, Independent Bank"
Member FDIC