

Differences arise as to responsibility

Time running out for city dump

The City of Heppner's landfill is full and will be forced to close by the end of September. However, so far city and county officials can't seem to agree on details for the future dumping of city garbage.

The county has deeded a piece of property between Heppner and Lexington for use as a transfer station, but the city and county are in disagreement over how the transfer station should be operated.

According to Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson, Finley Buttes Landfill, (the large-scale landfill now in operation on Bombing Range road near Boardman) would own the property and construct the transfer station, and then, if it chooses, deed or lease the station to a private individual for operation.

The purpose of the transfer station is to receive garbage from the city of Heppner and private individuals, prior to transport to the Finley Buttes landfill.

Carlson says the county will regulate operation of the station and also the dumping rates but city officials are concerned about long-term commitment.

Heppner Mayor Cara Costa estimates that the city garbage dump will close by the end of September, but so far no transfer station in which to dump the garbage has been built.

"The only thing I'm concerned about is our residents, and making sure that our garbage is disposed of," said Costa. "I want a long term commitment that our rates would remain stable."

Carlson says, however, "we have no guarantee that's just private enterprise. The county has said that we'll provide the land for the transfer station, the road work into it and we'll

see to it that it's built and Tidewater (now Finley Buttes Landfill Company) has said they will contribute \$25,000 to the project," said Carlson.

"My question is, what contribution is the city of Heppner making. The city of Heppner has said they will offer money for fencing."

According to Carlson, Guy Patterson of Heppner has indicated an interest in operating the transfer station.

But city officials worry that a private operator may choose to close the transfer station if it proves unprofitable or may raise rates to the extent that the city or private individual may not be able to afford to dump there.

Heppner garbage is presently collected by Heppner Disposal, owned by Cliff Green of Heppner, and operated in a franchise agreement with the city.

Green said that when the city dump closes, he will haul city garbage to Finley Buttes on a temporary basis, but doesn't know how long he will be able to continue doing so.

"At some point I'll have to look at what it's costing me, maybe looking at a bigger truck...I'm willing to do what I can to keep things going. For the good of the community there needs to be a transfer station." Green said that Finley Buttes is too far for people to haul their garbage and voiced a concern that rates would go so high that people would never be able to afford it. "I am sure the transfer station will never be cost effective."

He went on to say that if rates at the transfer station go too high he would be forced to go out of business

or buy a bigger truck and bypass the transfer station entirely. He added that he cannot operate the transfer station because he is unable to find an insurance company to underwrite the liability required for a private individual to operate a solid waste disposal site.

Carlson said that the county would not be involved in the issue "if it weren't for the benefit of the rural people."

"Who's responsible for operating it? That's a good question. Maybe it's the county, maybe it's those who use it the most...I'm saying that 80 to 90 percent (of the garbage) going through that transfer station is from Heppner and I'm saying that maybe 80 to 90 percent should be financed by Heppner," he said.

City officials, however, point out a county ordinance, which they maintain states that it is the county responsibility "to provide a coordinated program of collection and disposal of waste and solid waste; to provide a licensing franchise system, and recycling program. It is declared to be the public policy of Morrow County to regulate the collection, transportation, and disposal of solid waste and the creation and operation of one or more disposal sites..."

Ann Spicer, Heppner attorney and member of the Heppner Economic Development Corporation, said, that HEDC is concerned because if Finley Buttes sells to a private individual, "The buyer is not restricted to keeping it as a transfer station."

Currently a Hermiston disposal service is supplying garbage service for the cities of Ione, Boardman and irrigon.

The Heppner

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County has State Fair booth



Morrow County booth at State Fair.

The Morrow County exhibit at the Oregon State Fair, Aug. 23 through Sept. 3, received a plate entitled "The Big One, 125th Oregon State Fair," for participating in the fair.

The booth was sponsored by the Tourism Committee of which Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun, is chairman.

Rathbun said that the booth was representative of Morrow County

and that they received good positive responses from people visiting the exhibit. He also said that quite a few people, both currently from Morrow County and people in the area who lived in Morrow County previously, manned the Morrow County exhibit.

Rathbun and his wife, Georgia and Fred Lundin of Heppner set up the booth.



Doug Rathbun displays plate

Medical board receives recommendation to hire Wick

A Pioneer Memorial Hospital subcommittee will recommend that the medical board sign an agreement hiring Ernest Wick as hospital administrator, according to Morrow County Medical Board Chairman, Jackie Bergstrom.

Bergstrom said that Wick, St. Anthony employee and PMH administrator since June 1987, has indicated that he will remain hospital administrator for 60 days, until Nov. 1 when he will announce his decision as to whether he will stay on as administrator after St. Anthony pulls out.

St. Anthony Hospital has announced that it will terminate its contract to manage Pioneer Memorial Hospital on Dec. 1. Bergstrom said that St. Anthony has indicated that it will continue to provide support services for PMH and is in the process of drafting an affiliation agreement with the medical board.

Bergstrom earlier stressed that "business will be carried on as usual and said that PMH employees' jobs are 'not in jeopardy.'"

According to Bergstrom the medical board was informed of St. Anthony's decision on Aug. 20, by telephone. On Tuesday, Aug. 21 the board received a certified letter from St. Anthony's to that effect. Bergstrom said only that "St. Anthony is in the process of reorganization and will not be able to provide management services any longer."

This is the second time that St. Anthony has announced the termination of its administrative contract with PMH. In October of 1988 St. Anthony announced that it would terminate its contract with PMH as of Dec. 23, 1988. Differences were

resolved, however, and St. Anthony remained.



Ron Forrar, a teacher at Heppner Middle School, caught a 249-pound blue marlin July 27 while on vacation in Hawaii. The 11-foot marlin was caught on the boat "Lady Jan," skippered by Tom Miles.

Hartmann enjoys Heppner experience

Maybe it's his Harvard degree in international relations, maybe it's his experience living abroad, or maybe it's just his optimistic outlook. Whatever, Will Hartmann just seems to fit in in Eastern Oregon.

Hartmann, 22, spent the summer working as a volunteer for the Heppner Ranger District.

"I wanted to come to a place totally different than the East Coast," said Hartmann, who was born in West Berlin and has lived in Zurich, Switzerland, Frankfurt, Germany, Los Angeles and Weston, Massachusetts, which he now calls home. Hartmann's father was in international banking and was transferred several times in Hartmann's youth.

"The pace of life is slower here. People are not as uptight," said Hartmann. "It's just nicer out here—definitely dry. And the driving distance is definitely a big thing."

Shaun McKinney, fisheries biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, and Hartmann's supervisor, said, "He (Hartmann) was nothing but a real positive addition. He far exceeded any expectations I had. Hopefully he also had a good time."

"My impression," continued



Will Hartmann

McKinney, "is that he got up in the mountains and said 'Wow, it's a long way from anywhere.'"

How did an East Coast boy end up in Heppner Oregon? Hartmann said that after graduation he wrote to federal agencies volunteering his time. McKinney saw Hartmann's name on a computer list and then called him. "Within 48 hours after the first call," said Hartmann, "I got five more—three from Oregon and two from Wyoming."

While at the Heppner Ranger

District Hartmann worked as a biological technician, surveying the physical and biological makeup of streams for fish habitat. The information is entered into a computer and used by the Forest Service in Heppner, the supervisor's office in Pendleton and the regional office in Portland to determine how to best manage the habitat.

McKinney says that using volunteers such as Hartmann "is an alternate way to get quality work done and not cost the taxpayers a lot of money. And it gives volunteers experience." Another volunteer from Boston college spent about a month working for the district and McKinney says he expects four volunteers from the Audubon Society to arrive shortly. McKinney said that Hartmann's experience working for the Massachusetts Department of Environment made him the most qualified for the job.

Hartman says that his future plans are "up in the air," although he does have an application in with the Peace Corps. When the job in Heppner ended, he said he planned on slowly traveling across the U.S. visiting friends and seeing the country, but "definitely enjoyed my experience in Heppner."

Port to develop cogeneration plant

The Port of Morrow Commission has signed a letter of intent with an independent energy producer to jointly develop a process steam/electrical cogeneration project at the Port of Morrow.

The agreement with PowerLink, a subsidiary of Portland General Corporation, is to develop a combined-cycle combustion turbine project that would generate 200 to 300 megawatts of electricity and create heat to be used for process steam, according to Gary Neal, port general manager. Up to 500,000 pounds per hour of process steam would be available for use by current and future food processors at the port's industrial park, he said.

The port hopes that construction on the joint venture can begin within a year, Neal said. The port will potentially own 51 percent of the project and PowerLink, 49 percent, he said.

"This project will allow the port to provide process steam to current and future industrial tenants at a very attractive and competitive rate," he said. "We will be able to offer process steam at about 80 percent of our processors' current cost of produc-

ing steam."

In addition, Neal says that at least half of the steam potential will be surplus to the needs of the existing food processors at the port. This additional capacity will help attract other food processing plants to the port's facilities, he said.

"This is a very attractive opportunity for new or expanded processing," he said. "It represents a potential capital investment savings of \$6 to \$7 million and an annual operating savings of about \$750,000." Neal estimated that about 1,000 new food processing jobs could be supported by the cogeneration project.

"What's exciting about this project is that the port and Portland General Corp. are working closely together to help achieve this economic development opportunity as well as to satisfy future power needs in the region," Neal said.

John Zanot, president of PowerLink, said PowerLink will develop the gas-fired combustion turbines and the process steam system, which will be available to the port for use by its industrial tenants. Heat from the gas-fired turbines also will be used to support a

steam turbine generator, which will produce additional electricity, he said.

"This is an ideal site for a cogeneration project," Zanot said. "It is close to an electrical substation, transmission capacity is available, two natural gas pipelines are nearby and there is an obvious economic development opportunity for the port and Morrow County."

The project will be designed to be a Qualified Facility under PURPA, the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, September 18	
Soft White	
Sept.	\$3.13
Oct.	\$3.14/\$3.16
Dec.	\$3.22
Jan.	\$3.24
Barley	
Sept.	\$95
Oct.	\$97/\$98
Nov-Jan	\$100
Pik	98 1/2%
CCC	312



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