

Court considers hiring development coordinator

By Doris Brosnan

At the July 11 meeting of the Morrow County Court, the commissioners discussed the possibility of contracting for part-time work with an economic development coordinator hired by the Port of Morrow. They agreed to some expectations and the need to meet with involved parties to discuss a possible agreement.

The court also discussed the position, which is now combined, of special transportation coordinator and Veterans Service officer. After a detailed discussion of the two responsibilities and funding requirements and sources, the court approved separating the two and identifying each as a 16-hour-a-week position.

Planning director Tamra Mabbott and public works director Burke O'Brien reported on the meeting of the previous week with the National Guard about the proposed road from Tower Road to Highway 74. The representative of the National Guard is to find out from the state how the project is to be funded and expects to have that information by the first week of August. O'Brien reported that the meeting seemed to clarify the county's position, including its refusal to accept the state's use for the project any money earmarked to go to the county when the state sells the involved land parcel. A possible time line for the road project noted 2003 expectations for state funds, unless fast-tracked for 2002. The county would be responsible for supplies, including gravel. The court expressed the need for the state to agree in writing to have the National Guard build the east-west road. The court also requested county counsel Bill

Hanlon to draft a letter to the state in response to the "notice of sale" of the involved land, expressing the county's interest.

Emergency management director Casey Beard joined Mabbott and representatives of the companies contracted to provide technical support on environmental issues at the Umatilla Chemical Depot to discuss needs of all parties. The court agreed to meet with them on a monthly basis to keep communication open, with the next meeting to be August 8.

Mabbott also reported to the court that the Heritage Trail project did not get funded by the state.

Justice Court Judge Charlotte Gray, court clerk Lucy Veliz and a representative of Credits Incorporated discussed with the court the use of a credit agency for collections, adding 25 percent to the owed fines for the collections. The CI representative gave references, proposed a two-tiered system and offered examples of how it would work. Gray explained that the collections would be for traffic accounts, not criminal cases. Veliz estimated 40 citations failed to appear in Justice Court in June. Hanlon questioned some mechanics of the system and Gray agreed to make some additions. The representative offered to send a final proposal to the court for consideration.

O'Brien reported completion of the Turner Road approach to Highway 74 and of fog seal on Bombing Range Road; near completion of the Myers Lane approach and of the Brenner Canyon rock crushing; cleanup work behind the Cutsforth Park pond, with help from the YCC crew. The department

will be paving at the fairgrounds. He reported that he will meet with the transfer station personnel to clarify the need for receipts. He explained to the court that he has closed the upper entrance to Anson Wright Park because of reports of people coming in that way to avoid paying to camp.

O'Brien also approached the court with fire-fighting issues, making several suggestions for equipment and its maximum use. The court approved purchases of some used equipment to replace and upgrade the department's and satisfy some suppression needs.

O'Brien reported having requested payment, by mail to the involved party, for damages to a road. He had not received a response, so Hanlon recommended that O'Brien file a small claim in Justice Court for cost of repairs.

Hanlon expressed the need to examine the Safety Net grant to the juvenile department before allowing work by the contractor. He also suggested adding a clause for termination to the modem-access agreement between the assessor's office and title companies.

Hanlon reported his review of the ESD telephone contract, advising that the scope of the project should be specifically identified. He also recommended some language additions to the contract regarding ongoing support of the system. The court also reviewed and discussed the proposed payment schedule for the contract.

Other action of the court included the following:

- approval of permits for a water line under Bergstrom Lane, for overhead electric lines across Kunze Road and Paterson Ferry, for a telephone line on Liberty School Road;

- approval of a behavioral health contract with Monika Hunter for dispensing of medications to a developmentally disabled client, contract with Mid-Columbia Center for Living for the Region Seven Diversion, and services agreement with Grant County;

- approval of the new Heppner Rural Fire District boundaries;

- agreement to request proposals for the county's building security project;

- approval of a contract between the Morrow County Unified Recreation District and the Fair Board for funding of a band for the kick-off dance and of contracts for the fair judges and vendors, and appointment of Sheri Gregory to a vacancy on the Fair Board.

- approval of the annual cooperative purchasing agreement with the state;

- review of the request by the public health director regarding the movement of part-time employees through the salary scale, noting the need for consistency;

- approval of allocations of tippage fees to Lone, Irrigon, Heppner, Boardman, Lexington, Hardman and the Heritage Trail.

In the Service

Air Force Capt. Mark D. Hollandsworth has graduated from the joint specialized undergraduate pilot training (JSUPT) at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma, and received an aeronautical rating of pilot in the military.

The aviator will be assigned to pilot the C-17 Globemaster aircraft at Charleston Air Force Base, North Charleston, South Carolina. He has served in the military for more than six years.

Hollandsworth is the son of James D. Hollandsworth of Boardman. His wife, Heather, is the daughter of Randy and Carrol Curtis of Pine Ranch Road, Navarre, Florida. The captain is a 1991 graduate of Walhalla High School, South Carolina and a 1995 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Army Pvt. Ronald W. Aliangan has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia.

The soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions. During infantry training, he developed basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experienced using various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

Aliangan is the son of Ronald Aliangan I of Irrigon and Rosemary Whittle of El Cajon, California.

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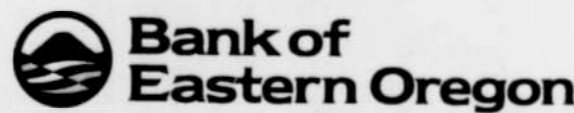
Leanne Way and Joseph Lindsay

Leanne Way and Joseph Lindsay announce their engagement to be married.

Leanne is the daughter of Terry and Arlene Way of The Dalles. She is a 1994 graduate of The Dalles High School and graduated from Blue Mountain Community College in 1997. She is currently an orthodontic assistant in The Dalles.

Joseph is the son of Larry and Corrine Lindsay of Lexington. He is a 1994 graduate of Heppner High School and graduated from Blue Mountain Community College in 1997. He attended Oregon State University in general agricultural studies. He is currently employed at the Lindsay family ranch in Lexington.

The couple will be married Saturday, August 25, 2001, at the St. Peters Catholic Church in The Dalles.



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