

County Court discusses RV park ordinance

By Doris Brosnan

To continue the Morrow County Court's discussion of the RV Park ordinance on October 10, planning director Tamra Mabbott and planning commission members Marvin Padberg and Joel Peterson offered input. Mabbott explained some differences in information now available from further research and different from that originally provided the planning commission.

County counsel Bill Hanlon explained his interpretation of the state code and Padberg explained the planning commission's desire to accommodate seasonal migrant workers and construction workers.

The group agreed on the need for certain restrictions for the use of the parks, no matter the length of time allowed for a stay, and cited problems that have developed in some parks. They also agreed on the need to consider the greater public interest in the issue.

With some concern over the code enforcement aspect, the court approved by a vote of two to one to allow 51 weeks out of 52 for the parking of trailers in private RV parks. Hanlon noted that the county can keep the 14-day limit on RV parking in county parks.

Port of Morrow Commissioner Dan Creamer and port director of economic development Lisa Mittlesdorf requested a statement of support from the court for a port resolution. Mittlesdorf outlined the chronology of events surrounding the port's efforts toward acquisition of state-owned property now for sale.

The port's resolution, Mittlesdorf explained, asks the state to follow the statutory process for the sale of surplus property, referring to ORS 270.100. She acknowledged that the port is interested in a 2000-acre

parcel included in the sale property and reported that the price asked for the parcel has changed but remains out of line with the value of the property. Creamer added that he does not think the state's position is in the best interests of the Morrow County citizens.

County commissioners addressed the water rights agreement previously reached with environmental groups; the possibility of the state's splitting up the parcel the port is interested in; the use-value of the property to the entity recognized by the state in the bidding process; and the handling of the sale by the state, which casts a different light on the original plans for the land that the court and the port agreed to support.

After a lengthy discussion, the court agreed to sign a resolution in support of the Port of Morrow's request to ask the state to follow the statutory process for disposal of surplus property.

Representatives of SCM, the company contracted for the permitting at the chemical depot, went over a draft of their technical review report. Discussion focused on definitions of "waste" and "product," on J block, on monitors, and on some clarifications to be made in the report. Also requested by the court was a copy of the scope of work and time line for the project.

A representative of the Offutt Farms, Wayne Downey, outlined the business's plans in Morrow County and discussed investments made by the company, including dairy improvements and infrastructure. The digester, reported in the media, is part of their plans and will provide electricity and a soil additive. A wind farm is being worked on; the company is discussing a beef project; a dock

facility, a circle train and food processing are also included in the plans; and the company is looking at light industrial and retail plans. In response to questions from Hanlon, Downey reported that the digester will eliminate 95 percent of the odor from the dairies.

Downey explained that the company's mission statement is committed to agriculture, and he voiced concern over an element of mistrust about Offutt's enterprises. The commissioners explained their reaction to the state's handling of the land sale process and not communicating with the county, and Downey agreed that, though the process was correct, the port and the county were not involved soon enough.

The court and Hanlon discussed the solid waste ordinance, with Hanlon recommending a rewrite by a consultant. Also discussed were the Ross Island waste, digester waste, hog fuel from Kinzua and the Green franchise. It was decided that Mabbott, who voiced interest in combining solid waste, hazardous waste and toxic waste in the same ordinance, will inquire about model ordinances. Hanlon will search for information on consultants. The court will get information to Hanlon about the sources of waste so that he can offer a recommendation.

Justice Court Judge Charlotte Gray talked briefly with the court about its request that she change the Justice Court banking and accounting practices. Gray had questions for the court, and the commissioners offered observations of how the new system should prove an asset to her. Gray agreed to talk to the accounting department.

Assistant public works director Bob Nairns reported to the court

that the crew had been sweeping and fog sealing on Little Buttercreek and Big Buttercreek roads and Frontage Road, with plans for the Lexington Shop and the transfer station areas; the crew has started paint striping for Gilliam County; has been doing traffic counts on Lone-Gooseberry, Halvorsen, Brenner Canyon and Liberty School roads. Nairns presented a list of expenses

for the painting of the Pioneer Annex and reported on the revenues earned at Cutsforth and Anson Wright parks the previous week. He invited the commissioners to a tour of the Ukiah ATV trails, which was held Friday, Oct. 12.

Other actions of the court include: approval of purchasing an anti-virus program for the network of

computers and a computer for the sheriff's office;

approval of the plat map for the city center in Boardman;

approval of allowing county employees to pay for supplemental insurance premiums through a payroll deduction, noting that it is not a county-sponsored benefit;

approval of the juvenile crime prevention plan.

Christian Life Center to host speaker

Reverend John Marvin, Assemblies of God missionary to Antigua and Barbuda, will be the featured guest speaker at the Christian Life Center, 535 W. Morgan Street, Heppner, on Sunday, Oct. 21, at 10:30 a.m., according to Reverend Tim VanCleave, pastor.

The public is invited to attend the Marvin's missions presentation.

John and Sarah Marvin are first Assemblies of God missionaries to Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean. The two islands lie several hundred miles east of Puerto Rico among the other island nations of the Lesser Antilles. The population of 67,000 includes about 3,000 refugees who fled the island of Montserrat during a volcanic eruption in 1995.

"We have mainly ministered on Antigua," says John Marvin, "but have been to numerous islands across the Caribbean as well. Our district includes Antigua, Barbuda and St. Kitts with a total of 16 churches, 13 of which are on Antigua."

During their last ministry term, the Marvins helped plant two churches on Antigua. They were also active in evangelistic crusades and youth and children's ministry. "We helped organize an island-wide crusade in which more than 2,500

people accepted Christ as their Savior," said Sarah Marvin.

"On one day," John says, "we had a children's crusade for 450 kids and a youth rally for 250 young people."

The Marvins have several goals for outreach upon their return to Antigua and Barbuda.

"It's very important that we establish some kind of Bible training facility," John says. "Currently, students have to travel to the United States, Trinidad or Jamaica for theological training. We will be working with Global University to establish a learning center on the island."

"We will also be involved in evangelism and church construction throughout the Eastern Caribbean," Sarah says.

Despite continued church growth, challenges remain. The Marvins see a great need for unity among local churches. They want to penetrate local witchcraft practices with the truth of the gospel. Above all, they see a need for a genuine relationship with God among many islanders who rely on religious tradition.

"We have seen God accomplish wonderful things in people's lives over the past several years," they say. "We believe He has many more

blessings in store as we prepare to expand our church planting efforts throughout the region."

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

-MCSO received a request for deputy contact in Irrigon regarding abandoned vehicles on the caller's property.

-MCSO received a report from Oregon State Police that James Ray Steelman, 46, was arrested for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO received a report of a lawn mower stolen from a carport in Irrigon last night.

-MCSO received a report of a Ford Explorer running a stop sign at Highway 74.

-Oregon State Police received a report of two vehicles chasing each other in front of the Irrigon Justice Court.

-MCSO, Boardman Police and Fire depts. received a report of a fire along I-84 westbound.

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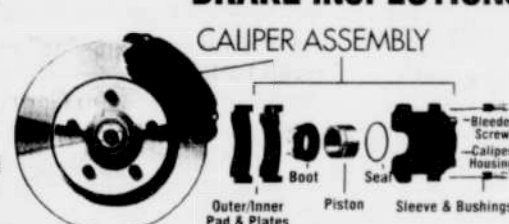
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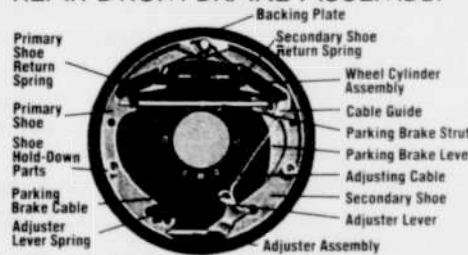
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