

County Court news

At the County Court meeting of May 15, Judge Terry Tallman opened the continuation of the public hearing on the BAIC land-use appeal, noting the submission by Joel Peterson of a summary of his previous testimony. Planning Director Tamra Mabbott reviewed her redraft of the findings, with some changes. She read comments emailed by Steve Hultburg, attorney for the applicant, and responses to those by the county's consulting attorney, Larry Epstein. The applicant agreed to proposed language in the corrected findings and to some further language changes proposed by Commissioner Dan Brosnan. The hearing ended.

Mabbott handed the commissioners a draft of minutes from the May 2 public hearing on the speedway and discussed with them the hearing that was to follow the next day in Irrigon. The commissioners then discussed some of the questions they would be seeking answers to at the hearing.

Judge Tallman reported on his meeting with Health Department staff and work on that department's budget. The Court discussed the possible management of both health departments by the director of Behavioral Health. Later in the meeting, Behavioral Health Director Kelly Sager agreed that such a combining of departments could work, as some other counties are operating in this manner, and suggested need for further discussion of the management structure. Discussion ensued, with a general agreement that defining the mission of the Health Department is in order.

Sager updated the Court on department issues, beginning with a copy of an editorial noting that Morrow County is "among the top five in motivating adults to stay in treatment for alcohol and other drug abuse." He noted that the department is in full compliance according to the Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

Sager reported continued recruiting efforts for a new director in Grant County, with plans to screen nine applicants and schedule interviews. Sager noted the hiring of a new clinician for Grant County, explaining that the hiring creates a full staff.

Sager then discussed HB 3024, which has created a quandary for the Mental Health Association, and which some directors see as an unfunded mandate. The Court agreed with Sager that he not attempt to write a plan or pay to have a preliminary plan written for submittal under HB 3024.

Sager reported a loss of some alcohol and drug funding and noted that he will not be signing an alcohol and drug funding amendment because he does not agree with it.

Sager also reported that the Extension Agent's office will be moving from the Gilliam and Bisbee Building on May 22, a move to which Behavioral Health contributed some funds. Sager requested permission to move into some vacated space and noted the need for some new equipment. He reminded the Court that an architect had looked at the remodeling prospects at the Boardman Annex, and Sager proposed seeking a community development block grant for the project. He ended his appearance with comments on a broad-band video conferencing project of Eastern Oregon Human Services Consortium.

Surveyor Ron McKinnis reported to the Court on a private surveying job he is performing for a subdivision, in which he found that deeds did not match his surveying findings. He discovered that the county had once paid landowners for a right of way but had not marked it completely with pins. The Court informed him that he should, as county surveyor, set the remaining pins.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported that the crew had finished patching County Line Road, Kunze, 8th Street, Pole Line, and Homestead, and they were to finish McNab on that day. O'Brien said that the hydraulic upgrade on the chip spreader is complete, and the crusher jaw unit would be ready by the end of the week for crushing operations the following week. Rock screening was to be completed on May 16. O'Brien also observed that having two people working on weed spraying has made an excellent difference.

Other actions of the Court include the following:

- agreement to the extension of 90 days for a resolution to a property owner working on getting an agreement with a neighbor over a piece of Act of Congress land;

- approval of a day of work on software by the personnel consultant;

- review of Joel Peterson's letter for the record on the BAIC land use appeal and agreement with his recommendation to add language to the Transportation System Plan;

- approval of allowing Boardman Parks two loads of reject rock;

- approval of agreements for the Juniper Canyon Road realignment project and the Rhea Creek Brenner Bridge project.

May 1 county court news. Continued from last week's paper

Public Works Office Specialist Karen Wolff reported that the Parks Committee is considering a new fee for partial power and water hookup at the county parks. She said that Public Works Director Burke O'Brien proposes a sewer-dump fee and restriction of that use to campers only. Wolff reported that last year, campers also wanted to pull into the parks to fill water tanks before going on to other campsites, so the committee is considering a fee for water. Brosnan observed that he would prefer water free to campers but not sold to other people, and Tallman agreed. Wolff also reported the fee and refundable cleaning deposit that the committee is considering for use of the 4-H building at Cutsforth Park. The building, Wolff reported, is rented at least one weekend a month.

Wolff announced that the next meeting of the committee working on an ATV park is scheduled for Saturday, May 18. She shared the agenda and the letter to the Oregon State Parks ATV Allocation Committee regarding its visit.

Other actions of the Court included the following:

- decision to advertise in the local paper that foreclosed property in Heppner is available for purchase;

- approval of a permit from CenturyTel for a buried line by Columbia Avenue and a permit for an underground line on Morter Lane;

- approval of a permit to a landowner for an approach onto Paul Smith Road;

- approval of a grant agreement, subject to county counsel approval, for an OYCC parks project;

- approval of agreements with Judy Horton and Carolyn Paris for hosting at the county parks, which will open by May 10, with the stocking of ponds with fish on May 13;

- approval of extending by 70 hours the Commission on Children and Families contract with Laura Avilos for safety net work;

- approval of a new contract with the Office of Energy for emergency-response planning;

- approval of new contracts with local agencies for CSEPP funding for support to participate in CSEPP programs;

- approval of a resolution declaring a continuing state of drought emergency, supported by a USDA/Farm Service Agency/Morrow County Emergency Board report that estimates 60-80% yield losses in cereal crops and non-irrigated forage.

Willow Creek area received award to hire Water Quality Coordinator

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded \$58,448 on May 16 to the Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District for the purpose of hiring a water quality project coordinator to work with the Willow Creek Working Group. The 27,000-acre lower Willow Creek area has been a focus of water quality improvement projects for some time and has active participation from many local landowners. The coordinator will develop and monitor three demonstration projects in order to inform local landowners about best management practices, and how they can implement them and maintain the positive impact on economic development and workforce activity in the valley.

One of the main reasons this project was funded is because of its proactive approach to improving water quality and reducing runoff, said a news release. The Malheur Watershed Council is currently monitoring 12 sites in Willow Creek for E. Coli and sediment. This project will enable the data collected, as well as any solutions to the water quality issues to be distributed to the landowners. The coordinator will help to inform local landowners about the issues, solutions and implementation and benefits of the solutions.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) was created in 1999, and is charged with funding local voluntary efforts to improve water quality and quantity, enhance habitat for critical fish runs, and restore watersheds to support local economies. Funding comes from many sources, including a voter-approved 7.5 percent from lottery proceeds for the purpose of watershed restoration and protection.

District spelling contest winners

The 2002 Morrow County School District Spelling Contest was held May 16 at Heppner High School. Many students from the county participated.

Division I winner was Kara Clay, Ione Elementary School. Division II winner was Amy Jepsen, Heppner Junior High School. Division III winner was Zach Baker, Riverside High School.

Division I winners:
second place: Tiana Camarillo, IES; third place: Nathan Bennett, A.C. Houghton Elementary School; fourth place: Maggie Armato, Heppner Elementary School; fifth place: Nick Dyer, Sam Boardman Elementary School; sixth place: Jessica Hughs, HES; seventh place tie: Mikey Raible, IES, Ethan Ellis, SBES; eighth place: Derek Horsfall, ACH; ninth place: Chandelle Arner, SBES; 10th place: Corbin Tegner, ACH.

Division II winners:
second place: Luis Chavarin, Columbia Middle School; third place: Laurie Murray, HJHS; fourth place: Brendan McElligott, HJHS; fifth place: Kayla LaRue, Ione Middle School; sixth place: Cullen Martin, CMS; seventh place: Amanda Walker, CMS; eighth place: Emily Rietmann, IMS; ninth place: Justin Archer, IMS.

Division III winners:
second place tie: Til Tullis, Ione High School, Elliott Bratton, RHS; third place: Jesse Gutierrez, Heppner High School; fourth place: Jami Moore, RHS; fifth place: Daniel Jepsen, HHS; sixth place: Adam Neiffer, IHS; seventh place: Taylor McElligott, IHS; eighth place: Brooke Rust, HHS; ninth place: Jeremy Hall, RHS.

Fundraiser for Water Park

Jar candles from Home Interiors and Gifts are for sale through Sarah Collier as a fundraiser for the Willow Creek Water Park.

Please call Sarah Collier at 676-8033 to order. Orders will be

A Look Into Our Past



From the Editor: The Gazette-Times welcomes your submissions to our new feature, "A Look into Our Past". Take a few minutes this week and look through your old photo albums and attics for pictures featuring Morrow County history. Please include as much information as possible, including (if known) the photographer, approximate date taken and the history behind the photo with your submission. All submitted pictures and information will be returned.

Here is a group celebrating Heppner High School graduation week as well, the class of 1899. Recognize anyone you know?

First row: Elsie Ayers, Anna McBride, Miss Anne J. Balsinger (teacher), Professor W.L. Howard, Lulu Hager, Jennie Kirk. Second Row: Pearl Wells, Vira Haft, Lena Glasscock, Horace Matlock, Stella Rhea, Bertha Adkins, Anna Smith, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Howard. Third Row: Gertrude Bishop, Heppner Blackman, Nellie Phillips, Charlotte Shipley, Louis Balsinger, Lillie Monay, Hanson Hughes.

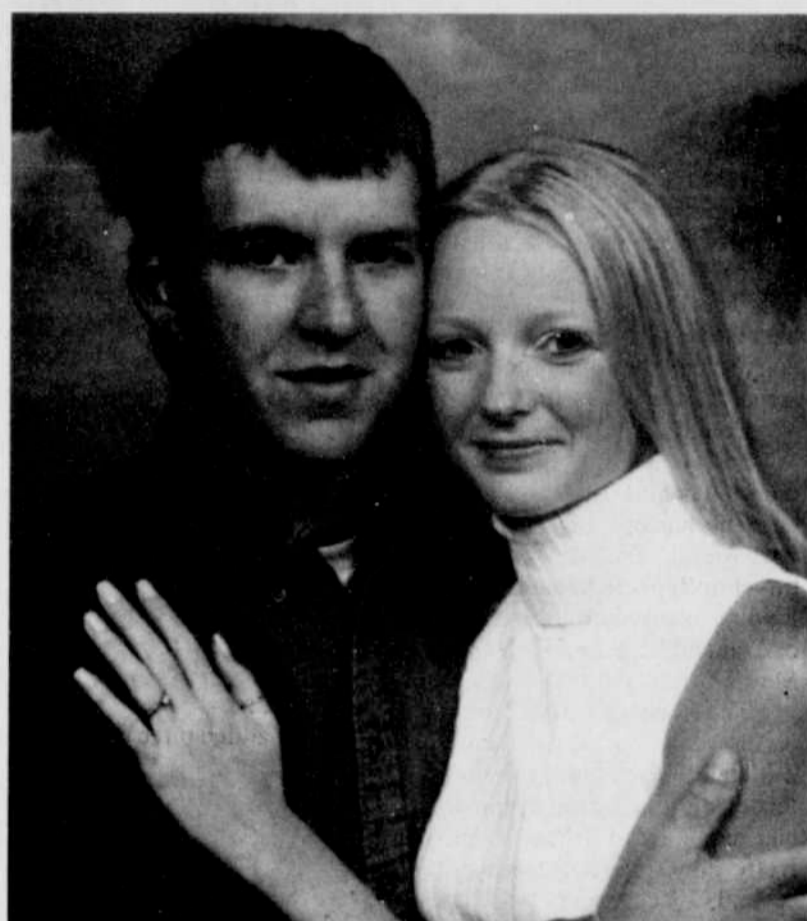
Tractor Training and Safety workshop scheduled

Morrow County Grain Growers and the Morrow County Extension Office will offer a two day tractor training workshop beginning on Friday, June 14. Youth ages 14-17 who plan to seek summer farm jobs involving the operation of power-driven farm machinery need to complete the Tractor Training and Safety Workshop to be eligible for employment. The workshop will include class time, practical exercises, and lots of "hands-on" activities. Safe tractor operation will be the main emphasis of this workshop. Participants will learn how to start and stop a tractor, and they will learn about safe driving techniques. Tractor maintenance will be discussed and identification of tractor fluids and mechanical components will also be on the agenda.

Participants will have an opportunity to operate tractors, with attached implements, a swather, and a front-end loader. First-aid techniques, fire safety, and electrical hazards will also be discussed and demonstrated. The course will conclude with a written examination, which must be passed with a score of 70% or higher. Call the Morrow County Extension Office at 676-9642 or 1-800-342-3664 if you need further information or would like to register for the class. Registration, which includes a \$5 fee, is required and must be completed by Friday, June 7.

taken until June 15 and will be delivered by June 28. "This is a great way to start your holiday gift shopping while helping to fund our Water Park," says Collier.

Engagements



Anderson-Palmateer

The families of Mandy Anderson and Treve Palmateer announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of the couple.

The bride-elect is a 2001 graduate of Condon High School and is currently working toward a degree in Early Childhood Education at Blue Mountain Community College.

Palmateer attended Heppner High School and is currently working on his grandmother's ranch in Echo.

The couple's wedding date is set for June 29, 2002, at the Vey Ranch in Echo. The couple welcomes all their family members and friends to join them in the celebration. There will be a barbecue immediately following the ceremony.

Dunaway-Price



Sheila Dunaway and Brian Price

The parents of Sheila Marie Dunaway and Brian Lee Price announce the engagement of their children.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Harlan and Linda Dunaway of Heppner. She is a 1992 graduate of Heppner High School, attended two years at BMCC, is a graduate of DPSST, and was employed at TRCI until Sept. 2001 when she moved to Bend. She is currently between jobs and is working as a nanny in Bend.

The groom-elect is the son of Charlotte Price and the late Thomas Price of Bend. He is a 1980 graduate of Taft High School in Lincoln City. He also attended two years at BMCC. He is employed at Plateau Wood Works in Bend.

The couple will be married Saturday, July 13, at McKay Park in Pendleton at 1 p.m.

Country Club ladies play golf

Willow Creek Country Club ladies held Thursday evening league play on May 9. Results are as follows:

Low gross of the field-Dana Reid. Low net of the field-Shari Stahl and Luvilla Sonstegard. Least putts of the field-Mary Kinkaid.

Blind man best ball-Sandi Hanna and Dana Reid, and Luvilla Sonstegard and Shari Stahl. Special events-par on #1, Virginia Grant; two-putt on #9, Virginia Grant.

Evening play was also held May 16. Results are as follows: Low gross of the field-Shari Stahl. Low net of the field-Mary Kinkaid. Least putts of the field-Linda Schultz.

Chip in-Linda Schultz. Birdie-Linda Schultz. Blind man best ball-Shari Stahl and Virginia Grant. Special plays-Dana Reid, Della Heideman.