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Lexington and county talk about water

Lexington and Morrow County last week discussed how the town and the county may cooperate on the rehabilitation of a well at the Lexington airport. The rehab could end up benefiting both.

Burke O'Brien, head of the Morrow County Road Department, met with Lexington Mayor Val Doherty and the Town Council February 28, to discuss how to get more water both to the town and to the airport. The county operates the Lexington Airport and is in the middle of a large up-grade and expansion project that will be requiring more water, and the Town of Lexington has had a continuing problem with shortages of water, and the need for a backup water source.

A 70 gpm well is located at the airport but at this time is not usable. O'Brien talked to the council about how to fix it. "The best-case scenario is if the city and the county partner to rehab the well and supply water to both the airport and the to the city," he suggested to the council and mayor. O'Brien said the county needs more water at the airport for operation of two ag stations where spray planes fill up and get ready, and for water piped to new hangars that plane owners could use to wash down their planes and other uses.

Mayor Val Doherty said the city has reached its maximums with the current well and needs to find another source. "We are not rationing our water, but we are getting close to our limit," she said of the town. She also said the town needs to find a back up water source by 2008. Doherty said the town would like to deal directly with the "end users" of the water at the airport instead of going through a third party like the county. "If we supply water out of town to a separate commercial operation we need to be able to cut them off if we get in a problem of shortage," she told O'Brien and the council.

At this time the water from the well is not potable, or drinkable, not because of the well, Doherty said, but because of the storage tank. She said the 70,000 concrete reservoir the well pumps into cannot be sealed on the top and is not in condition to store drinking water.

"If the reservoir can be rehabbed, then water pressure would be better (in town)," she said.

O'Brien said the county may be willing to share in the expense of making the well usable again. "County could defray some of the costs to get that well working properly," he said.

"We have to have a back up to our water system one way or another. Whether it is rehabbing the old well or drilling another," Doherty said.

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Valby installs new pastor

Pictured left to right are Reverend Janis Johnson, Pastor Ann Schlossnagle, Pastor Wes Sackman, and Pastor Zane Wilson. Rev. Johnson serves All Saints Episcopal along with Hope Lutheran Church in Heppner. Pastor Wes Sackman is a retired pastor from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hermiston. Pastor Zane Wilson is assistant to the Bishop, ELCA, from Portland.

Pastor Ann Schlossnagle was recently installed as pastor of Valby Lutheran Church. Valby Lutheran Church is located 17 miles south of Ione on Valby Road.

Pastor Ann is no stranger to rural communities. The parishes that she served were within a 125 mile radius on the plains of South Dakota, and that serving a single Lutheran Church seems much more relaxing than what she was used to. Schlossnagle originally came from Baltimore, MD where she received a degree in psychology. In 1994 she received a Masters of Divinity at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg.

Another interesting talent that Reverend Ann brings to this area is the ability to have conversation in the American Sign Language. She also had voice lessons during her college career. "My life and my training is to throw out the seeds of Christ's words to the best of my ability," said Rev. Ann.

Pastor Ann brings with her a daughter, Jenni, who is attending Heppner High School as a freshman.

Hospice shows county what tippage buys

Pioneer Memorial Hospice had potluck lunch with the Morrow County Court last week, and showed the commissioners what tippage money awarded by the court had been spent on in their department.

In 2005-06 the county awarded $16,500 in tippage fees that was used to purchase training material and office equipment for Hospice which provides in-home care and counseling for terminally ill patients and their families in Morrow County.

Tippage fees is money collected from the Finley Buttes landfill in Northern Morrow County and is distributed to various groups and agencies in the county.

The money was used to buy a DVD and VCR player and TV for training; digital camera and software; computer, software and printer; office equipment; training and bereavement supplies, training videos and staff and volunteer training. Hospice relies on both professionals and volunteers as staff to help people.

Members of Pioneer Memorial Hospice have lunch with county commissioners. Left to right former commissioner Ray Grace, Kathy Skinner and Robanai Disque both with Home Health/Hospice, county Judge Terry Tallman, Molly Rhea director Home Health/ Hospice, Cyde Estes Hospice volunteer, Sherry Ewing Home Health/Hospice, and Donna Schonbachler with Home Health/ Hospice.

Morrow County Court honors the late Donald C. McElligott

The Morrow County Court honored the late Donald C. McElligott for his many accomplishments, years of service to the people of Ione and Morrow County, and his notable achievements at their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 28, at the Morrow County Courthouse.

McElligott was a rancher, husband, and parent. He served in the Army Air Force in Africa during World War II as a transport pilot. He was a member of Oregon Cattlemen, Oregon Wheat League, Farm Bureau, Heppner Elks, Ione American Legion, VFW, Willows Grange, St. William's Catholic Church, and Holy Names Society.

Donald C. McElligott

McElligott served as a Morrow County School Board member for a total of 10 years and served as Chair from 1967-1969. He was also a member of the Ione School Board. He served as a Morrow County judge for seven years and as a county commissioner. McElligott also helped form and then served on the board for the Ione Fire District.

Over the past 50 years, McElligott served his community on numerous other boards, councils, and committees.

The Morrow County Court extended its heartfelt appreciation and thanks on behalf of the citizens of Morrow County.

Methane generator planned at Finley Buttes

A Lake Oswego company has announced plans to install two generators at Finley Buttes Landfill that will use methane gas to generate 3.2 mega watts of power.

The landfill produces methane gas from the garbage dumped there and the company plans to harness that gas and produce electric energy that will be sold to PacificCorp through the Umatilla Electric Co-op power grid.

The landfill is now continuously producing 450 to 550 cubic feet per minute of methane gas from the 400,000 tons of municipal solid waste that is dumped at Finley each year. The gas is currently just burned off.

The landfill has been in operation since 1991 and there is currently about 71 acres of waste to a depth of 100 feet. Finley BioEnergy, headquartered in Lake Oswego, plans to drill more wells to tap the methane, and possible add more generators in the future to boost production to 10 mega watts.

The generating plant will be located next to Cascade Specialties, Inc. an onion dehydrator that would like to purchase heat from the company. The heat will be used to dehydrate onions.

The company estimates the cost of the project to be $6 million and construction is scheduled to begin April 2007. The generators will be delivered in July and it is estimated the project will be completed in September, 2007 and fully operational by the end of this year.

Don't Forget!

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 11.

Set your clocks foreword one hour!

May election deadlines announced

April 24 is the last day register to voted for the May 15th election.

The filing deadline for the May 15th election is March 15.

Filed as of March 5 are: Joe McElligott, Ione Rural Fire District, at large; Joe McElligott, Ione/ Lexington Cemetery District, at large; Cyde Marie Estes, zone #5, Morrow County Unified Recreation District; Marcus Collier, Ione Rural Fire District, at large; Marvin Padberg, Port of Morrow Commissioner #4; Linda LaRue, Morrow County Health District #4; Delton LaRue, Morrow County Unified Recreation District, zone #4; Lynn Hobbs, Ione Rural Fire District #1; Larry Mills, Morrow County Health District #5; Larry Lindsay, Port of Morrow #5; Marilyn Childers, Ione/Lexington Cemetery District, at large; and Alice Y. Ellis, Oregon Trail Library District #3

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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