Morrow County still taking recyclables

China not buying has hurt the market By David Sykes

Management Assistant San- bins are free to the public. di Pointer told the county stations

board and plastic has shut good," she said. down and subsequently put

commissioners last week. also still take all electronics per month. Miller will also And even though the coun- equipment like computers increase the cost of haulty is raising its garbage and televisions as well as ing the big county transfer dumping fees (see new fee large household items like station containers to the schedule published below furniture, beds and mat- Finley Buttes Landfill from in this week's paper) it still tresses and appliances and \$160 to \$170 per container. takes a wide range of elec- bathroom fixtures. Pointer Hauling a large container tronics and household items said the free disposal is an to Hermiston will go from for free at its two transfer effort to keep these items \$240 to \$260. from being dumped along Pointer said the pipe- the roadside. "We want to like a big increase," said line to China for waste card- keep our county looking

At last week's meeta severe crimp in the US ing the commission voted waste market, however, the to approve a rate increase county continues to have its in south county for Miller recycle bins out and collect- and Sons Disposal. The ing. The county operates a increase was approximately

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got built.

Edmundson's learning of community responsibilback to his youth in the service. town of Hood River. He was born in Pendleton but has been involved with moved to Hood River when he was around nine years old. It was there that he got involved with a group called the Crag Rats. The Rats were a search and rescue group that would go up the mountain and around the community to help people in trouble. He also worked in the fruit orchards thinning and picking with World War II veterans, who taught him the meaning of a good hard day's work.

His father was a medical doctor and his mother better with his help. "You a social worker. Although he did not know her at that and you are connecting time, both Edmundson and his future wife Pat attend- instruction. ed the same elementary school in Hood River. He year at Willamette in 1956. From then on Pat has supthe volunteer work of her husband, knowing full well that sometimes he would be working in the community rather than being at home. From there Edmundson went on to get his math degree from Willamette University and started teaching in Salem. After more schooling and more jobs he eventually ended up as the principal at Ione. "I chose Ione because I thought it was a better place to raise our family," he says. Edmundson remembers how he came to the Ione graduation ceremony and heard the speaker talking about conservative values, and the students and parents were nodding in agreement. He decided right then this is where he wanted to be. After that he went on to a be the assistant Morrow County Superintendent. Edmundson says in his life, teaching him the value and meaning of community service, was membership in the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, which strongly emphasizes lifetime community service through its Men of Principle and Beta Leadership programs. "Representative chapter president my freshman year," he recalls "and

Edmundson was also in- he was consistently encourstrumental in getting the aging the us to strive to do city restroom installed at our best." Senator Mark the park. He says he wrote Hatfield was the chapter a one-page letter asking advisor. Edmundson says for \$20,000, then the city he is still involved with kicked in an additional the fraternity and will be \$20,000 and the restroom attending a Beta luncheon in Portland at the end of this month, something which will still help reinforce his ity and citizenship dates commitment of community

> Other endeavors he during his lifetime shaping his sense of community service, include a summer project he went on with the American Friends Service Committee in Mexico between his freshman and sophomore years at Willamette, and being in the U.S. Army Reserve, 104th Timberwolf Division, for 8 1/2 years. In other community endeavors, Edmundson has taught many classes in both golf and skiing and says he enjoys seeing people learn those skills and become get immediate feedback with people," he says of the

In past years Edmundson used to request to work did get to know her in sev- with the juveniles who had enth grade math class, and gotten into trouble and then they went on to get were assigned community married during his senior service work by the courts. "I would work with Judge (Louis) Carlson, Carolyn ported and stood behind Holt and Judge (Terry) Tallman and they would assign the community service youth to me," he recalls. He would pick up the kids and take them to the work, and he remembers one young person, a habitual offender, who he took to the golf course for his community service work. "I walked elbow to elbow with him and when I would see things that needed done, we would do them together," he recalls. They were painting railings and other things at the golf course that day before moving on to pulling puncture vine on a hot dusty day for about an hour and a half. He says the young man finally looked up at him and said: "I think I prefer painting." Edmundson says he has enjoyed working with many young people over the years doing these jobs around the community. One of the reasons Edanother important influence mundson likes to work with youth is that he believes we can teach the next generation community service by example. "We teach the children the three Rs in school, but I think we need to add a fourth. Responsibility. That translates into citizenship," he says. "And that is really the most Bob Packwood was the important lesson we can teach."

collection bin on Riverside 15 percent and increases Childers and the commis-Even though China in Heppner, one at the south rural residential from \$20 no longer buys our waste, end transfer station between a bin to \$25, Heppner and Morrow County is still Heppner and Lexington and Lexington in town garbage collecting cardboard, glass one on Frontage Lane in bins from \$20 to \$22.50, and metal, Public Works Boardman. These recycle rural dumpsters from \$70 to \$80, and local business The transfer stations dumpsters from \$70 to \$80

> "Fifteen percent sounds County Commissioner Don Russell, "but it's been nine years since they had an increase." Miller and Sons owner Ryan Miller said in a letter to the commission that over the past nine years they have increased their customers from 444 to 647 which has increased the mileage on the trucks, affecting both the road tax and fuel usage. Miller said his company needed the rate increased to meet costs which he expected to increase an average of 15 percent over the next three tee and the commissioners years and in future years. Miller also said he plans on surer's salary was because replacing two of his trucks years ago tax collection and adding "upwards of six duties were moved out roll-off containers to ac- of the treasurer's office commodate the community and given to the assessor's growth and projects coming into Morrow County."

While at the meeting Commissioner Jim Doherty discussed the current state of recycling in the county. Pointer said it now costs \$60 a ton to bale and ship cardboard that can only be sold for \$50. Since China quit buying, much of it is being stockpiled at Hermiston Sanitary storage yard waiting for the market to improve. "Hopefully it will get better," she said.

Pointer also told the time pay. commissioners she is looking for a solution to the plastic waste in the county. She said the plastic used to go to the Finley Buttes Landfill where it was sorted and then sold to China, but since that market is gone it is just going into the ground. "We have all these milk jugs, plastic containers and other things that I hope to find a way to recycle," she told the Gazette-Times. She thought maybe a shredder or chipper might work to find a use for the plastic. "I hate to see it just going into the landfill," she said. "If anybody has an idea please contact me," she added. She said the county found it necessary to increase its dumping fees because it hasn't had a rate increase in seven years and costs have gone up. The county is now going to a cubic yard fee at the transfer stations (see fee schedule below). In other business at its Jan 22 meeting the commission heard a report from Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers. Childers reported on who has filed so far for public office: Commissioner Position 1 – Joseph Armato and Jim Doherty, Clerk Bobbi Childers, Justice of the Peace Theresa Crawford and Glen Diehl, Sheriff Kenneth Matlack and Mark Pratt and Treasurer Gayle Gutierrez. Childers also reported on the current number of registered voters in the county. Boardman has the most with 1,943, Irrigon is second with 1,753, then comes Heppner at 1,335, Ione with 443 and Lexington having 431 voters for a total of 6,561 registered voters in the county. In other business

sioners discussed the recent move to consider cutting the treasurer's salary possibly in half. The treasurer is an elected position which has been held by Gayle Gutierrez for the past 23 years since 1997.

"I have been here for 20 years and this is the over the salary made her a 50 percent reduction to first time I have ever seen this done," Childers told date Amanda Rea recently reduction to \$50,524 yearly commissioners Doherty dropped out of the election pay and benefit package. and Don Russell (Com- race leaving only Guitierrez missioner Melissa Lindsay on the ballot. "May not be sation comes up for rewas not in attendance at the a full-time job which makes view for everybody every meeting). "This is so off me nervous to give up my track to what the county has normal full-time job," she Doherty said. He said the done in the past." She said wrote in her withdrawal compensation committee, the county held a special statement. "It has been over budget committee and the budget committee meet- a month since the conversa- commission all review saling to consider the salary tion began and I needed to aries then. "Everybody reduction and that when choose for the sake of my running, the salaries are up reviewing the minutes she normal job," she said. saw no reason given why they were doing it.

you changed it?" she said. and benefit package, 25 Russell said one reason the county budget commitwere looking at the treaoffice, thus reducing the workload for the treasurer. He said no salary adjustment was made at that time. "Twenty-five years ago when they took tax collection away, the treasurer's position remained full-time. The appropriate time to look at doing this (salary reduction) is during an election cycle and not after an election," Russell added. He said now was the time to look and see if the position warranted full



Recycle bins can be found on Riverside in Heppner. -Photo by David Sykes.

Saying uncertainty percent cut to \$101,609, "nervous", treasurer candi- \$76,066 and a 75 percent

At its meeting con- he said. sidering the treasurer sal-Childers pointed out any the budget committee again on Wednesday, Janthat one candidate with- looked at three different uary 29 to consider the drew from the race after options for the treasurer salary issue. However, the learning the county may cut starting next year. Leave meeting is after the Gathe salary. "People apply everything the same for a zette-Times deadline and for a job and then find out \$127,152 per year salary will be reported next week.

4-H Club meets

Grow 'Em and Show Reese Houck, reporter. 'Em 4-H club held their first meeting of the year on ated a schedule of events January 26 at the USDA for the next 4-H year and Service Center in Hep- discussed fundraisers. The pner. Officers were elected club also spoke about poswith Hunter Houck elected sible field trips and commupresident, Aden Lathrop, nity service ideas. vice-president, Natalie Piper, secretary/treasurer, be held February 23 at 4:30 Avree Lathrop, sentinel and p.m. at the same location.

Buttons for sale

St. Patrick's celebration the road bowling event. will be available for sale Buttons may be purchased beginning February 7. The at the Heppner Chamber, buttons will sell for \$3 each Heppner City Hall and and gets the purchaser two Murray's. Also at the city entries for a drawing to win hall and chamber offices, \$100.

"To be fair, compen-

year," commissioner Jim for review for everybody,"

The committee meets

The club members cre-

The next meeting will

Buttons for this year's by Julie Baker and features St. Patrick's koozies will be

The design for this available for \$3. year's button was created

NEW TRANSFER STATION DUMPING FEES

Dear Resident,

A minimum of \$8.85 will be charged for any amount of waste deposited at the

transfer stations up to a full cubic yard (six 32 gallon bags/containers). If you do not have a full cubic yard of waste (six 32 gallon bags/containers), you may want to wait until the full cubic yard is met and then deposit your waste. The attendant is not required and will not keep track of loads.

Effective January 2020, Morrow County Public Works Transfer Stations has been working from the same fee schedule for the past seven years. Due to the continual increase in cost for the County to dispose of the waste and an effort to minimize illegal dumping to occur, it is with careful consideration working with our neighboring waste collectors that the fee schedule for Morrow County residents utilizing the Morrow County Public Works Transfer Stations will be restructured to a per cubic yard charge. Effective January 2020, we feel this is the best feasible way to charge utilizing basic hauler terms and will add some consistency between the stations since all loads include multiple products with various weights and densities.

Currently with the two transfer stations, it costs the County an average of \$8.85 per cubic yard to dispose of waste.

There will be a minimum fee of \$8.85 (or one cubic yard) and then charged per cubic yard for anything greater than one. The fee is restructured as the following: Length x Width x Height/depth = ____ divide by 27 x minimum charge \$8.85 Examples:

- 4'x4'x1' (LWH): 0.59 cubic yards \$8.85 up to the 1 cubic yard, close to equivalent to SIX 32-gallon garbage bags is .96 cubic yards.
- 6'x6'x1' (LWH): 1.33 cubic yards \$11.50
- 8'x16'x4' (LWH): 18.96 cubic yards \$167.50

Morrow County has two transfer stations:

- SOUTH-END STATION, HWY 74 HEPPNER/LEXINGTON HWY, LEXINGTON
- NORTH-END STATION, 69900 FRONTAGE LANE, BOARDMAN, OR

Both transfer stations are open every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. With the changing of the fee structure, we will now be able to accept cash, check and Visa or Mastercard for your convenience. The new point of sale will provide consistency, accuracy and help with inventory of waste for our recycling and waste calculation reporting efforts.

Our transfer stations offer FREE of charge disposal for recycling of newspaper, cardboard, small steel cans, small glass and aluminum, latex and/or oil based paint (no more than 5-gallon containers), , electronics including computer towers, computer screens, key boards, printers, handheld radios, fax machines, tablets, telephones, cell phones, stereo and copiers.

In addition, the disposal of large household items is **FREE** of charge. Examples of these are sofa/couch, love seat, chair/large chair, mattresses, box springs, toilets, sinks kitchen/bath, bathtubs, refrigerator, freezer, water heaters, stove/range, washers and dryers

We appreciate your continued efforts in helping to keep our county garbage free! You can also be an active member in the solid waste solutions of our county by becoming a member of our Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). SWAC meets four times a year and meetings are open to the public. By becoming a member or attending the meetings, it allows you to participate in different issues such as rates, services offered and/or how the transfer systems operate.

If you have any questions and/or concerns please let us know by emailing spointer@co.morrow.or.us or calling 541-989-8166.

