

# \$400,000 capital bond issue to come before Heppner city voters in June

The Heppner City Council approved a 10-year plan unveiled by city administrator Gary Marks at the city council meeting Monday evening and authorized him to proceed with a city bond measure for the June 30 special election.

The two-part plan includes a \$400 thousand capital improvement bond over the next 10 years. The bond would include an addition to the fire hall, vehicles for police, fire and administrative purposes and various equipment.

Part two of the plan is a public works plan which would involve streamlining and updating the city public works fleet. This plan would involve sales of various vehicles and in some instances purchase of replacement vehicles. Marks said that the public works portion of the 10-year plan would not involve increases in taxes or user fees. Public works projects are funded through user fees,

grants and other governmental agencies, he said.

The \$400 thousand levy would cost the taxpayer \$2.42 per thousand assessed valuation. Cost to a taxpayer with a \$40,000 home would be \$96.81 a year. Marks says that the total cost to a taxpayer with a \$40,000 home for all city taxes is now \$340.80 a year. The proposed increase would bring up the cost to \$437.60, which is less than the pre-Ballot Measure 5 total city taxes of \$493.60 a year.

Marks said that his plan will "ensure" the efficient use of city dollars and "ensure" that the city has adequate equipment to perform necessary duties such as fire and police protection. He also said that his long range plan will ensure that funds are set aside for needed expenditures in years to come. "We've been realistic," he said. "We've done some plan-

ning so we don't get into bad situations. We want to be accountable. Physical equipment does wear out.

"The city has never had a plan like this," continued Marks. "Before it operated from one year to the next. If you plan, you get better results for your finances."

He said that the long range plan will restore the city's ability to address capital needs in the aftermath of Ballot Measure 5. Reduction in city funds has eliminated monies for capital improvement.

Marks said that 83 percent of the bond measure is committed to the fire department with about two thirds of that amount going for a new pumper and equipment. The balance of the fire funds, he said will go toward the demolition of the western section of the fire hall, which Marks said is close to condemnation, and construction of an additional bay to house a new fire truck and a multipurpose meeting room. Fire department officials say that the current pumper is obsolete and does not meet state standards. The meeting room maybe used for fire meetings and as an overflow council meeting facility.

The new pumper truck is scheduled for purchase this year, at \$165,000 and construction of the fire hall is planned for 1993 at \$100,000. Other vehicles and equipment will be purchased over the next 10 years for a combined cost of \$342,563, which includes a five percent cost buffer.

Fifteen percent of the measure will go toward vehicles and equipment for the police department. The plan includes reduction of police squad cars from two to one and purchase of a multi-departmental car which would be used by all departments, including by the police as a back-up car. Cost for the \$15,000 multi-departmental vehicle scheduled for purchase in 1999 would be shared equally by all three departments, police, fire

and administrative. A \$14,400 police squad car is scheduled for purchase next year. Total police capital expenditures over the next 10 years will amount to \$59,850, also including a five percent contingency.

The plan also includes sale of vehicles and equipment over the next 10 years.

City administration originally asked for \$9,345 over the next 10 years. 1992 purchases include a computer scanner at \$1,500 a dictation machine at \$300, a fax machine at \$500 and a calculator and a telephone at \$100 each. A \$1,400 line item for new city council furniture was rejected by the council.

Added on to the cost is five per-

cent inflation and \$10,900 for council furniture. The figure will be off set by \$62,496 in accrued interest.

## Group seeks Oregon Trail project

The Morrow County Oregon Trail Task Force is inviting proposals requesting financial assistance for Oregon Trail Celebration '93 projects. Oregon Lottery dollars and local matching funds provided by Morrow County will be dispersed by the Task Force, volunteers from municipalities and organizations throughout the county.

The Celebration '93 Matching Grant Program is available for projects which further the goal of the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council, administrator of the matching grant program, to provide a statewide year of celebration commemorating the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of the Oregon Trail and the heritage of Oregon's communities.

A project may be: a permanent

addition to a community or region's historical resources; a historical performance, publication or program related to the Oregon Trail or an area's heritage; an educational program related to the Oregon Trail or an area's heritage; a community event related to the Oregon Trail or an area's heritage (need not be a new event-tying an existing event to the celebration is appropriate); or a restoration or preservation project.

Project proposals, in letter form, should include a project description, responsible party or organization, proposed budget, other funding sources and amount requested from the grant program. Letters should be addressed to the Morrow County Museum, PO Box 1153, Heppner, 97836, and must be received by May 1.

## By My Hand to open at museum

By My Hand IV, the annual fiber arts juried show and sale will open its Morrow County run on St. Patrick's Saturday, March 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Morrow County Museum. Now in its fourth year, the exhibit features items in five categories: handwoven-wearable; handwoven-nonwearable; hand-spun; basketry; and felting.

guilds-Country Fibre Artists, Heppner; Oregon Trail Fibres, Pendleton; and Threadbenders, Baker City-LaGrande; the show features fiber artists from Heppner, LaGrande, Elgin, Enterprise, Haines, North Powder, Baker City, Pendleton and Walla Walla, WA.

Judges for this year are Cheri Jo Carter, Union County Home Extension Agent, Bill Hughes, retired BMCC art instructor and Linda Peterson, artist/weaver/teacher from LaGrande.

## Wranglers Club plans meeting

The Wranglers Riding club has planned a meeting for Wed., March 18 at 7 p.m. at Kate's Pizzeria in Heppner.

The agenda will include discussion on splitting age groups and dates and times of April playdays. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

Visitors on Saturday, March 14 will vote for the Heppner Peoples' Choice award. The show will also travel to Pendleton, LaGrande and Baker City for an exhibition. In addition to the opening Saturday, By My Hand may be seen in Heppner during regular museum hours through March 31.

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