

Voters to decide fate of 3,708,449 county budget March 22

Morrow County voters will decide the fate of a \$3,708,449 county operating levy in the March 22 election. According to Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson, the levy is down \$58,402 over the '93-94 budget, which translates to one fourth of one percent. Last year's levy was \$3,766,851.

"We think we're doing a good job of budgeting," said Carlson. "This is a levy we're pleased with."

"We are passing this budget and levy on to the taxpayers with our endorsement," said John Prag, Boardman, Morrow County budget committee member. "I've got to tell you that we worked hard to pare this thing down to a manageable size and this committee is going to support it."

Total taxes required, which include the six percent increase allowed by law without a vote of

the people are \$4,540,435. Total taxes for '93-94 were \$4,557,743.

The total county budget however is up to \$18,235,732, over \$2 million in '93-94

Morrow County accountant Lianne Currin said that increases in other revenues besides taxes, especially in the medical fund, account for the increase in the total budget and the drop in taxes asked.

The county budget includes a one and a half percent increase in salaries.

The county assessor has not yet released an estimated assessed valuation, so the cost to the individual taxpayer has not yet been determined.

Carlson said that the cash carryover has been upped this year to around \$530,000. While the increased carryover is an im-

provement over last year's carryover, which was only \$300,000, ideally, says Carlson, the ending fund balance should be around \$1 million. "It is clear that within the private business sector, expenditures must not exceed income. This same application holds true with government at all levels. Last year, we had to borrow against the new year income to make it through the year, a policy that we do not want to continue," Carlson said.

Two positions have been added to the county budget in the road department, said Carlson. The two new positions, which Carlson calls the "pothole SWAT TEAM" were created to "provide a quicker response to people reporting problems." The team will repair potholes and sign and stripe county roads.

HEPPNER



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Some city sewer lines need replaced

The Heppner City Council Monday night, Jan. 10, heard a report on the condition of the city sewer pipes from Don Olson, wastewater inspector with Anderson Perry Associates engineering firm, who have been in charge of the sewer project.

According to Olson, around 400 feet out of 6,000 feet of the line surveyed are "really bad" and will need replacement in the future. "The remaining 5,000 feet actually look quite good for the age of the system," said city manager Gary Marks.

Some of the deteriorating line will be included in the sewer project already underway but some will not. Main Street and Church Street surveyed in this recent report were not included in the 1988 survey and will not be included in the sewer project. Marks said that repairs should be made on Church Street before the street's renovation which is scheduled to begin this year. "It's foolish not to replace it (before the street project). It's good business to do it right the first time." Main Street is scheduled for renovation in '97-98.

Olson also reported that some features of the sewer project have

been eliminated for a savings of \$7,158 and reported on the sewer project's progress.

In other business Tom Springer and Dean Gilman representing Heppner TV, requested intervention on behalf of the city concerning problems with U.S. West.

According to Springer, poles for the television cable were installed in Heppner in the 1950s and the phone company did not install their cables until the 1970s. Springer and Gilman say that the phone cables are in such close proximity to the TV cables that it is difficult to complete TV cable repairs or installation without damaging telephone cable. If, in the process of repairs or installation, the cable company, or any other entity hits a telephone line, the telephone company charges that entity. This was the case last year when the cable company hit a telephone cable. The TV cable company was charged \$1,500 and the accident put the phone service out for four hours. "It's a hardship on the entire city when the phone lines are out," says Springer.

Marks agreed to speak to the phone company concerning this

matter, but the council, saying the matter was a separate issue, voted in favor of an ordinance granting U.S. West a franchise for service. U.S. West is in the process of selling the franchise.

In other business the city council:

- approved an ordinance annexing the sewer plant into the city of Heppner. The plant was adjacent to the city limits and no other property was annexed;

- established the 1994 St. Patrick's celebration for March 18-20 and appointed Claudia Hughes and Rene Devin co-chairpersons, approved the closure of Willow Street for the event and agreed to charge a \$25 peddler's license for groups wishing to sell during the event;

- approved a request for an agreement with Heppner T.V. regarding the use of a joint easement for a wastewater pipeline;
- passed two resolutions concerning participation in the City/County Insurance Service Trust Pools;

- approved a resolution adopting the city's supplemental budget for fiscal year 1993-94;
- approved accounts payable.

District Schools receive site council grants

A total of \$6.2 million in state grants has been awarded to 342 schools to help train teachers and other school employees in the various elements of Oregon's school reform program.

Heppner High School Site Council received a \$4,410 grant; Ione schools a \$4,200 grant; Riverside High School, \$7,950 and Sam Boardman Elementary, \$6,960.

Retraining is the top priority of the school reform program this biennium. The funds were appropriated by the 1993 legislature.

The goals of the school reform act, passed by the 1991 legislature is to "produce the best educated citizens in the nation by the year 2000 and a work force equal to any in the world by the year 2010," said an Oregon Department of Education news release.

"To do this," said state school superintendent Norma Paulus, "we must invest in retraining teachers, for it is they who will make the difference."

Paulus said the average age of an Oregon teacher is 41. "What we know about teaching has grown dramatically in the last 20 years," said Paulus, "yet we haven't given teachers the time and other resources to make needed changes."

For instance, Ontario High School will use much of its grant for computer training. Mike Taylor, principal of the school, said Ontario has a computer in every classroom, but not all teachers are trained to operate them. "This grant will give us a real opportunity to do some serious staff development," he said.

All schools which received grants have site councils, including teachers, other employees and parents, which steer local improvement efforts. The grants,

which run from \$3,000 to \$70,000, will be used during an 18 month period beginning in January.

The recipients were selected from 465 applicants. Grants cover 41 percent of Oregon's schools and 33 of the 36 counties.

"Our grant will provide training for school and community representatives on our site council to work effectively together to make sound decisions for kids," said Kathleen Hering, principal of Calapooia Middle School in Albany.

Elks Hoop shoot Mon. Jan. 17

The annual Elks Hoop Shoot contest for boys and girls ages eight to 13 will be held Monday, Jan. 17 (Martin Luther King Day) beginning at 1 p.m. at Heppner and Ione high schools.

The three age brackets for competition will be 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Age will be determined

as of April 1, 1994.

Winners from the local hoop shoot contest will go to district competition in Hermiston on Saturday, Jan. 29. State competition will be held in Keizer, near Salem, on Feb. 12.

For more information contact Dave Gunderson, Heppner, or Dick Allen, Ione.

People for the Pool plans meeting

People for the Pool will be holding their annual meeting on January 17 at 7 p.m. at the Hepp-

ner High School library. Board elections and discussion of future fundraisers will be on the agenda.

Eleanor Gonty honored by second graders

Long-time school volunteer Eleanor Gonty was honored by Lea Calvert's second grade students Jan. 6 at Heppner Elementary School.

The students made cards and enjoyed "Gummi Bears" in celebration of Gonty's 76th birthday. Ironically it was also the 76th day of school this year.

Gonty helps out in the classroom listening to the children read. "She helps us read stories," said second grader Ariel Johnson. "She's really nice when she does."

Gonty started volunteering at the school in 1980. Over the years she has also helped with students in classrooms of teachers, Kay Chinen, Kitty Bredemeier and Pat Edmundson.

Gonty says the love of kids spurred her to volunteer. "I like kids," said Gonty. "It's something I could do. It's such a rewarding thing to meet them on the street." Gonty has grandchildren about the same age as the students in her second grade classroom.

Gonty says the most fun she has had in a classroom is this year when she helped the students make gingerbread houses at Christmas time.

Cindi Parcel honored by Commission for the Blind



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Cindi Parcel does her work release program through the high school this year, working in the cafeteria where she helps prepare lunch, serve and cleanup. Last year she helped with the Heppner Day Care.

Cindi Parcel of Heppner was honored by the Oregon Commission for the Blind at its 1993 awards recognition ceremony held December 30 in Portland.

Parcel was recognized for her contributions to the commission's summer work experience program at the School for the Blind

in Salem. She explored a variety of jobs including child care, housekeeping, sales, stocking shelves and gardening. She was selected for recognition because of her "consistent enthusiasm," said an Oregon Commission for the Blind news release.

Chamber installs new officers



New Chamber of Commerce officers (left to right): David Taylor of Barnett, Dennis & Moro accountants; Ann Murray of Murray's Drug; Gary Marks, Heppner City Manager; Bill Kuhn of Spicer, Kuhn & Mills attorneys; John Edmondson, and Steve Dickenson, Heppner High School Principal.



Delanne Ferguson

Heppner High School Principal Steve Dickenson took over leadership of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, when he was sworn in as new president by outgoing 1993 President Rollie Marshall.

Dickenson was second vice president last year, and will assume the duties of chamber president immediately. John Edmondson was elected 1994 second vice president.

Also at the noon meeting the annual Hats Off award given to a chamber member who shows exemplary service to the community, was given to Delanne

Ferguson. Ferguson is head ranger at the Heppner Forest Service.

During Tuesday's meeting Marshall reviewed the 1993 accomplishments of the Chamber of Commerce, including work with Cycle Oregon's lunch, the annual rose sale, taking tickets at the rodeo, helping with the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, and other activities.

Ferguson was honored for her work on Cycle Oregon lunches, the annual Lunch with Santa program, and other activities. She was presented with a special Hats Off cap for her efforts.