

HEPPNER



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Bond refinancing will save money

Refinancing the city of Heppner's water bonds could save taxpayers money, City Manager Gary Marks said Monday, Feb. 14.

Marks says that in addition to obtaining a slightly lower interest rate, refinancing the city's FmHA bonds with a private market bond over a shorter time period could save \$161,000 in interest. The 40-year FmHA bonds, obtained in 1982, would have matured in 2022. The 15-year private market bond will mature in 2009.

Marks said that "the timing is right" because the current interest rate is low, between 4.8 and 4.9, and because the 1974 water bond matures this year. The 1974 water bond was assessed at \$1.17 per thousand. The tax rate for the new private market bond is estimated around 47 cents per thousand. The change would result in a combined reduction of around 70 cents per thousand. Cost to a taxpayer with a \$50,000 home would be around \$23.50. That would amount to a \$300 savings over 15 years, Marks said.

He added that an emergency reserve fund of around \$30,000 required by FmHA could then be used for repairs and improvements to the water system.

In other business, the council: -adopted a resolution support-

ing the formation of an Extension Service district. Extension agent Bill Broderick told the council that if they did not indicate support of the district, "4-H would not exist in Heppner." Broderick said that because Extension is not a mandated service it could be dropped by the county in the event of a levy failure and budget cuts. Broderick said that staffing will remain the same.

-heard a request from Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson for a recommendation concerning a possible utility easement or water corridor on the abandoned Heppner railroad line. Carlson discussed the possibility of farmers' use of irrigation water from Willow Creek Lake using the corridor and said that a possible designation of the Bull Nose Trout as an endangered species could affect that irrigation. Carlson said that the railroad is expected to begin pulling track around July 1.

-approved a recommendation concerning a special historic building assessment classification for the Gilliam and Bisbee Building in Heppner. The designation would freeze taxes on the building, which is owned by Dick and Lynnea Sargent.

-adopted a resolution concerning elimination of bid and performance bonds for small contracts

for the Heppner firehall improvement project.

-heard a report on the progress of the wastewater system improvement project. Allen Rieke of Anderson Perry engineering firm said that as of the end of January the project was 20 percent complete. Rieke said that the golf course portion of the project will be completed by the March 1 deadline required by Willow Creek Country Club.

-heard a report from Marks concerning landscaping plans for the mini park in Heppner. A contest was proposed to name the park.

-approved a request for authorization to advertise for a hearing to amend the zoning ordinance to allow public and semi-public uses as conditional uses in R-1 zones. The request was in connection with plans to construct an emergency operations center at the emergency management /sheriff's offices. The center would be a two-story structure which would contain a five-day supply of food and water, cots and space for emergency shelter, an emergency operations center and meeting room.

-adopted a resolution which would establish a zero-tolerance policy toward gang activity within the city.

GEODC holds annual meeting

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) celebrated a year of expansion and recognized outgoing president Dale Courtney for a decade of service at its annual meeting in Heppner on Friday, Jan. 28.

Bonny Parker and Steve Anderson updated members on the water system plans for the city of Umatilla and Fraser Hawley of Cascade Specialties Inc. spoke on the process of locating an onion dehydration plant in Morrow County.

GEODC is a private non-profit

corporation that operates a five county economic development district. This includes the administration of a business revolving loan fund and assistance to local community economic development efforts. GEODC also serves as an eight county certified development corporation affiliated with the Small Business Administration for the operation of a long term, low interest, fixed asset loan program.

Two of the highlights of the last 12 months were noted at the meeting. GEODC has been selected to administer the regional

strategy program for the north central Oregon counties of Morrow, Grant, Gilliam, Wheeler, Sherman and Wasco. GEODC saw its dollar base of authorized SBA "504" loans increase 90 percent as they added three loans to their portfolio for a new loan dollar base of \$2.8 million.

Newly elected officers for the year are president John Grace; vice president Allen Anderson; secretary-treasurer John Prag. Other members of the executive committee are Jim Tindle, Elizabeth Carroll, Bill Deist and Dale Courtney.

Ione Cards headed to district Scholarship trust

By Anne Morter

The Ione Cardinals tuned up for the district tournament with two wins last weekend, downing Wheeler and Echo. Finishing league play at 10-0 and the regular season at 13-7, the Cards advance to the Big Sky Tournament as the number one seed from the east side of the conference. They take on Wasco County, the number one team from the west side, at approximately 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18 at the Hermiston High School gym. The winner of that game advances to the state tournament in Baker City as the Big Sky champion. The loser plays the winner of the Helix-Dufur game for the number two spot in the state playoffs.

Both weekend opponents gave the Ione lady Cardinals a run for their money but the Ione team came out on top, finishing league

play with an unblemished 10-0 record and showing a 17-3 regular season mark. They now advance to the Big Sky Conference District Tournament as the number one seed from the east side of the conference.

The lady Cards take on the number one team from the west side of the Big Sky League, Wasco County, Friday night, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston High School gym. The winner of that game will advance to the state tournament in Baker City, as the number one team from the Big Sky Conference. The loser will play the winner of the Condon-Dufur game on Saturday, Feb. 19, for the Big Sky's second spot in the state tournament. The Cardinals district tournament games will be broadcast on KOHU, FM 99.3 from Hermiston.

receives donation

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust has received a \$4,000 donation from the Lexington Community Coordinating Committee from a portion of the Lexington Tipping Fees from the Finley Butte's Landfill project.

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust will award one \$500 scholarship each year for any child whose parents reside in the voting precinct of Lexington and who has completed one year of education after high school. Additional weight will be given to students whose parents live outside the city of Lexington city limits, but inside the voting precinct of Lexington.

Applicants may pick up their application forms on or after March 2 at the school district office in Lexington or at Heppner or Ione High Schools. Deadline for applications at the school district office in Lexington is 5 p.m. March 23.

An applicant requesting further information may contact a South Morrow County Scholarship Trust board member.

Court seeks pennant bearers

The 1994 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court is seeking children interested in being flag bearers for the 1994 rodeo season. Boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 16 may apply by sending a brief letter about themselves and their interests to Julie Ashbeck, HC70, Box 411, Echo OR 97826.

Britts offer septic service



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Roger Britt shows off his septic truck, now open for business.

Roger and Rita Britt have announced the opening of the Roger Britt Septic Service in Heppner.

The service offers 24-hour pumping of residential and commercial septic tanks in Morrow and Gilliam counties and surrounding areas.

they are licensed and bonded and DEQ approved. Call 676-5096 for service.

Meeting set for shelter plans

An orientation meeting for planning an emergency shelter at Heppner High School will be held Feb. 24 from 7-9 p.m. and repeated on Feb. 25 from 9-11 a.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center dining room. Anyone wishing to assist with the plans is encouraged to attend.

In the event of an accident at the chemical stockpile at the Umatilla Army Depot evacuees will be cared for at the emergency shelter as one part of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Plan (CSEPP). This will involve local volunteers who wish to help to prepare the shelter and operate it until the Red Cross arrives to carry on with its management.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform volunteers about the overall emergency preparedness plan and the key functions of an emergency shelter. It will also determine which individuals will work on key functions such as: registration, feeding, dormitory, client services and others. Adequate time is scheduled for answering volunteers' questions.

The Emergency Shelter Committee chose these alternate dates to make it convenient for people to attend. "We need more volunteers, so we urge anyone who can to help us," said a spokesperson. For more information call 676-9435.

MCGG feeds breakfast to big crowd



Gary Munkers flips pancakes Saturday at the annual Morrow County Grain Growers appreciation breakfast. The grain growers staff members served pancakes, eggs, ham, coffee and hot chocolate to a very large appreciative crowd, along with handing out 300 carnations to the ladies.

Find The Hidden Shamrock Win Silver Medallions

The St. Patrick's Day treasure hunt is back again. Each week until March 16 a clue for the treasure hunt will be printed in the Gazette-Times. If followed these clues will guide treasure hunters to green plastic shamrock hidden somewhere in the city limits of Heppner.

The first person to find the hidden shamrock will win a set of pure silver Oregon Trail commemorative medallions, worth nearly \$90. The coins are donated by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and are on display at the bank.



Find This Shamrock...



and win These Silver Coins

RULES:

1. A new set of clues to guide you to the hidden shamrock will appear in each edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times.
2. A total of five clues will be given up to March 16.
3. The hidden shamrock is not on private property and no digging or moving of objects, dirt or other material is necessary to find the shamrock.
4. The first person to find the shamrock should bring it to the Heppner Gazette-Times office to claim the commemorative silver medallions.

Clue Number One

Where there's contests for the young
Below a hydro project done
On a fodder lane look west
From this point you'll start your quest

Follow the clues and may the luck of the Irish be with you. This contest is sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon and the Heppner Gazette-Times.