

ENTERPRISE ZONE

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 contribution recipients. The board stipulated that the list can include most non-profits recognized by the IRS, but will not include those involved in political activities. Anyone who like their organization included on the list is urged to contact CREZ manager Carla McLane at cmclane@co.morrow.or.us, or by calling 541-922-4624.

Marsha Richmond, executive director of the Oregon Trail Library District, who was in attendance at the board meeting, asked the board to look at her taxing district as educational, and possibly receive funding under the charitable contribution "buy back" clause.

In one already negotiated agreement the Morrow County Education Foundation received \$15,000 from Rack Space; the money will be used for education in the Morrow County School District. Richmond said the Library District also has educational aspects that need funding, and pointed out that libraries had changed over the years.

"They are not just shelves of dusty books anymore," she said.

In other business, board member Gary Neal

responded to a recent Op/Ed article in the Heppner Gazette from soon retiring Irrigon City Manager Jerry Breazeale. Breazeale took issue with the CREZ's recently adopted Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) because adjacent taxing districts were not included in formulating the IGA. Breazeale also said he felt the money lost from tax collection by the CREZ agreement was too high a price to pay for the number of jobs created.

As an example, Breazeale used the recently-announced Lamb Weston potato processing expansion, where he said the number of jobs created would be 35 and the amount of tax revenue "lost" under the CREZ agreement with Lamb Weston would be \$1,164,000 per year, or \$33,257 per job.

Under the fees in lieu of taxes agreement negotiated with CREZ, Lamb Weston will pay \$950,000 per year in fees in lieu of taxes each year; however, if the company did not have the CREZ agreement, and still built its \$211 million expansion at the Port, the company would have had to pay approximately \$2,114,000 per year in county property taxes.

Port of Morrow General Manager and CREZ board member Gary Neal not only disputed Breazeale's jobs figures, but also pointed out that the Lamb Weston expansion was not even guaranteed to be built at the Port of Morrow, and could have ended up somewhere else, without Morrow County getting anything.

"That letter to the editor was not as accurate as it could have been," Neal told the board. He said the number of jobs created under the expansion will be between 115 and 120, and that does not even count the jobs added in connection with the 9,000 acres of new potato fields that will be harvested to supply the expansion. He also pointed out the new jobs would pay 150 percent of average wages.

"Lamb Weston had many locations (to choose from) and could have gone somewhere else," Neal said. He said there are currently 63 enterprise zones in Oregon, and when negotiating with companies "if you don't have an enterprise zone you don't talk. This committee (CREZ) does the best they can to make opportunity," he added. Neal said Morrow County now ranks "fifth or sixth" in the state for average county wages. He said the goal now is to get more people that are working in Morrow County to start living here.

Other board members pointed out the benefits of new business locating in the zone, including increased economic activity with local businesses, more fees paid to county agencies like

the planning department, and increased ancillary activity the new businesses will create in the county.

In response to adjacent taxing districts representation in the CREZ policy making, board members pointed out that various members also sit on the boards of other taxing districts, such as Leann Rea, who is a member of the CREZ board and also sits on the medical district board of directors.

A letter was also distributed from the Morrow County Court, a participating entity in the CREZ IGA, in answer to concerns voiced earlier by Cyde Estes, chairman of the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. Estes had voiced concerns over the lack of input from overlapping and adjacent tax districts such as hers, into formulating the IGA.

The court said the IGA has already been signed by all three sponsor entities (the Port of Morrow, City of Boardman and Morrow County) and is now in effect.

"The meetings of the Columbia River Enterprise Zone II Board of Directors are public meetings and we would encourage you or other Unified Recreation District members to attend," the county said in reply to Estes.

When considering which taxing districts will be considered in the future for funding, money for which will not start coming in until 2014, most board members agreed that fire and police services are the most obvious, with one

board member saying they did not see, for instance, how 100 jobs in Boardman would affect, for instance, the library district. One reason is that not all 100 employees would live in Morrow County. In the recent Tillamook Cheese expansion project at the Port, out of 129 jobs created, despite economic incentives to do so, only 12 to 15 employees actually ended up living in Morrow

County.

The board agreed that it would, in the future, ask businesses looking to locate here what services they felt would be impacted the most.

In other business, the board sharpened some of its guidelines, such as timelines and application fees, when considering CREZ applications and negotiating with companies over agreements.

Wildhorse Foundation names grant recipients

Pendleton, OR—Two Morrow County organizations were among the recipients of the more than \$200,000 in grant money given out by The Wildhorse Foundation in the first quarter of 2013.

Morrow County Public Works received \$10,000 toward the rehabilitation of the Morrow County Courthouse clock tower. Irrigon Elementary School received \$5,000 toward playground equipment and improvements for the school.

The Wildhorse Foundation is a community benefit fund established by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) as a result of its gaming operation.

More than 150 grant recipients from 2012 enjoyed a specially prepared lunch at Wildhorse Resort & Casino earlier this month as Wildhorse Foundation Vice-Chairman Phillip Houk presented details on funding for the last year. The Wildhorse Foundation

awards grants to applicants that cover the areas of public health and safety, education, the arts, historic preservation, gambling addiction services, salmon restoration, environmental protection, and cultural activities.

Following the lunch, the Foundation Board consisting of Vice-Chairman Houk, Secretary/Treasurer Kathleen Peterson, Patty Hall, Rosenda Shippentower and Bill Hansell, met to discuss the 2013 First Quarter Grant Applicants. A total of \$208,458 was awarded to 42 organizations, bringing the total since the Foundation began in 2001 to over \$6.9 million.

The quarterly deadlines for requests are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. For more information on Wildhorse Foundation guidelines or to receive an application, visit www.wildhorseresort.com or call Foundation Administrator Tiah DeGroff at 541-966-1628.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.

If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment.

If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk:

Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175
 Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161
 OR 1-877-695-4648 (1-888-MYLIMIT)

GOOD LUCK MUSTANGS

May 22, 2013 at 4:00 pm at the Heppner Softball Field

If they advance to the quarterfinals, they will play again Friday, May 24th time & place TBA

Come cheer on your Heppner Mustangs!!



Heppner High School 2013 Softball team: Back row, (left to right): Jordan Jones, Rylee Kollman, Alyssa Wizner, Jessica Kempfen, Baily Bennett, Lizzy Rill, Cidney Coster, Maggie Collins, Tessa Gould, Nicole Kempfen; Front row (left to right): Rylee Wagner, Larissa Gray, Hanna Lovgren, Joslynn Troxell, Sydney Maben, Kenzie Correa, Caitlynn Bailey, Micha Hintz, Samm Lemmon.

JOIN THESE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS AS THEY CHEER ON THE MUSTANGS AND WISH THEM GOOD LUCK AT STATE

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| A & M's Kitchen | Jimmy Fichter | Morrow County Grain Growers |
| Jeff & Chris Bailey Family | The Futter Family | Morrow County Public Works |
| Bank of Eastern Oregon, Member FDIC | Melanie Gates, Tarin and Kenneth Troxell | Murray's Drug, Inc. |
| Mike & Misty Bennett Family | Eddie Gunderson | John, Alita, Tim and Kellie Nelson |
| Tim & Jeannie Collins Family | Travis & Kirsten Harrison | Peterson's Jewelers |
| Columbia Basin Electric Co-op | Heppner Gazette-Times | Pettyjohn's Farm and Builders Supply |
| Community Bank | Heppner Family Foods | Rapid Print, Chris Sykes & Andrew Sykes |
| The Correa Family | John, Ashli, Tayllor, Tessa, Thomas and Timothy Gould | Greg & Sherri Smith & Family |
| David Sykes Real Estate | Howe's About Pizza | Store-4-U |
| Sandi Day, Cody Ford, Zane, Whitney & Lucchese | Les Schwab Tire Center | Sweeney Mortuary |
| Ford, Chance Day, Cam Day & Cassi Day | Markel Manufacturing, Inc | Sykes Real Estate |
| Devin Oil, Devin Mobile | Skip and Sandy Mathews | Wheatland Insurance Center, Heppner & Ione |
| | Miller and Sons Excavating and Disposal Service | Rod, Janet, Terra, Kassey & Alana Wilson |