

## CREZ DISCUSSION

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Morrow, City of Boardman and Morrow County will then distribute the funds to special districts, such as fire and police services, based on needs created by the new businesses and employees locating here. So far the CREZ has negotiated several agreements that will yield over \$21 million in the next 15 years, and board members see more deals and money on the way.

At the meeting last Thursday, held at the Port of Morrow, the special district representatives indicated they would like more input into how the fees will be distributed.

As part of the deals made with the CREZ board, businesses have the option to support the community and donate to charitable organizations, then use that giving as a partial offset to fees paid. CREZ has developed a list of charitable organizations in Morrow County, which CREZ manager Carla McLane said they want to be as inclusive as possible; it will be limited only to organizations located in Morrow County. Anyone who wants their organization included can email [cmclane@co.morrow.or.us](mailto:cmclane@co.morrow.or.us), or call her office at 541-922-4624.

Estes said she would like to see the needs of the taxing districts met before the charitable organizations.

"As taxing districts, we felt we should have some of that money coming to us before they go to charitable organizations," Estes said.

An example of some of the special districts at the meeting were the Boardman and Irrigon fire districts, Irrigon and Boardman parks, Oregon Trail Library District, North Morrow Vector Control, BMCC and the Morrow County Health District. Not all

districts were represented at the meeting, as a total of 27 special districts are on a list recently compiled by the CREZ.

Examples of the charitable or community organizations asking to be considered for funds are the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County, Ione Community Agri-Business Organization, Community Counseling Solutions, Heppner Chamber of Commerce, Heppner Day Care, Heppner Youth Baseball, Heppner High School Senior Class Project Graduation and the Community Women's Club. These are just examples, as a total of 23 organizations have asked to be put on a list being compiled by the CREZ for consideration for future funding from new businesses. The list will be given to new businesses locating in the Enterprise Zone, and the decision on which organizations receive funding is up to each individual business.

At Thursday's meeting each special district reiterated that funds are tight and the money from the CREZ is needed to continue or add services. Most, including Estes, agreed that fire and police should be on the top of the list being affected by the economic growth of the enterprise zone and should receive priority funding.

Estes was careful to point out that she did not want to see charitable organizations cut out.

"We just want to have a say in this before it goes to charity," she said.

The CREZ board of directors was not officially invited to the meeting; however, some members of the CREZ board, such as Chair Don Russell and Karen Pettigrew, also serve on special districts.

Russell is on the Rural Fire District and Pettigrew is on the Boardman Park District, so they were able to answer some questions on procedure and policy of the CREZ.

"All members of the CREZ are excellent public servants," Estes pointed out.

She also said the special districts people, likewise, wanted only to represent and serve their boards to the best of their ability.

"On of the concerns I have," said Larry Mills, chairman of the Morrow County Health District, "is I hear we are negotiating deals with the gas plant and things at the Port that do not include the smaller districts."

"As we are asked to provide services, how are these funds going to work their way back to these districts?" Mills asked. "Small districts with budgets might get some one year then more the next year. Is there a way to get some stable funding?"

Russell said the problem with multiple-year funding commitments is businesses may not be in the Enterprise Zone year to year.

"We have a fire truck we need that costs more than can be purchased in one year," he said. "But companies can fail to meet the requirements of the Enterprise Zone and drop out of the CREZ," he explained.

Russell said the CREZ has control over the funds only on a year-to-year basis, so is unable to make longer-term commitments to special districts. Russell also pointed out that, with charitable giving, businesses will only receive a 50-percent "buy back" or reduction in fees they must pay when donating

to charities. Russell did say charitable giving would only be available to organizations in Morrow County.

In addressing the use of enterprise zones, Russell told the group, "There are 60 enterprise zones in Oregon. Do we like enterprise zones? No, but if we want growth and economic development in Morrow County, we have to have one. It is a good thing for getting wages in Morrow County, but we know not all people are living in Morrow County," he said.

Estes admitted that in order for Morrow County to be competitive for jobs and business it must use its Enterprise Zone; however, she asked for a set method for CREZ to distribute the funds.

"I would like for this group to develop a proposal to take to CREZ and ask them to take a percentage of the fees and divide them up among the districts."

"Our ATVs need to be replaced," said Greg Barron of the North Morrow Vector Control. "Could we use extra funding? You bet. We provide a service to the community," he said.

"We can use every dime we can get. They say to get creative. I am about creative out," Barron said of his fight to stay in budget. "We are just waiting for our first case of West Nile (a deadly mosquito-borne virus)," he said.

Mills suggested that the group make no formal request to the CREZ at this time but go back to their individual districts and talk it over with their boards of directors. Estes did not set another date for the next meeting but agreed each special district should have time to discuss the issues raised at the meeting.

## Fair season kicks off with 4-H horse show



The kickoff of the 2013 Morrow County Fair began on July 27 with the 4-H Horse Show held at the fairgrounds. According to 4-H Extension agent Ashley Jones, all the exhibitors did a great job again this year and everyone had a good time. Top: Grand champion Ashley Price (right) with horse, Shadow, and reserve grand champion Maggie Collins with Butterflop. Pictured bottom (L-R) on horseback are: Keegan Gibbs, Kyle McClure, Vizta Sifford, Ivy Sandford and Ashley Price, with Queen Krysten Powell (center) and Maggie Collins standing. Jones also said she wanted to acknowledge people like Robin Jones, Rita Bergstrom, Barb Weedman, Sue Gibbs, Jeannie Collins, Emily Bergstrom, Queen Krysten and her pennant bearer, Alyssa, Scott Jones, and Dick and Karen Temple, as well as all of the volunteers, parents and exhibitors for making the show a success. "We couldn't do it without your help and support," she says. *-Contributed photo*

Kicking off the 100 year anniversary of the Morrow County Fair last Saturday was the annual 4-H horse show.

It was a hot, busy day for the 4-H horse kids. Six kids in all participated in showmanship, western equitation, trails and gaming. A few even participated in bareback riding, showing the judge their impressive horsemanship skills.

Each participant did a fantastic job, according to judges, but only two are allowed to go on to participate in the Round

Robin event held the Friday of fair week. Ashley Price was awarded Grand Champion in showmanship with her 22-year-old horse, Shadow, and Maggie Collins was awarded Reserve Grand Champion with her five-year-old horse, Butterflop.

Everyone is invited to come watch the girls in action the Friday of fair week during the Round Robin/Master Showman Competition in which they will be participating with their horses.

## Music in the Park sees good turnout



Heppner saw a good turnout for its first Music in the Park last Sunday, July 25. More than 100 people turned out in Heppner's Hager Park to listen to the musical talents of Jamie Nasario, vocals, and Luke Basile, guitar. The Shared Ministry of Hope Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal also served up about 90 meals to raise money for an upcoming mission trip. *-Contributed photo*

## Chamber lunch meeting

This week's Heppner Chamber of Commerce lunch meeting will be an all-entities report. The meeting will take place Thursday, Aug. 1, at noon in the St. Patrick's Senior Center dining room.

Lunch expense is \$10; A&M's will cater. Lunch attendees are asked to RSVP no later than the Wednesday before.

## BEAMER TURNS 100

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for several years. With an inherent love of horses, the family built up a herd of American Quarter Horses.

Ralph became active in cutting horse shows; with his stallion, Maestro, his black mare, Domino, and champion gelding Peppy's Chipper, he won several northwest championships, while Mary patiently and quietly worked behind the scenes to support this sport. Though she often played a supporting role, she also had a talent for cutting, winning a saddle and other awards on her horse, Rosie.

The Beamers had two children who also became involved with horses. Ralph Neil, born in 1936, went on to be a fierce roping competitor and bulldogger in the Northwest

Rodeo Association and Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association competitions. Neil passed away in November of 1995.

A daughter, Janice Jean Daught, was born in 1940 and also became an avid rider, showing horses and barrel racing. She was a prancer on the 1958 Pendleton Round-Up court, Miss Northwest Rodeo Queen in 1960 and Miss Rodeo Oregon in 1961, role that had a lot of support from both her mom and dad. A medical secretary and transcriptionist by profession, she now resides in Pendleton.

Needing summer pasture for their cattle herd led the Beamers to buy both the Peterson and Johnson ranches near Ukiah. What ensued became a yearly

saga involving their yearly cattle drive from the Heppner ranch to Ukiah.

Two of the colorful riders who volunteered their services each year for this drive included Dean Gilman and Art Vance (both deceased), as well as Harold Irwin and Howard Bryant. Some of their humorous escapades are still being retold.

One time Ralph and his crew of trail-dusty cowboys donned bandana masks, shot their guns in the air, and put on a performance for motorists who stopped and began taking pictures of an authentic-looking Wild West scene. Bryant, one of the colorful cow herders, also created a big ruckus. The men were trailing the cattle past a junk pile near Ukiah when Howard

roped and dragged a noisy hunk of metal, causing a stampede as trail-weary riders instantaneously became alert.

Meanwhile, it was Mary who brought along all the provisions and kept those jokesters fed, no small task for just one person.

Later in life, Mary took up the sport of golfing, which she enjoyed for several years. However, her interests have always centered mainly on family.

Mary's granddaughters are Robin Nansel of Colstrip, MT; Dr. Mollie Aschenbrener of Chico, CA; Anna Bothum of Prineville, OR; and Polly Hawkins of Pendleton, OR. All were able to attend a pre-birthday celebration at the Heppner ranch along with Mary's 12 great-grandchildren.

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