

Hedman remains in jail on murder charge



Colby James Hedman

Colby James Hedman, 23, of Heppner, remains in the Baker County Jail and is being held on \$1.1 million bail, \$1 million on the Washington murder charges and \$100,000 for a variety of charges in Baker County. Both are full bail, meaning Hedman would have to post the full amount to be released.

Hedman was arrested in Baker City on July 8 and is accused of killing and dismembering Whitman College employee, Kyle J. Martz, 35. Court documents state Hedman admitted to police that he struck Martz with an ax multiple times before stealing his car and fleeing to Oregon, where he was arrested. No motive for the killing was included in the report.

Walla Walla police say they responded to Martz'

home at 331 S. Fourth Ave. on July 8 at about 6 p.m. after his roommate reported that he was missing. Their home was in disarray with blood on various surfaces and a strong smell of bleach in the air. There was also a lock on the detached garage that had not been there before.

Officers found a shovel, a hammer and an axe covered with apparent blood lying in the yard between the house and the garage. They cut the lock and found an open cooler covered with a blanket. Inside the cooler, they found "what appeared to be dismembered human remains."

Neighbors told police they had seen Martz on Sunday evening, then saw an unknown man, later identified as 23-year-old Colby Hedman, on Monday. They said the man borrowed a shovel and an axe and told them he needed tools to do some work, court documents say.

The neighbors reported smoking marijuana with Hedman around 1:30 p.m. Monday, then saw him driving away in Martz' truck about an hour later.

Walla Walla detectives pinged Hedman's phone, which placed him in eastern Oregon. Martz' truck was discovered in Baker City,

court documents say.

Hedman allegedly stole two other cars in the Baker City area while attempting to escape from Oregon authorities. He was booked at the Baker County Jail for attempting to elude, reckless driving, hit-and-run, criminal trespassing and unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

Walla Walla County District Attorney's Office has started the process to extradite Hedman to face first-degree murder charges. Walla Walla Prosecuting Attorney Jim Nagel said the City of Walla Walla won't be able to take custody of Hedman until his case in Oregon is finished.

Martz was a Whitman graduate and international student and scholar adviser at the college. Police suspect the two didn't know each other. Martz worked at Whitman for seven years and graduated with a gender and German studies degree in 2007.



Kyle J. Martz

Wolf pair and pups in Morrow County

Four pups in the litter



This male and female pair are living between Ditch Creek and Tupper. The picture was taken with a trail camera several weeks ago.

By David Sykes

A pair of breeding wolves have taken up residence in Morrow County, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has confirmed. The pair have four pups and according to ODFW's Heppner

District Biologist Steve Cherry are located somewhere between Ditch Creek and Tupper.

Cherry said both wolves have collars however the male's does not work. ODFW was able to trap and

collar the female a couple of weeks ago. He said the wolves moved into the area sometime this past winter. They are the first official wolf pair that ODFW has documented reproduction in Morrow County.

District announces school registration dates

The Morrow County School District has announced the dates and times for student registration for the 2019-20 school year.

Heppner Elementary registration will take place August 12 and 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Heppner

Jr/Sr High School will hold student registration August 12, 13, 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Irrigon school's registration dates are August 12, 13 and 14. Boardman will hold registrations August 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14. For more

information, please contact your student's school.

This information is also available on the district website: <https://morrow.k12.or.us/>. The first day of school for all MCSD schools is Monday, August 26, 2019.

Mark Pratt announces candidacy for Morrow County Sheriff

Mark Pratt has announced he will be filing as a candidate for the position of Morrow County Sheriff in the 2020 election. The election will be held November 3, 2020.

Pratt said, "I am running for sheriff to provide a new vision and direction for the sheriff's office, which will provide improved services. I will work on building partnerships in order to be more effective, as I firmly believe working in a collaborative environment is vital in order to provide quality service. I also plan on restructuring the current staff, which would allow 24-hour patrol service and improved customer service."

Pratt's commitment to public safety began when he joined the Washington State Patrol Explorer Program as a teen. This program fostered his desire to pursue a career in law en-

forcement. Pratt served as a volunteer firefighter/EMT, reserve police officer, dispatcher and deputy sheriff in Washington state before moving to Morrow County.

In 2000, Pratt began working as a deputy sheriff with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In 2016, he accepted a Sergeant's position with the Boardman Police Department, where he continues to serve today.

Pratt currently possesses an executive level law enforcement certification from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standard and Training, which is the highest certification issued by DPSST.

Pratt has served or is serving on Boardman City Council (elected-past), Morrow County School Board (elected-past), Port of Morrow budget commit-



Mark Pratt

tee (appointed-current) and Umatilla Morrow Radio and Data District (elected-current).

More information about Mark Pratt and his campaign can be found on his website, <https://PrattForSheriff.com>. The site includes biographical information about Pratt and a calendar of upcoming events, as well as his positions on many of the important issues affecting Morrow County.

Enterprise Zone sees increasing revenue

Will reach \$10 million by 2028

By David Sykes

The Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) continues to be a success story in Morrow County and board members were told last week that achievement is going to continue into the future. A report on expected future revenue was presented by Manager Greg Sweek, and it showed income increasing from the current year \$3.5 million to a peak of over \$10 million in 2028.

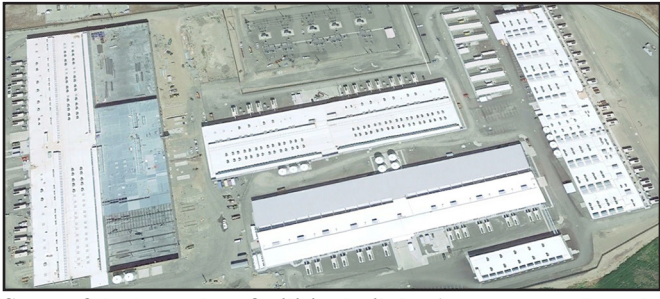
The CREZ's money comes from businesses who have located or expanded into the zone, located mainly at the Port of Morrow near Boardman and are payments made in lieu of property taxes.

Although there are many enterprise zones located around the state, CREZ is one of the most successful. Over the years a variety of business have expanded or located in the zone including a sawmill, Lamb Weston and Tillamook Cheese, however the biggest success story has to be VA Data. VA Data is a subsidiary of Amazon and handles the giant online retailers' construction and operation of its data facilities. The second biggest contributor to CREZ is Lamb Weston which has greatly expanded its food processing facility at the Port of Morrow. However, the projected \$10 million income for 2028 comes overwhelmingly from Amazon and does not include any additional data facilities the company may build here in the future.

Since its establishment six years ago the CREZ has taken in a total of almost \$11.7 million. That money has been distributed around the county in four categories. Almost \$6 million has gone into communities to stimulate housing development, \$2 million has gone into education, \$2.1 million to public safety and over \$1.5 million for community enhancement. At its July 19 meeting the CREZ board held a long discussion on how it may spend its money in the future.

CREZ board chairman Don Russell pointed out that money taken in so far has not gone directly to any of the entities which make up the enterprise zone. The CREZ was established as an intergovernmental agreement between the Port of Morrow, City of Boardman and Morrow County. Each entity has two representatives and two alternative board members who then negotiate with businesses, make policy decisions and decide where the money will be spent. There is also a paid administrator who takes care of the day to day operations. Currently the board is made up of Commissioner Jerry Healy and Executive Director Ryan Neal from the Port of Morrow, Mayor Sandy Toms and City Manager Karen Pettigrew from the city of Boardman and Commissioners Melissa Lindsay and Don Russell from Morrow County.

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Some of the large data facilities built by Amazon near Boardman. The data facilities are the major financial contributors to the Columbia River Enterprise Zone's coffers now and going into the future.

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looked at the pot (of mon-

ey) and divided it up loosely based on population, education, public safety, economic development and housing," Russell said. He said none of the entities, (Boardman, Port and county) has taken any money directly. Russell said these entities are directly impacted by the new businesses locating in the enterprise zone and need improvements to their infrastructure. He pointed to Olsen Road near Boardman where VA Data is locating its latest server facility. "It is probably time for sponsoring entities to start taking some dollars out because of the impact," Russell told the board. Russell also suggested that perhaps the CREZ might want to consider "stabilizing the revenue stream" to three of the groups which have received funds in the past. The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG), the Boardman Economic Development Group and the city of Irrigon have received funds in the past for housing development and distribution of community enhancement grants.

Irrigon City Manager Aaron Palmquist, who attended the meeting, said he would like to see more money going into infrastructure.

-See ENTERPRISE ZONE/

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