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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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CREZ III

-Continued from PAGE ONE
years Zone II has spread the money around the county in four categories: education, housing, public safety and community enhancement, and it recently added infrastructure spending to its list of spending. Money from

Zone II will continue to be allocated by its board of directors, but how and where the new Zone III will spend its anticipated funds will be decided by the new board of directors.

Elected at its first meeting March 31 were three county commissioners Don Russell, Melissa Lind-

say and Jim Doherty, and from the Port of Morrow Rick Stokoe, Joe Taylor and Ryan Neal. Stokoe and Taylor are port commissioners and Ryan Neal is the port manager, making him the only non-elected person on the CREZ III board. Port Commissioner Jerry Healy and Lisa Mittelsdorf, director of economic development at the Port, were elected as alternates. The three county commissioners did not yet name their alternates.

Last week's inaugural meeting of CREZ III was organizational and topics covered, in addition to new officers, included hiring Greg Sweek as zone manager. Sweek, the Zone II manager, is the retired tax assessor, and has extensive knowledge of enterprise zones and how

they operate in the state of Oregon. The group discussed a fee schedule they will charge businesses applying to the zone, appointment of a fiscal agent and legal counsel, and business negotiating rules.

It was announced there are already businesses wanting to begin applying for zone acceptance.

As stipulated by Oregon law, all Oregon enterprise zones will expire in five years June 30, 2025, however, Sweek say he expects the legislature will extend the authorizations for the popular state-wide zones.

One of the big differences between Zones 2 and 3 is the city of Boardman is no longer a permanent member of the board, and therefore not part of the first organizational meeting. That is not to say Boardman

will no longer be involved with decision making on both business negotiations and spending by the new CREZ. It will, but only if a new business locates within a designated "influence zone" around the city. All other cities in the county also have their influence zones, and they too will have representation on the board if a business locates inside their zone.

If included on the board, individual cities will not only be involved with negotiations with prospective businesses for the terms of their tax breaks, but also how the money will be spent. If a new business wants to locate in an area of the county not within any of the cities' influence zones, then the CREZ III board will be made up of only members from the county and the port.



Melissa Lindsay



Rick Stokoe



Jim Doherty



Joe Taylor



Don Russell

Shepherds Flat wind farm sold to Canadian firm

Caithness Energy, the owner-operator of the Shepherds Flat wind farms in north Morrow and Gilliam counties, has sold to Brookfield Renewable Partners (BRP) of Toronto Canada, it was announced. Caithness built the 338-turbine windfarms Shepherds Flat North and South in 2012 and at the time was one of the largest wind farms in the world. The sale of the 845 MW complex is reportedly for \$700 million. Shepherds Flat still produces about a quarter of Oregon's total wind power capacity.

Caithness was granted a permit by the Oregon Facility Siting Council in January of 2020 to repower the facility with larger and longer blades and new gear boxes. Brookfield is expected to follow through with the upgrade project, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. BRP CEO Connor Teskey said in an earnings call with analysts earlier that it would be "one of the largest in the world and is expected to increase total generation by approximately 25 percent," boosting annual output by approximately 400 GWh. Apparently the repowering permits are the main



Shepherds Flat wind farm, located in north Gilliam and Morrow counties, has been purchased by Brookfield Renewable Partners of Toronto Canada.

reason BRP purchased the facility from Caithness. The repowering will involve increasing turbine blade lengths and upgrading gear boxes and electronics to increase generation, particularly at lower winds speeds. Increased revenue from the repowering is expected to pay the cost of the upgrades, it was said.

The plan is to keep the original turbine foundations and towers in place while replacing the turbines and machinery with more technologically advanced

equipment that would increase generation without increasing the wind farm's footprint, or number of turbines. The overall rotor diameter would increase by over 88 feet to a nearly 417 total feet, it was reported.

Shepherds Flat has a 20-year power purchase agreement with Southern California Edison Co. The agreements expire in 2032 for Shepherds Flat North and 2033 for Shepherd's Flat South.

BRP reportedly has a renewables portfolio of

5,318 generating facilities in North America, South America, Europe and Asia, of which 64 percent is hydro, and the rest is wind, solar, distributed generation, and storage facilities.

Grant deadline approaches

Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group's (WCVEDG) community and public enhancement grant deadline is fast approaching, with the application period closing on April 19. Applicants must be a local organization, club, special dis-

trict or a governmental entity residing in the south Morrow County service area. The grant requires a commitment of 50 percent matching funds for the total project.

Applications and grant information are available at the Heppner Chamber

office, Heppner, Lexington and Ione city halls and the Bank of Eastern Oregon. It can also be downloaded from the chamber website, Heppner.com. Contact the Heppner Chamber at 541-676-5536 or email heppnerchamber@gmail.com for additional information,

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

March 9, 2021: - Mary Victoria Rietmann, 26, Arlington, and Herman Joseph Rosenberg, Jr., 31, Arlington.

March 19, 2021: - Alicia Torres, 49, Hermiston, and Samuel Eli Morrow, 48, Hermiston.

March 25, 2021: - Brandon Lee Howard, 25, Irrigon, and Samantha Terri Tompkins, 26, Irrigon.

March 30, 2021: - Glenn P Lindsey, 49, Heppner, and Denise Garcia, 27, Heppner.

Lexington Fire displays new logo



The Lexington Fire Department recently purchased a "new to them" truck which has been branded with a decal displaying the updated Maltese Cross jackrabbit logo. -Contributed photo.

Groundbreaking scheduled



Morrow County commissioners will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Sheriff's Station 2 building at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 7. The property is located just south of the Heppner Fire Hall on Riverside Ave. -Contributed photo.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Glen Diehl, has released the following Justice Court report:

-Donald C. Rogers, 30, Yucca Valley, CA, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165 and unsafe passing, fine \$265.

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