

County embraces proposed Hermiston-Boardman bus line

Would link to jobs at Port of Morrow

By David Sykes

A proposed new public bus system connecting Hermiston to Boardman and the thousands of jobs at the Port of Morrow, just got a little more real recently when county commissioners gave their stamp of approval to the ambitious new service.

Although not scheduled to be operational until 2023, local transportation officials from Morrow and Umatilla Counties, as well as the CTUIR (Confederate Tribes of The Umatilla Indian Reservation), having been working on the new routes for quite some time. The three entities, along with the Port of Morrow, would be partners in the venture.

“The purpose of the new bus routes would be to connect and enable people to travel regionally and locally for employment, education, health care and more,” Morrow County Transportation Coordinator Katie Imes told the county commissioners at their Sept. 15 meeting where they approved the plan. She said the new bus service would improve accessibility to employment particularly in the Westland Road area near Hermiston and at the Port of Morrow in Boardman. The Port and Boardman area have seen a huge increase in job growth over the past years where a 2017 economic impact analysis identified 8,452 permanent jobs then located at the Port and surrounding areas. And more jobs have

been added, especially with the addition of new Amazon server facilities at the Port. The CTUIR would be the driving force behind the new bus service since it has long-time experience already operating a transportation system in Umatilla County. The new transportation venture would actually be two bus routes, one between Hermiston and Boardman, traveling through Umatilla and Irrigon to pick up and drop off passengers, and another just within the city of Boardman and Port that would make connection with the Hermiston route and take people to their jobs at the Port. Likewise, the Hermiston route would make connections with other CTUIR routes cur-



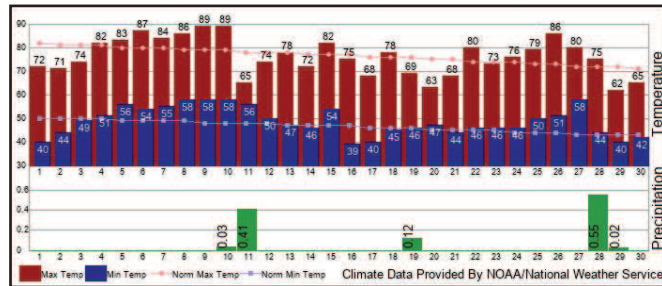
A new plan offering bus service from Hermiston to Boardman has been approved by county commissioners. The system would be operated by the existing Umatilla Indian Reservation transportation system. Pictured above is a bus and the proposed route.

Heppner temps slightly warmer

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of September.

The average temperature was 62.4 degrees which was 0.8 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 76.2 degrees, which was 0.4 degrees below normal. The highest was 89 degrees on the 9th. Low temperatures averaged 48.7 degrees, which was 2.1 degrees above normal. The lowest was 39 degrees, on the 16th.

Precipitation totaled 1.13 inches during Septem-



ber, which was 0.57 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on five days with the heaviest, 0.55 inches reported on the 28th.

Precipitation this year has reached 5.50 inches, which is 4.44 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 8.98 inches, which is 5.02 inches below normal.

The outlook for October from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 71.0 degrees at the start of October to 58.0 degrees at the end of October. Normal lows fall from 42.0 degrees to 35.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.14 inches.

rently servicing Stanfield, Echo, Pendleton and the reservation, thus creating a two-county regional bus system. The plan also briefly addressed future plans that may see service added to the Heppner area as well as into the Tri-Cities of nearby Washington.

Tentatively, the service is planned for six days per week with pickups starting as early as 4 a.m. so workers could reach shifts at the Port beginning at 5 a.m. “Ridership on the early a.m. routes is expected to be driven primarily by Port of Morrow employees,” the report stated. “Therefore, early a.m. routes are designed to focus on the

shortest and quickest travel paths between Hermiston and Boardman and the Port of Morrow.” Although not finalized, some of the bus drop off sites mentioned in Boardman would be at the Sage Center and city hall. In Hermiston bus stops mentioned were at Walmart, SW Third and Orchard Avenue and the Hermiston Plaza. The bus would also stop in Irrigon and Umatilla on the way to Boardman.

Potential funding sources for the new lines would come from CTUIR, Morrow and Umatilla counties tapping into available federal and state transportation funds, local

taxes and fees, and private employers at the Port. The bus service would be free to those riding. Cost to operate both new lines, from Hermiston and within the Port, are estimated to be around \$1 million the first year offering a basic service of weekdays and Saturdays from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The cost could increase to \$1.47 million a year if enhanced service of seven days per week from 4 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. was implemented. The CTUIR's current bus service in Umatilla County is funded primarily through a combination of federal grants, state grants and CTUIR general funds.

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\$230,000
NEW LISTING
 50.61 Acres in the country with 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1976 mobile home. Has a good well and newer septic system. It is partially electric fenced now for horses. Tired of neighbors or city living, this is the place for you (ultimate in social distancing). Sale would need to be a cash. Owner says property qualifies for LOP tags. Call me to schedule a showing.
 68354 BERGSTROM LN Heppner

\$30,000
SALE PENDING
 3 bedroom 1 bath fixer upper. Home has a metal roof and concrete perimeter foundation and Vinyl siding. Being sold 'AS IS' including all trash and debris to be left on property. Buyer will agree to a 60-day no-rent post closing occupancy for sellers. This will be a cash sale only.
 340 W WATER ST Heppner

\$235,000
NEW LISTING!
 Large living room, 2 bedrooms and bathroom upstairs, one bedroom and bath downstairs. The workshop has a cold storage room for the hunter and a great workspace. Renters are currently in the process of moving out.
 535 ELDER ST Heppner

\$300,000
 A classic beauty in Heppner. From the front sitting room thru the woodworked dining room and open kitchen with island, this 4 bedroom 3 bath home is a unique find. The large living room is overlooked by a balcony upstairs where three of the bedrooms are located. Master bedroom is on the main floor with bath and walk-in closet. Skylights give natural light to the interior. Home includes a two car garage and basement for storage along with a big utility room.
 Call for an appointment to see this!
 195 N GALE ST Heppner

\$165,000
SALE PENDING
 Completely remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath 1975 double-wide mobile home now being used as Airbnb. Inside is immaculate. Entire home has been redone. New furnace less than one year old. Continue using as an Airbnb (financial data will be provided to serious buyers) or buy as a home to live in. Great view of the city and valley. Nice landscaping. Furnishing and appliances available separately.
 233 Linden Way Heppner

\$98,000
SALE PENDING
 Old style 2 story farm house ready for some TLC to make this your classic looking home. Located in quiet town of Ione, OR. Small town living with great schools and friendly community. Good internet access so you can work from here wherever your job is. Escape the city life and try some old style home town living.
 410 E MAIN ST Ione, OR

\$145,000
PRICE REDUCED!
 You've always wanted the white picket fence house. Well here it is. From the light airy kitchen, to the comfortable living room, this three bedroom home would be perfect for your family. Has a fenced yard for the kids and pets, and a patio for those summer-evening barbecues with friends and family. You'll like the nice sized laundry room with lots of storage, and the master bedroom has a walk-in closet. And as an added bonus - this property is not in the flood zone. Call me today for a showing!
 340 E HILL ST Heppner

Buyer Agent Services
 Buying a home in a For Sale By Owner can be complicated. I would like to help you through all the details involved in the purchase. I can handle Negotiations, Sales Contract Preparation, Inspections, Sale Contingency Protections, Setting up Escrow, Working with your Lender etc. My Buyer's Agent Services can help you through the entire process of purchasing your new home, land, or other property. Call me. I can also work as a Seller's Agent on the sale of your property. Contact me for a no obligation price quote for my services.
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I Have Buyers Looking!
 I have buyers looking for homes in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione area. Now is the time to sell! Call, text or email me.

\$65,000
SOLD!
 2 bedroom 2 bath home in Fossil. Home is a fixer upper with potential. This is a cash sale and property is being sold as is. Oil monitor stove. Nice wooden stairway up to the upper floor. Fifth wheel RV and non operating pickup truck included in sale.
 410 2ND ST Fossil

\$170,000
SOLD!
 Three bedroom two bath home on 1.68 acres with pasture. If you want animals this is the home for you. Has a two car garage that can be used as a shop. There is lots of space for a garden too. It's on city water with a septic system. It's vacant and ready to go.
 Call for a viewing of this property.
 61229 HWY 207 Heppner

\$89,000
SOLD!
 Looking for small town living in Oregon? Here it is. With outdoor activities, a rural lifestyle and a slower pace Fossil is where you belong. And this 3 bedroom 2 bath home is move in ready for you and your family. Deck out back and a big porch in the front. Refrigerator and stove included in sale. There is DSL internet access so you can work from home. Call me to schedule your appointment for a visit and experience a new lifestyle.
 1153 D STREET Fossil, OR

\$210,000
SOLD!
 This well cared for house has all you like in a classic traditional home. Wood floors, vintage doors, cabinets & fixtures and beautiful woodwork throughout. The remodeled kitchen has a down-home feel, and quartz countertops. Outside enjoy a barbecue on the back deck, or sit on the front porch on a quiet street. The insulate garage doubles as a shop for all your projects, and there is a garden space with 2 sheds. You'll want to see this one before it's gone.
 Call me for appointment
 220 W Center Street Heppner, OR