

# CREZ II settles remaining disbursement

*-Continued from PAGE ONE*  
needs in other parts of the county.

Sykes added that only thinking of each of the three entities would also mean that no other district ever got any direct disbursement, which hasn't been the case in the CREZ's history.

"It's a pretty big shift to say, 'We're just going to take care of ourselves,'" Sykes said. He mentioned organizations like Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) and Ione Community Agribusiness Organization (ICABO). "In order for them to get funded for the last 12 years, these people did not think about just themselves."

Murray questioned how a county-wide agency, which would also serve Boardman, would fit into that plan.

Keefer responded that a county agency should go to the county for fund-

ing. Murray implied that he feared some districts might lose funds because of the personal feelings of councilors or commissioners in that scenario.

Pettigrew disagreed, saying the rise of assessed values in the county should provide all the taxing districts with more than enough funding, even without CREZ.

"If people are cutting off their nose to spite their face at this table and in all the other organizations in this county, that's their problem," she said. "If you're out here saying, 'I'm not going to do this service anymore unless you give me more money,' then who's going to solve that problem?"

"I don't know that it's our problem," she added. "Is that the county's problem? Is that the Port's problem? Thank goodness it's not the city's problem."

"Is there a simpler way?" Keefer spoke up. He

added that he would be in favor of increasing the pot of public safety funds if that would help.

"But I find it very difficult to want to fund a lot of entities that are county entities, but we brought up Lexington, Ione and Heppner...How much do they really deserve out of some of this?"

"It's county money. Let's remember that" Doherty responded.

Wenholz countered that, if the CREZ were not in place and the incoming businesses were paying taxes, some of the county's taxing districts would not receive anything at all. Morrow County Assessor Mike Gorman mentioned that only a "very few" of the CREZ businesses were in Boardman's jurisdiction.

"So, the city, even though they may be impacted because they're near, by or adjacent to, the city wouldn't be collecting on

the other four or five or six Amazons and some of the other enterprise zone exemptions," Gorman said.

Keefer pointed out that that would also mean a huge decrease in funding to Boardman when CREZ II ends.

Port of Morrow Executive Director Lisa Mittelsdorf is not on the board but was present at the meeting and asked the board members to keep things in perspective. She pointed out that it wasn't until five years ago that the enterprise zone sponsors started taking any of the funds at all.

"That's a lot of money impacting different parts of our county that a taxing district wouldn't have been able to ever give money to," she said. "Just remember that."

"This is doing really good things, and hopefully we will get through and not have to fight about it," she added.

# Heppner will contribute to courthouse infrastructure if mill site is chosen

*-Continued from PAGE ONE*  
tem, but the Oregon Health Authority doesn't only want to know about the city lines.

"They want to identify even homeowners if they have a lead line going to their house," he said.

Chad Doherty said that there are 705-715 water services in town, but a few can be crossed off the list without inspection. Those include lines put in after 1985, lines two inches or larger and irrigation meters or other non-drinking uses.

Doherty said city workers will have to dig up 20 percent of the remaining water lines for inspection. The city will use a vacuum truck and avoid digging up concrete as much as possible. Those 20 percent have to be selected totally at random, and he said the city will be sending out letters to affected homeowners this summer.

The city must notify OHA Drinking Water Services of all lead lines by Oct. 16 of this year.

Doherty also reported that the city will be helping Pioneer Memorial Hospital with some Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance regarding crosswalks and speeds around the hospital.

The city will be installing 15 mph signs around the hospital and new torch-down crosswalk marks at the hospital's crossings. Morrow County Health District will pay for the torch-down materials.

Assistant Fire Chief Eric Chick reported that May was slow for the fire department, "but we're starting June off with a bang."

Heppner Rural Fire Protection District responded to one structure fire in the month of May. Heppner Fire Dept. responded to six motor vehicle accidents, one vehicle fire, one flood assessment up Hinton Creek, 30 chief calls, and zero lift assists or secure landing zones.

Chick said they are seeing fewer flights out of Heppner, which is partly due to more staffing available for ground transport.

Overall, there have been 72 total dispatched calls in 2024, which is down quite a bit from last year, though Chick said he expects things to pick up during fire season.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office Lt. Nathan Braun reported that MCSO

supplied 401 work hours in Heppner during May. Of that, 279 were patrol hours, 61 were traffic, 42.75 were investigations and follow-ups, and 19.25 were reports.

May incidents totaled 235 and included 12 dog complaints, two death investigations, four juvenile complaints, four thefts, six trespasses and 10 traffic stops. There was one misdemeanor arrest.

Braun also said MCSO appreciated the community response for the search and rescue operation for the missing child the previous weekend.

"It was amazing," he said.

In his report, John Doherty said he had met with Jim Protiva of Northwest Playground Equipment to review Heppner City Park and discuss options. He also worked on grant applications and reached out to Business Oregon and the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation.

He also met with Blue Mountain Networks regarding fiber runs in the city and possible service for Hager Park, spoke with several residents regarding possible housing projects and met with the Morrow County Planning Dept. and Morrow County Administrator Matthew Jensen regarding future Urban Growth Boundary extension.

"There are a couple of these state goals that have to be addressed if we do extend out there," he said.

He noted that the meet-

ing was purely informational and that he is waiting for more information from Morrow County Planning Director Tamra Mabbott.

He reported that the Morrow County Board of Commissioners had granted the city \$110,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist with the water telemetry project.

In other business, the Heppner city council:

- appointed Corey Sweeney, Ian Murray, Joe Armato and Phillip Sanfiorenzo to the new Economic Development Committee, with the fifth position still vacant. The first meeting is scheduled for June 26 at 7 p.m.

- heard that the mayor and council positions 1, 2 and 3, currently held by Corey Sweeney, Ian Murray, Ralph Klock and Cody High, will be up for election this fall. Members of the public can apply to be on the ballot for any of the positions, and forms are available at city hall.

- approved resolutions to receive state funds, authorize the county treasurer to invest city funds, adopt bonded debt resources and requirements, and extend workers' compensation coverage to city volunteers.

The next meeting of the Heppner City Council will be July 8 at 7 p.m. at Heppner City Hall.

**DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM**

# FTB host Juneteenth celebration

Flood Town Books is hosting 'Juneteenth Family Play Night' Wednesday June 19th 6pm-9pm in the flood Town Books yard. There will be snacks and yard games. This event is free with grant funding from ChangeX.

# SAGE Center PGE exhibit update highlights renewable energy

Boardman, OR - Much has changed with energy production technology since the 2013 opening of the Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Center (SAGE Center) in Boardman, Oregon. Updates to Portland General Electric's (PGE) exhibit show how advancing technology is contributing to safe, reliable, and responsibly generated energy in Oregon. Visitors to the SAGE Center will learn how PGE turns natural resources like sunlight, wind, water, and natural gas into the electricity that powers homes and businesses in Oregon. The exhibit update showcases the advancement of wind and solar power technology. The groundbreaking Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility, the first development of its scale, combined wind and solar generation with battery storage.

**WWW.HEPPNER.NET**  
SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
SEND US PHOTOS  
START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

**ANNUAL WIMER GOLF SCRAMBLE**

**Best Ball**  
**Saturday, June 29th**

Continental Breakfast, Steak Lunch  
**\$50.00 per person**  
RSVP by June 22, 2024  
Jimmy Wimer 541-805-8248

**SYKES REAL ESTATE**

177 N. Main P.O. Box 337 Heppner, OR 97836  
Chris@sykesrealestate.net 541-215-2274

Broker  
**Chris Sykes**



**Reduced price**  
**\$350,000**  
**9.09 ACRES**



Secluded mountain property! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to own your own mountain property. Whether you're looking for a hunting retreat or a permanent residence, this property has it all. With approximately 9.09 acres of land and a private pond you can embrace the beauty of nature and create a life of serenity in the mountains you've always desired. 80844 Black Mountain Ln Heppner MLS#:23510132

**\$160,000**  
**Reduced Price**



This charming bungalow is move-in-ready gem! New flooring and light fixtures. It also offers a one-car garage with a utility room attached. The fenced backyard provides a serene view of Willow Creek, with the soothing sounds of the creek flowing at night. MLS#:24544788 - 310 W Union Ave Heppner

**New Listing**  
**\$475,000**



Experience luxury living in this stunning home located in Heppner, Oregon. Built in 2016, this beautiful property boasts luxurious features such as heated bathroom floors, a central vacuum system, a water softener, and central air for ultimate comfort. Enjoy the convenience of being close to the high school, Heppner pool, baseball park, elementary school, fishing spots, and downtown, all within walking distance. With an expansive lot, this is the perfect opportunity to own your dream home in an ideal location. 480 W Morgan St Heppner

**New Listing**  
**\$145,000**  
**350 S Gilmore St, Heppner**



For Sale: Charming bungalow with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, nestled in a tranquil neighborhood. Spacious backyard ideal for memorable family gatherings. Recent renovations include upgraded floors, kitchen improvements, fresh paint. Home has a mini split for efficient heating and cooling. Conveniently situated near Hagar Park, just a short stroll away from downtown, the hospital, and the elementary school. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity. MLS#: 24241555

**SMALL OPERATIONS Come see us!**



**AG LOANS / PERSONAL & BUSINESS BANKING**

**Bank of Eastern Oregon** **HEPPNER / IONE**

MEMBER FDIC