

## Board of Commissioners meeting on circuit court site and CREZ funds

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 planning for the proposed north end annex building. Comparing it to Umatilla County, which is fully functioning and fully staffed, Nelson questioned if Morrow County intends to replicate such comprehensive services. He acknowledged the difficulty of filling positions in Heppner but noted that these challenges were specific to the south Morrow County area. He expressed curiosity about whether Morrow County plans to fully staff the annex building or if it will only be utilized on certain days.

Drago expressed his apprehension about funding and questioned whether this would alter the state's approval for the original courthouse construction rather than an annex. Jensen, in response, acknowledged the question but suggested seeking clarification from Judge Hill, who could provide insights into the matter.

However, Jensen emphasized the importance of considering Judge Hill's recommendations, proposing a workshop involving Doug Carl, the BOC, and Judge Hill to delve deeper into the idea of building an annex.

Wenholz, adding to the discussion, highlighted the significance of maintaining a partnership with the state when considering the construction project, "I think that we should because it is a partnership with the state. They are paying 50% of the courthouse part of the building. If you're giving them what they want, if there's any additions or extra expenses, they are a lot more willing to advocate with the legislator and appropriate dollars for it."

Jensen expressed his worry about the operations and maintenance costs, "the states build us these nice facilities and we have to take care of the operations maintenance." Jensen goes on to say he is interested to see their idea of staffing.

Sykes voiced his preference for keeping the facility in Heppner. He emphasized his support for the fairgrounds site, stating, "I want it to stay in Heppner, I would go back to the fairgrounds site."

Drago gave his opinion saying, "we gave the millsite [a chance] and we had our concerns at the beginning, and they came to fruition as we were afraid they would." He goes on to say he would like to have a workshop with Judge Hills to address his comments or concerns. And if it's something that they can do, but

of course he has always been on board with the fairgrounds.

Sykes adds that he doesn't want to hold workshop/public meeting, "I appreciate his letter, and I appreciate what he's doing, but I don't think you can split the baby. I think it needs to be in one place and I think it needs to be in Heppner. I've always said that, from when I was running for office I haven't changed my mind." The board passed a motion to hold a public meeting to discuss an annex.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of the approval of funds for the Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and their request to utilize the previously awarded \$100,000 in CREZ funds. Brian Snyder, representing the MCSO, articulated the pressing need for a private firearms range. Currently, officers are compelled to travel to Arlington in order to access a shooting range, according to Snyder.

The proposed location for the range is county-owned land off Juniper Canyon. This land offers a convenient and accessible site for officers to train effectively, says Snyder. The estimated cost for establishing the firearms range is around \$65,000. Additionally, Snyder highlighted the need to purchase new search and rescue vehicles, as the current ones are over a decade old, worn out, and no longer meeting the required standards. They intend to trade in the existing vehicles and acquire two new Polaris 570s equipped with winches and a new trailer, amounting to a maximum cost of \$35,000. Both the shooting range project and the acquiring of new search and rescue vehicles would use the total of their previously awarded CREZ funds.

Commissioner Sykes drew attention to a previous discussion involving the Boardman Police Department also requesting CREZ funds for the construction of a shooting range. Sykes sought clarification on whether the proposed firearms range would be used solely by the MCSO or if it would have a multi-departmental purpose. Snyder responded, emphasizing that while the range would be owned and operated by the MCSO, it has the potential to benefit other law enforcement agencies as well. He cited the example of Hermiston PD, which has a shooting range and has established usage agreements with other agencies. Snyder

added that Boardman PD, which currently travels to Pendleton for shooting practice, could also benefit from this endeavor.

Commissioner Drago expressed his interest in ensuring that the public also has access to a shooting range. He proposed that if the range could serve both law enforcement agencies and the public, it might facilitate a smoother approval process. Snyder acknowledged the suggestion but raised concerns about potential staffing issues, insurance liabilities, and the increased vulnerability of the range to vandalism if opened to the public.

Drago suggested combining resources with the Boardman PD to create a project that would benefit the entire county and be open to the public on weekends.

While Drago did not insist that this was the only way forward, he urged the MCSO to consider pooling funds from the city of Boardman and the Sheriff's Department to undertake a venture that would serve the community as a whole. The collaboration was intended to provide an opportunity for the public to engage and utilize the proposed project.

Snyder, in response to this proposal, expressed his willingness to consider the idea. However, he also voiced his concerns about the potential cost involved. According to Snyder, it was estimated that the Boardman project alone would require around \$2.5 million. He emphasized the financial constraints, saying, "we've got pennies for a project like that."

In light of these concerns, Sykes offered a possible solution by suggesting that the MCSO consider the shooting range in Arlington as a model for their project. He cited its public accessibility as a benefit and highlighted the increased safety it would bring to the community as well.

The board made a motion to authorize the MCSO to proceed with purchasing new search and rescue vehicles, with a budget of up to \$35,000.

Furthermore, the board also agreed on another motion, granting permission to the MCSO to further explore the logistics and costs associated with building a shooting range. The MCSO was tasked with providing additional information to the Board, enabling them to make informed decisions about the viability of the project.

## Heppner Junior High Volleyball Schedule

**Sep 10<sup>th</sup>**, 2024, 4:00PM Away vs. Stanfield Secondary at the Stanfield Secondary School.  
**Sep 12<sup>th</sup>**, 4:00PM Grant Union / Prairie City at the Heppner Elementary School.  
**Sep 16<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 5:00PM Away vs. Riverside at the Windy River Elementary, Boardman Oregon.  
**Sep 20<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 3-Way 9:00AM Irrigon, Riverside at the Heppner High School, B team @ HES A team @ HHS.  
**Sep 24**, 2024 4:00PM Away vs. Weston-McEwen at the Weston Middle School.  
**Sep 27<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 3-Way 9:00AM Away vs. Irrigon, Stanfield Secondary at the Irrigon High School.  
**Sep 30<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 4:00PM Away vs. Umatilla & Clara

Brownell Middle at the Umatilla High School.  
**Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 4:00PM Umatilla & Clara Brownell Middle at the Heppner Elementary School.  
**Oct 8<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 4:00PM Weston-McEwen at the Heppner Elementary School.  
**Oct 12<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 3-Way 9:00AM Central Middle, Umatilla & Clara Brownell Middle at the Heppner, High School B team @ HES A team @ HHS.  
**Oct 15**, 2024 4:00PM Stanfield Secondary at the Heppner Elementary School.  
**Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 4:00PM Away vs. Grant Union / Prairie City at the Grant Union High School.  
**Oct 21<sup>st</sup>**, 2024 4:30PM Away vs. Irrigon at the Irrigon High School.

## Heppner Junior High Football schedule

**Sep 12<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 4:00PM Grant Union / Prairie City at the Heppner Football Field.  
**Sep 26<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 5:00PM Stanfield Secondary at the Heppner Football Field.  
**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 2024 4:00PM Weston-McEwen at the Heppner Football Field.  
**Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 4:00PM Away vs. Grant Union / Prairie City at the Grant Union High School.

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## Commissioner Sykes signs ASA plan

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 for the efforts of all involved parties, including the Morrow County Health District. He emphasized the importance of establishing strong working relationships within the county as the new plan is implemented.

The new Ambulance Service Plan and provider

agreements are intended to enhance Morrow County's ability to meet the emergency response needs of residents, businesses, and visitors. The county recognized the experience of Morrow County Health District in providing ambulance services and expressed anticipation of a successful partnership. The Boardman Fire

Rescue District was also acknowledged for providing interim services while the Ambulance Service Plan was being finalized and the provider selection process completed.

For more information, inquiries can be directed to Matthew Jensen, County Administrator, at (541) 676-2529.

## Heppner Daycare in need of a new facility

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 reliable and high-quality childcare is increasingly recognized as a critical factor in supporting local economies, and the new facility is seen as a key component in ensuring the long-term vitality of the area.

The Daycare Expansion Subcommittee is actively seeking the community's input and involvement in

this next phase of the project. Interested parties, particularly landowners with properties that meet the minimum requirements, are encouraged to reach out. The Subcommittee can be contacted via email at ksirimurray@gmail.com or by phone at 503-504-8508.

In closing, the Subcommittee remains optimistic that, with the collective

efforts of the Heppner community, the vision for a new childcare facility will soon become a reality. The project represents a significant investment in the future of the town, its families, and its children, and the Subcommittee is eager to see this vision come to fruition.

## Heppner Volleyball Varsity Schedule

**8/29/24: Tournament** 4:30 PM vs. Pendleton (Umatilla/Morrow County Volleyball Jamboree - Pendleton High School)  
**8/31/24: Tournament** 9:00 AM vs. Grant Union (Grant Union Tournament - Grant Union High School)  
**9/3/24: 5:00 PM @ Echo** (South Wasco County) - **Non-League**  
**9/3/24: 6:30 PM @ South Wasco County** - **Non-League**  
**9/5/24: 4:00 PM vs. Pilot Rock** - **Non-League**  
**9/7/24: - Tournament** 9:00 AM vs. TBD (Heppner Tournament - Heppner)  
**9/12/24: 4:00 PM @ Weston-McEwen** - **League**  
**9/13/24: Tournament** 9:00 AM vs. TBD (Powder Valley Tournament - Powder Valley High School) -  
**9/14/24: Tournament** 9:00 AM vs. TBD (Powder Valley Tournament - Powder Valley High School)  
**9/17/24: 4:00 PM vs. Dufur**

- **Non-League**  
**9/19/24: 4:00 PM @ Irrigon** - **League**  
**9/26/24: 5:00 PM vs. Stanfield** - **League**  
**9/28/24: 10:30 AM vs. Echo** (Stanfield Secondary School) - **Non-League**  
**9/28/24: 12:00 PM vs. Imbler** (Stanfield Secondary School) - **Non-League**  
**9/28/24: 1:30 PM vs. Gaston** (Stanfield Secondary School) - **Non-League**  
**10/1/24: 4:00 PM vs. Irrigon** - **League**  
**10/5/24: 2:00 PM @ Enterprise** (Grant Union High School) - **League**  
**10/5/24: 4:00 PM @ Grant Union** (Grant Union High School) - **League**  
**10/10/24: 4:00 PM vs. Weston-McEwen** - **League**  
**10/17/24: 4:00 PM @ Stanfield** - **League**  
**10/19/24: 12:00 PM vs. Enterprise** - **League**  
**10/19/24: 4:00 PM vs. Grant Union** - **League**

## Ione and Arlington football schedule

**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>**, Pine Eagle 6pm in Arlington, Ione departs at 4pm.  
**Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>**, Jordan, Valley 1pm (PT) in Jordan Arlington departs 6am, 2pm (MT) in Valley Ione departs at 6am.  
**Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>**, Echo 7pm, in Echo, Arlington departs 4pm, Ione departs at 4pm.  
**Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**, Wheeler County 7pm, in Fossil. Arlington


departs at 4pm, Ione departs at 4pm.  
**Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**, Prairie City 7pm, in Arlington. Ione departs at 4pm.  
**Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>**, South Wasco 7pm, in Maupin. Ione departs at 1:45pm, Arlington depart at 2:30pm.  
**Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**, Dayville/Monument 7pm, Arlington. Ione departs 4pm.

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