

## Rate

**Continued from A1**

“We recognize that increasing rates at a time when Oregonians are already dealing with high inflation presents challenges for many customers,” said Megan Decker, PUC chair. “Unfortunately, global events drive the price for utilities to purchase natural gas. There’s simply no way to avoid these higher prices impacting customers. However, there may be options available to residential customers to help reduce the bottom line impact.”

The rate hikes will boost Cascade Natural Gas revenues by about \$22.2 million, according to PUC.

However, that increase is intended to cover the company’s higher cost for buying natural gas, what PUC calls a “Purchased Gas Adjustment” or PGA.

“Each local natural gas company purchases gas for delivery to its core customers,” according to a PUC fact sheet. “The cost of this gas is a ‘cost of doing business’ for the gas company and is not intended to allow the company to make any profit from the purchases. The costs for gas purchases are recovered annually through a Purchased Gas Adjustment.”

Mark Hanson, a spokesman for Cascade Natural Gas, said the company’s request for this year’s PGA, which has a much higher increase than usual, reflects a variety of factors that have boosted the price the company pays for natural gas.

Since the pandemic has eased, demand for natural gas has risen faster than the supply, which is still increasing, Hanson said.

This summer the demand for natural gas to produce electricity reached a record high, Hanson said, due in part to the closure of many coal-fired power plants whose production has largely been replaced by plants powered by natural gas.

Natural gas demand in Europe has also risen since that area is getting less from Russia since its invasion of Ukraine this winter.

“This has become a global impact on the market,” he said.

A PUC report from Oct. 14, summarizing Cascade’s PGA request, also cites as contributing factors a June 8, 2022, fire at the country’s second-largest liquefied natural gas export facility near Galveston, Texas.

Projections for next spring are more positive, Hanson said, with supply potentially topping demand, which should reduce wholesale prices.

In the meantime, though, Hanson acknowledged that a 25% increase in residential rates, with wintry temperatures arriving earlier than last year, is unfortunate.

“It’s not a great time with inflation hitting everything,” he said.

PUC estimates that a typical residential customer using an average of 62 therms per month will see their monthly bill rise by about \$15.09, to \$74.90.

The PUC approves adjustments annually to the rates of the state’s three regulated natural gas companies — Cascade Natural Gas, Avista Utilities, and NW Natural, to reflect changes in the actual cost of wholesale priced natural gas, known as the purchased gas adjustment (PGA).

This allows companies to pass through their actual cost of purchasing gas to customers without a markup on the price. The PUC has also approved rate increases for Oregon’s two other natural gas companies.

Avista, which has a service area including La Grande, is raising residential rates by 18.4% starting Nov. 1. NW Natural is increasing residential rates by 14.4%.

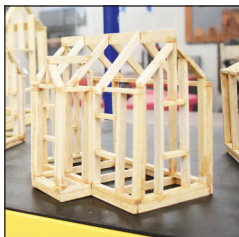
To increase energy efficiency and save on future bills, customers are encouraged to view Energy Trust of Oregon’s low-cost and no-cost tips to reduce energy consumption.

For information about bill payment assistance options, newly available utility discount programs, and the Budget Pay Program that equalizes bill payments across winter and summer months, contact Cascade Natural at 888-522-1130 or view information online at [www.cngc.com/customer-service/low-income-assistance-programs/](http://www.cngc.com/customer-service/low-income-assistance-programs/).



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

**Powder Valley High School sophomores Tucker Martin, left, and Marli Lind work with CTE instructor Seth Bingham during the shop section of Geometry in Construction. The first hour of the course is geometry with Matt Richardson.**



**Above: A scale model of a house. Right: Geometry in Construction students in the 2021-2022 school year at Powder Valley High School built four sheds, and proceeds from the sales will go back into the program. One will be sold during the FFA’s live auction on Facebook Nov. 17.**

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald



## Building

**Continued from A1**

“It’s fun — other than all the glued fingers,” he said.

After completing their model, the students get to work on actual construction.

The first year, Bingham said the class constructed two buildings, but decided to focus on smaller projects completed by groups of two or three.

“That seemed to get everyone really engaged,” Bingham said.

Last year, the GIS students built four sheds, each with a front door, windows and porch.

Two have already sold — destined to become chicken

coops — and one will be featured in the FFA’s Facebook live auction on Nov. 17. (For details, check the page for North Powder Schools — Home of the Badgers.)

The fourth shed is still available for \$1,800 — anyone interested can call the school, 541-898-2244 and talk to Bingham.

“People can finish them how they want,” he said.

Proceeds from the sales return to the CTE program.

“We try to sell it close to materials cost and then roll it back into the program,” Bingham said.

This year’s class will build six duck blinds.

“We have a lot of hunters in this group,” Bingham said.

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## Gerald Omer Maxwell

September 29, 1932 - October 8th, 2022

Gerald Omer Maxwell passed away on October 8th, 2022, after living a full life of 90 years.

He was born in Baker City, Oregon, on September 29th, 1932, to Omer and Pansy (Long) Maxwell. He was raised and spent most of his life on his family farm, established by his grandfather in 1880, located outside of Haines, Oregon. Gerald grew up tending to the farm’s gardens, fields, and many different animals and equipment. He transitioned from driving teams of horses to tractors. He showed livestock in 4-H and journeyed through all the ranks of the Boy Scouts to earn the prestigious Eagle Scout Badge. Gerald attended Muddy Creek School grades 1st through 9th, and then transitioned to the North Powder High School, where he earned his high school diploma in 1950.

After high school, he attended college at Oregon State University for a year. Then he decided to join the Coast Guard, where he served for three years. After his service, he continued his education at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Oregon, for another two years. During this time, he met and married the love of his life for 66 years, Farrell Adams. They met on the Stampede Hall dance floor during the Elgin Stampede rodeo and were married on February 6th, 1956. After a short stint of living in Elgin and working for Farrell’s father, Earnest Adams, they returned to Haines to work on the home ranch for Gerald’s father, Omer, and uncle, Glen Maxwell.

Gerald and Farrell purchased a small home with about 30 acres from Champ and Lois Bond, located about a half mile south of Gerald’s family home where he grew up. Gerald and his father-in-law, Earn Adams, remodeled and built a significant addition to the house during the late 1960s to accommodate Gerald and Farrell’s family of three children, Cheri, Alan, and Marci. Farrell still lives in this same home today.

Gerald and Farrell eventually purchased the ranch from his father and uncle and raised their children with the same work ethics and experiences as Gerald had growing up. Gerald and Farrell provided their children with horses and taught them to ride. They involved their children in 4-H, FFA, Scouts, Rifle Club, and swimming at Radium Hot Springs. They regularly took their children hiking, exploration driving, fishing, and hunting for birds, deer, and elk in the mountains. Gerald and Farrell purchased a boat and took their kids fishing, water skiing, and boating. They loved to take their boat, and eventually their motorhome, to the Snake River and other reservoirs.

Snow skiing was a large part of Gerald’s life. He started at Little Alps Ski area helping Champ Bond with operations, then helped with the development of the

Anthony Lakes Ski area in 1962. He became a proud member of the Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol, where he made many lifelong friends. Some referred to him as Gerry. All the family became good skiers because they “had to go skiing” every weekend. Gerald ended his Ski Patrol service as Regional Director of the National Ski Patrol. Gerald served on several committees throughout his life, such as the Haines Cemetery Board, the Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Powder Valley Water Control District.

He was greatly involved in developing the NPRC-South gravitational pipeline system. For many years, Gerald contributed his time and cooking talent to the Haines 4th of July celebration and was honored to lead the parade as Grand Marshal one year. Gerald loved animals, especially his pets, and everything outdoors. He is now with the many family members and friends who passed on before him. And he will be missed greatly by those he has left behind.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents, Omer and Pansy (Long); his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Earnest and Francis (Gilkeson) Adams; his son-in-law, Frank (Cheri) Sanborn, his brothers-in-law, Harold Hoyer and John Ticknor; co-brother-in-law Marvin Erickson and step-grandchild Lana Sanborn.

Gerald is survived by his wife of 66 years, Farrell (Adams) Maxwell, his daughter Cheri Sanborn, son and spouse, Alan and Pam (Scarborough) Maxwell; and daughter and spouse, Marci and Billy Cunningham. All of his siblings also survive him, sisters Peggy Hoyer and Belva Ticknor, and his brother Dewey with his spouse Bonnie Maxwell. Gerald was also blessed to be survived by two grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two foster grandchildren, seven step and foster great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews with wonderful families.

Please join us in celebrating Gerald’s life at 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 1st, 2022, at the Haines Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Haines Methodist Church reception hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Haines Methodist Church or Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol through Gray’s West & Co. Pioneer Chapel at 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To leave an online condolence for the family of Gerald, please visit [www.grayswestco.com](http://www.grayswestco.com).



## Campaign

**Continued from A1**

Alderson’s largest single contribution is a \$5,000 loan from John S. Wilson on Sept. 12, according to campaign finance records. The Garrick committee’s biggest contribution is a \$3,558 loan from Garrick himself.

Following are summaries from each campaign dating to February 2022:

### Shane Alderson for Baker County Commissioner committee

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

- \$300, Randall D. Dodson, Oct. 12
- \$200, Randy Guyer, Oct. 12
- \$200, Peter Johnson, Oct. 12
- \$250, Stephen F. Haberle, Oct. 3
- \$500, William A. Tiedemann, Sept. 30
- \$500, Tabor Clarke, Sept. 29
- \$300, John Z. Wilson, Sept. 29
- \$500, Judy Welding LLC, Sept. 27
- \$500, Randall Daugherty, Sept. 22
- \$50, Randy Guyer, Sept. 17
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$100, Sept. 17

(Oregon law does not require individuals who contribute less than \$100 to be identified by name on campaign finance reports.)

- \$500, Fred Warner, Sept. 16
- \$500, Baker Truck Corral, Sept. 16
- \$200, Aletha G. Bonebrake, Sept. 16
- \$150, Clair F. Button, Sept. 16
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$500, Sept. 16
- \$40, Shane Alderson, Sept. 14
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$100, Sept. 12
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$50, Sept. 9
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$100, Sept. 8
- \$50, Jason Bland, Aug. 31
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$50, Aug. 17
- \$200, Doris Alderson, Aug. 9
- \$500, Stephen Ridenour, June 6
- 200, Doris Alderson, May 12
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$50, May 9
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling

\$50, April 23

- \$500, Wilson Cattle Company Inc., April 14
- \$500, Randy Guyer, April 14
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$52.99, March 30
- \$200, Fred Warner, March 18
- \$800, Shane Alderson, Feb. 22

#### EXPENDITURES

- \$4,702.63, Aspen Digital Services, Oct. 12
- \$1,430, Elkhorn Media Group, Oct. 12
- \$78.98, Jackson’s Food Store, Oct. 3
- \$237.64, Facebook, Sept. 28
- \$175, Facebook, Sept. 19
- \$125, Facebook, Sept. 15
- \$667.60, Buildasign.com, Sept. 14
- \$125, Facebook, Sept. 12
- \$600, Oregon Secretary of State’s office, Aug. 23
- \$150, Facebook, May 16
- \$296, Elkhorn Media Group, May 6
- \$300, KCMB radio, May 6
- \$151.82, Hells Canyon Journal, April 27
- \$194.40, Vista Print, Feb. 22
- \$545, Buildasign.com, Feb. 17

### Dan Garrick for Commissioner

(Campaign finance records show no account activity since June)

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

- \$300, Lorrie Harvey, May 2
- \$100, Claudia K. Ehmer, May 2
- \$200, Raymond Sohn, May 2
- \$250, Deon Strommer, April 29
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$120, April 29
- \$250, William Harvey, March 25
- \$200, Raymond Sohn, March 25
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$600, March 25
- \$500, Raymond Sohn, Feb. 26
- Miscellaneous cash contributions of less than \$100, totaling \$200, Feb. 26

#### EXPENDITURES

- \$672.40, U.S. Postal Service, May 2
- \$771.60, U.S. Postal Service, May 2
- \$855.29, Vista Print, April 4
- \$146, Vista Print, March 24
- \$3,558.11, Vista Print, March 14
- \$300, Baker County Fairgrounds, March 1
- \$141.59, Baker City Herald, Feb. 26