

OSU economist says rural America 'built big government'

By David Sykes
Heppner needs a more diversified population in order to grow and be successful, an Oregon State economist told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce

recently. Bruce Sorte, who teaches microeconomics and other courses for Oregon State University said Heppner could learn from Boardman and should become more diversified in its population in order to move forward into the future.

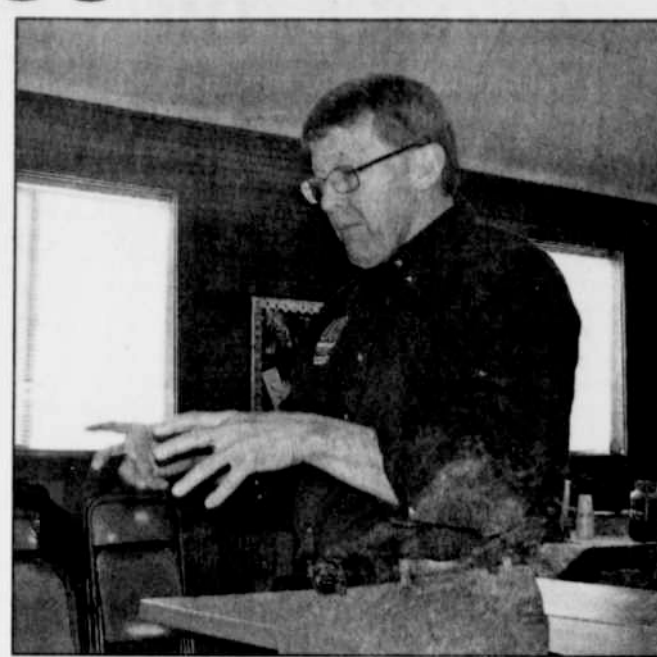
"If you look at all of you here," he told the gathered chamber members, "you pretty much look all the same. You will not be creative until you have diversity here."

Sorte pointed to Boardman and said that city's diversity could benefit Heppner.

Sorte also said, in response to a question about the large amount of government in south Morrow County supporting the economy here, that rural people want big government.

"Rural folks built big government," Sorte said.

To illustrate this point, he said in the 1800s



OSU economist Bruce Sorte told the Chamber of Commerce last week that, in order to grow, Heppner needs to become more diversified and to "distinguish itself." -Photo by David Sykes

As an illustration of rural Oregon's approval of bigger government, Sorte pointed to Measure Five, which was approved by voters in 1990 and established limits on Oregon's property taxes. Measure Five was voted down by all -See ECONOMIST/PAGE SIX

HEPPNER

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School custodian retires after 31 years

By Andrea Di Salvo

At a school-wide assembly last week, Heppner Elementary School celebrated the retirement of much-loved Morrow County School District head custodian Dan Van Liew.

"I received about 170 hugs, high-fives and handshakes," said Van Liew of the assembly.

Though still seen in the halls of the school, head custodian Van Liew celebrated his official retirement on January 31, 31 years after starting as a school groundsman in January of 1981.

Fifty-nine-year-old Van Liew was born and raised in Medford, OR. He graduated from Medford High School in 1971 before going on to study business at Southern Oregon State College in Ashland and Oregon State University in Corvallis. He then spent time working for the forest



Matt Combe (L) reads the candy-bar board made by Jannie Allen and Kathy Cutsforth for Dan Van Liew at his school-wide retirement assembly at HES on January 31. -Contributed photo

service, the city of Ashland and the Ashland school district before moving to Heppner in 1981.

Van Liew married his wife, Sandra, shortly before moving to the area. In a way, that was what set the whole move in motion; it was while visiting in Heppner over Christmas that Van Liew saw an advertisement for a groundsman

position at the school. He sent in an application, went through a phone interview and received the job.

During his career with the school district, Van Liew's title changed several times, from groundsman to assistant custodian to facility coordinator to head custodian. He also took on the

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Health district approves stroke assistance program

Providence Hospital specialists can assess patients at PMH through web cams

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District's Board, at their regular meeting in Ione on Jan. 30, approved an agreement between Providence Hospital in Portland and Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner for a web cam program to assist with stroke patients, called the Telestroke Network Care Services. When a patient with stroke symptoms arrives at Pioneer Memorial, an on-call specialist at Providence Hospital can

assess the patient through the web cam. Providence will provide the web cam unit and the assessments as a free service to MCHD and will bill out their charges to the patient.

Providence will have already credentialed the neurologists, and MCHD will use Providence's credentialing by proxy. The MCHD Board approved the process; by-law changes have already been proposed to MCHD providers to allow tele-

medicine at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Staff will still have to complete training to operate the equipment.

MCHD administration was very excited about the project, which would, in effect, provide on-site neurologists at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

"That's a pretty big deal," commented Nicole Mahoney, MCHD chief financial officer.

"Stroke neurolo- -See STROKE WEB CAMS/PAGE SIX

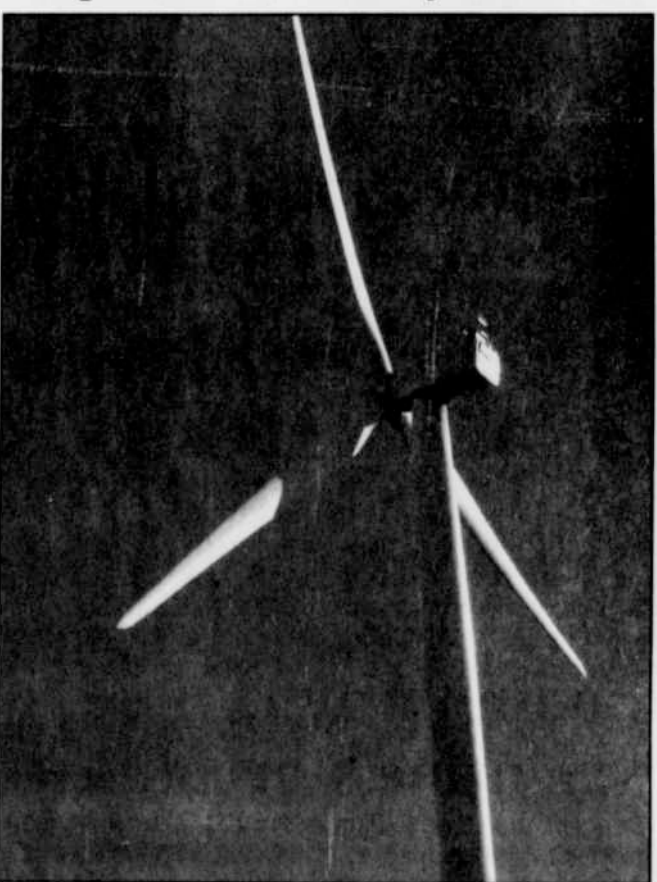
County court to hear appeal on Ione wind farm permit

Nearby property owner says 52-turbine farm will cause noise, "visual pollution," loss of value

By David Sykes

February 15, the Morrow County Court will hear an appeal on the siting of a 52-turbine wind farm in the Ella Butte area north of Ione. The Morrow County Planning Commission approved the permit for the 9,247 acre facility at its Dec. 6 meeting, but that decision has been appealed to the county court.

Citing noise, potential medical problems and loss of business if the wind farm is built, James Jepsen, owner of Dobyns Pest Control of Ione, filed the appeal. Jepsen, whose home and business are near the proposed wind farm, said, in part, that the "installation of the windmills, transmission lines will lower our property value, make our home, property and business unsalable. Also ruining our view of sunsets, dark starry nights, skies and having to look at the visual pollution of the windmills, wind sensor noise and the noise generated by the windmills and impact on wildlife and endangered species in the



A recently approved wind farm at Ione is being appealed to the Morrow County Court.

area."

Morrow Energy, LLC, which already operates wind farms in the area, is the developer of the project, which will be constructed on land owned

by Ruby Rohde of Kennewick, Reitmann Trust and Betty Reitmann of Ione, and Crum Enterprises Limited Partnership of Ione.

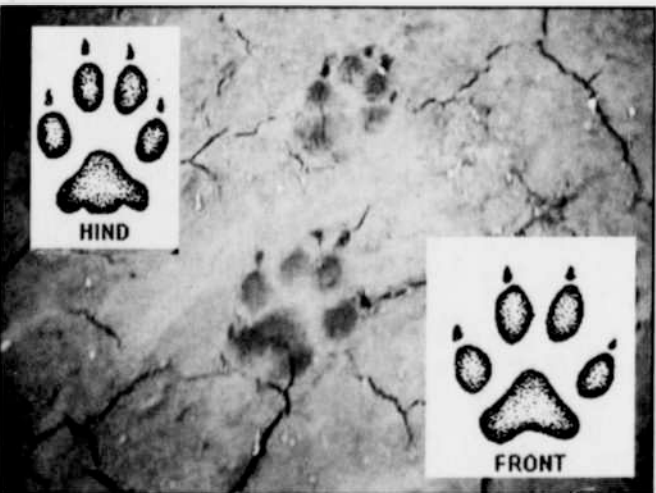
-See WIND FARMS/PAGE THREE

Calf elk at Tupper 'eaten on' not killed by wolf, says ODFW

By David Sykes

Reports that a calf elk was killed by a wolf last week turned out to be only partly true, according to Steve Cherry of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department. Cherry said he received a report of the dead calf elk in the Tupper area on Tuesday last week and, when he investigated, found that the marks on the carcass showed that it had been scavenged on by a wolf but not killed by one. Cherry said there were no bite marks on the hind legs or the neck that would have been an indication of a wolf attack. He said they put a trail camera on the carcass but no wolf came back to feed again. Cherry said he thinks it is a lone wolf in the area that did the savaging.

In other reports, Cherry said three lambs in the Parker Mill area were dead or missing and after investigation two of the deaths were the result of either domestic dogs or coyotes. Cherry said a miss-



The above tracks were seen Friday at Willow Creek Lake. They were determined by the Fish and Wildlife to be large domestic dog tracks. The inset tracks are of a wolf taken off the internet to show the similarity. The person who took the photo said the tracks were as large as a man's hand, but ODFW says they are not wolf tracks. Other canine tracks have been reported at the east end of Willow Creek Lake and they too have been determined to be from a large domestic dog. -Contributed photo

ing younger lama has not been found, or examined by ODFW, but may also be dead. After the savaging of the elk calf was confirmed to be a wolf Cherry said he went back with Russ Morgan, wolf expert with ODFW, and county tracker Buster Gibson. They all concurred neither was a

wolf kill. Cherry also said tracks around Willow Creek Lake have been determined to be a large canine. He said that when reports of the tracks came in, he thought he knew which dog from town made the tracks; when he took that dog out, the tracks matched.

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