

Wind developers talk jobs

Cross section of community joins discussion on employment opportunities in expanding wind farms in Morrow County

By David Sykes

Two of the heavy hitters in the wind farm business in Morrow County were featured speakers at the Willow Creek Valley



Andrew O'Connell of 2Morrow Energy, standing, speaks to a packed crowd about employment opportunities in the wind industry at the annual meeting of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group last week in Heppner. Seated to his right is Patricia Pilz of Caithness Shepherds Flat wind farm, who also talked about jobs in the expanding wind farm business in Morrow County. —Photo by David Sykes

Economic Development Group annual meeting last Thursday in Heppner. Andrew O'Connell of 2Morrow Energy of Lone, which already has a wind farm here and is planning more, along with Patricia Pilz of Caithness Energy, which is building the huge Shepherds Flat wind farm in Morrow and Gilliam Counties, were both featured speakers at the meeting and gave their insights in how locals may capitalize on employment at the new facilities.

Representatives from education, business and the electrical workers union were also in attendance and they, too, participated in the discussion on how local people could benefit through employment in the new wind farms.

O'Connell did not say how many jobs his two projects in the county will require; however, he did say the jobs pay well and will be here for a long time. He did not say how much the jobs pay, but later an actual

wind-tower technician who works in the area and was at the meeting said, depending on experience and training, the jobs can range from \$40,000 up to \$100,000 per year.

O'Connell said The Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles offers a two-year Renewable Energy Technology Training degree, and that he has talked to BMCC but they are not able to set up a

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HEPPNER

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Heppner native co-authors bestseller

By Andrea Di Salvo

Anyone in south Morrow County who has read the New York Times bestseller "American Sniper" may have glanced past a familiar name on the cover.

Scott McEwen's name is familiar to many in the Heppner area because 50-year-old McEwen was born and raised here. He was a local Eagle Scout and grew up hiking and fishing in the area, as well as hunting with his 300 Winchester. His brother, Bobbie McEwen, is still a familiar face around town.

Now a trial attorney based in San Diego, CA, McEwen has suddenly found himself faced with a measure of fame as the coauthor of "American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History." He and fellow coauthor Jim DeFelice both worked with Navy Seal Chris Kyle on the creation of Kyle's autobiography. After six weeks on the New York Times bestseller list, the book has dropped to third on the Feb.

26 hardcover nonfiction list. That comes, though, after a couple of stints in the number one spot on that list, not to mention launching as number two on the general nonfiction list. Not bad for someone who never wanted to be a writer.



Scott McEwen

Never wanted to be a writer?

Nope. After graduating from Heppner High School in 1979, McEwen received a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in 1983. He then attended McGeorge School of Law at University of the Pacific in Sacramento, CA. He obtained his law degree in 1987. He has worked in the law field for the last 25 years; he currently lives in San Diego, CA and does corporate defense and litigation all over the U.S. He still hunts in his spare time, and does a lot of deep-sea fishing for marlin and tuna in southern California and Mexico.

McEwen met Navy Seal sniper Chris Kyle through his work with

—See BESTSELLING AUTHOR/PAGE SEVEN

Library introduces new technology

Friends of the Library learn about innovative programs for library patrons

By April Sykes

The Heppner Friends of the Library heard two presentations at their Feb. 16 annual meeting that will change the common definition of "library."

Oregon Trail Library District Director Marsha Richmond told the Friends of the Library that Oregon Trail Library District patrons can now check out books to be sent via their Kindles, Nooks, Sony Readers, Androids, iPhones and other electronic readers.

Richmond demonstrated to the Friends of the Library audience how to access the electronic library. Electronic book readers must have an Oregon Trail Library card. Library patrons can go to the Oregon Trail Library

District website at www.oregontrail.plinkit.org and click on the Library 2 Go logo, find a title to enjoy, click a book, click more (or similar links) to open a list or try a search.

When a reader finds a title, then select "add to cart" and proceed to checkout. If prompted, they then sign in with their information and the checkout page opens. To sign in, they are asked to enter their library card number and personal identification (PIN). Some sites include an option to adjust the lending period. To continue, select "confirm checkout." The reader may check out a maximum of 10 titles at one time. Then click "download" to begin the download process.

—See LIBRARY TECH/PAGE SEVEN

County Court agrees with Lone wind farm permit

Denies neighbor's appeal of 52-tower facility at Ella Butte

By David Sykes

The Morrow County Court upheld the issuing of a permit for a 52-tower wind farm near Lone, approved earlier by the county planning commission.

On a unanimous vote, the court found no justification to deny the permit over the objections of James Jepsen, a nearby home and business owner, who said that building the wind farm would cause medical problems and loss of business, would lower property values and ruin his view, impact wildlife and cause harmful noise. In addition, Jepsen said the county did not follow proper procedure in notifying people of the original

planning commission hearing siting the wind farm.

The county court discussed Jepsen's reasons for the appeal for about one hour, then ruled it could find no evidence to support any of the claims, and voted to unanimously to deny the request. Approximately 25 people were in attendance at the hearing, which was held in Boardman.

Jepsen hired Attorney Charles Gillis of La Grande, who presented a cover letter and evidence to the court that he said supported Jepsen's claims; however, the court decided not to accept any additional evidence and ruled

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Lone boys, girls head to state



Top: The Lone Lady Cardinals head into state as the Big Sky District Champions. Back (L-R): Head Coach Mike Garrett, Asst. Dale Holland, Asst. Diana McElligott, Charlette Burghard, Lacey Thompson, Dominka Senkerikova, Jaqueline Juarez, Emily Holland and Manager Shannon Metcalfe. Center (L-R): Makenna Ramos, Stacey Halvorsen and Mary Rietmann. Front (L-R): JoAnna Patton, Jasmine Verduzco and Shadow Kendrick. Bottom: The Cardinals battled through districts to take the number-three seed heading into state. Back (L-R): Evan Rietmann, Steven Holland, Bailey Haguewood, Micah Stillman, Adam Collin, Kirk Haguewood, Omar Juarez, August Peterson and Joseph Doherty. Front (L-R) Lucas Jobs, Zac Orem, Joel Stillman and Kaleb Dumler. —Photos by Paula Emmel.

—See Pages FOUR and FIVE for full story.

MCSD receives 2011 unqualified audit

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School District Board has received the district's 2011 audit, which shows net assets of \$6,437,037 for the year ending June 30, up from \$5,493,988 in net assets for the period ending June 30 of the previous year.

The district's auditors, the Oster Professional Group, LLC, gave the district an unqualified opinion, which means they believe that the district gave a true and fair view of its financial matters.

MCSD Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said, however, that Oster recommended that the district make changes with the Associated Student Body fund in using tickets at games and events to keep better track of monies generated from these events and, additionally, that the district segregate accounting duties as a way to create more oversight.

In answer to the recommendation for segregation of duties, the district

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Heppner women injured in snowmobile accidents

By April Sykes

Two Heppner women were injured in separate snowmobile accidents over this past weekend.

Missy Lindsay, 44, Heppner, was injured in a snowmobile accident at Penland Lake, about 30 miles east of Heppner, on Saturday, February 18, around 9 p.m. She suffered broken ribs, a broken sternum and two broken vertebrae.

She was transported from Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner to Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, WA. According to reports, it is not yet

certain whether she will undergo surgery.

Sandi Patton, 49, Heppner was injured in a snowmobile accident near Coal Mine Hill, about 22 miles east of Heppner, on Sunday, February 19, around 1 p.m.

According to reports, she suffered a compound fracture to her femur and was also transported from Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner to Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, where she has undergone surgery and was scheduled for another.

Boyd files for commissioner

Kandy Boyd, current Morrow County Deputy Clerk, announced this week that she has filed to run as a Democratic Party candidate for Morrow County Com-

missioner, Position 1 during the upcoming election.

March 6 is the last day to file candidacy for nonpartisan and major party offices. Primary elections

will be held May 16 with general elections November 5.



Kandy Boyd

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