

WIND JOBS

-Continued from PAGE ONE
 "\$1 million lab" to do the training, so have not offered anything to students.

"I am going to try and create more jobs," O'Connell told the crowd.

Patricia Pilz says the Shepherds Flat project will put up 338 towers when completed and is a project she has been working on for almost 10 years. It is the biggest wind farm in the world and spans both Morrow and Gilliam counties. She said the entire project should be completed in August of 2012 and will actually be operated by General Electric.

Pilz says in the beginning GE is going to have to bring people in to operate the towers because "you just don't have the trained people here now. And we have a wind farm to operate."

There will be 37 full-time technician-type jobs available when the wind farm is completed, which will consist of people who are able to climb the 200-plus foot towers and have the skills to fix the towers when they break down. Pilz said the repair work will be somewhat like an auto mechanic, as parts are not repaired on site but are diagnosed and then

swapped out and sent back to the factory for repair.

"It is heavy diagnostic, heavy computer, and you have to be able to climb a tower and be agile," she said in describing the work.

However, Pilz also brought up some of the other jobs required to put in a wind project. "There is a biology side of this." She said there are environmental-type jobs like bird counting and identification, environmental impact statement and other types of jobs that do not require a person to climb towers.

Pilz reiterated that on Shepherd Flats all the 37 jobs will through GE. "You will be an employee of General Electric, and they are the ones you need to see about employment."

Also at the meeting were representatives of the Morrow County School District, who said the district is gearing up to prepare students for careers in the wind business.

"I want to build a program that will try and bring people back to this area. We are working on options now," said Heppner High School Principal Daye Stone.

He said he is working with the International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on some program funding opportunities, and is also coordinating with technology teacher Dave Fowler about setting up a preparatory program to give students the required math and science skills.

"We have devoted a half-time teaching position to develop a renewable energy program," Stone said.

"Our population [in the community] is getting older and we need to give kids an opportunity to come back here. It breaks my heart that a lot of kids want to come back here but can't," Stone added.

School Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said the jobs should also provide a boost to the schools. "As we get 37 people moving in here they will have kids that will be going to school," he pointed out.

There were also four members of the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) attending the meeting, who said they are preparing training help for the wind farm jobs. "We have everything in place but we have not had the job yet. We have it ready to go," said Eric Hayes with the IBEW.

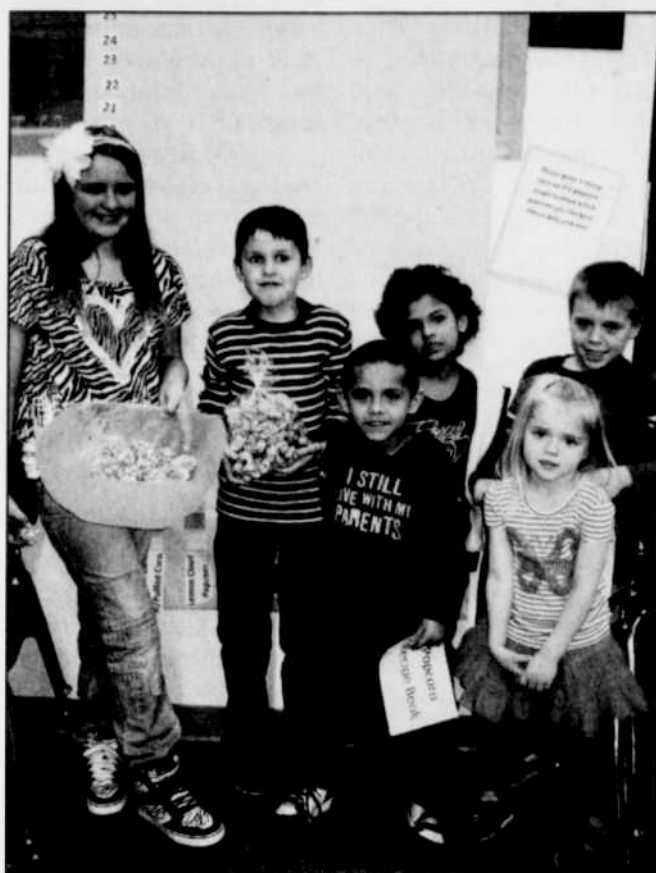
Popcorn extravaganza held at Heppner Elementary

On February 6, a "Popcorn Extravaganza" was held at Heppner Elementary School.

Pam Norton and Mary Ann Elguézabal held the event to explain their Title I and ELL programs to more than 50 students and parents. Norton gave some details about the Title I Funds at HES and how they pay for a half time Title I teacher, Bringing Up Grades (BUG) Friday School Program, Benchmark Boost Friday Program, and the Summer School Program.

Elguézabal shared Morrow County School District's goal for students to develop English competence for effective participation not only in school but also in society.

After that, participants decided it was enough of the "boring stuff." Those taking part in the grand event tasted six different kinds of popcorn, voted on their favorite popcorn, read a book about popcorn, took an AR quiz, did some popcorn math problems, and heard some popcorn jokes. The participants were



This group of helpers stayed late to clean up and put tables and chairs away after the popcorn extravaganza. Back (L-R): Madison Combe, Jordan Sweeney, Isabel Cegueda and Kaden Combe. Front (L-R): Manuel Cegueda and Mariah Combe. -Contributed photo

given a popcorn recipe book, including some secret popcorn recipes.

"One and all enjoyed munching and learn-

ing about popcorn," said Elguézabal. "A memorable time was had by all, and we decided that only corny people didn't attend."

Joint county & city planning hearing scheduled on Heppner land partition

The Morrow County and City of Heppner planning commissions will hold a combined meeting next Tuesday, Feb. 28, to hear a land partition request on a 109-acre parcel located near Rock Street in Heppner.

Kyle Robinson of Heppner is asking to divide the parcel into three parcels. A portion of the property is located within the city limits of Heppner and a portion is located within the urban growth boundary. Some of the property is also located

outside the urban growth boundary, which requires action by both the city and county planning commissions.

Also on the agenda is a request by Wade Smith to site a dwelling at Penland Lake subdivision.

Marriage Chamber Chatter

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:
February 14:
 -Eric James Hausinger, 25, of Boardman and Ashley Paige Crowell, 28, of Boardman.

Heppner

Friday, February 24: Guest speaker Patrick H. McGaughey, will be speaking on "Excellence in the Workplace" from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Port of Morrow River Front Center. Some of the topics he will address will be "Celebrating our best employees and inspiring the future; New attitudes toward work and customers; Build new chemistry within your team; Coping with difficult customers; How service can increase sales (and lower thefts)." The cost is \$35 per person but well worth the investment. He has a wealth of information and demonstrates it using humor and enthusiasm.

Every employer should go or send someone; your company will benefit. Contact the Boardman Chamber of Commerce to RSVP at 541-481-3014. You can also pay at the door.

Please take a moment to check out the Community Health Improvement Partnership of Morrow County Website at <http://www.ohsu.edu/MCCHP>. There are some good health information resources, details about the Biggest Winner Weight Loss and Healthy Lifestyle Program and a county-wide calendar listing physical fitness opportunities. "Like" or "share" them on Facebook at "M.C.CHIP"

Valentine dinner, hypnosis show success



Top: Michelle Stone, Joe Lindsay and Zech Hintz provide entertainment during a break in the evening's program during the Valentine's Day dinner and comedy hypnosis show held as a fundraiser for Sober Grad Night 2012. Bottom: Love-for lasagna--was in the air as attendees dug into dinner before the show. -Photos by Megan Futter

IMESD offers trauma training

InterMountain Education Service District will offer two upcoming courses on dealing emotions and trauma.

The first, scheduled for Thursdays Feb. 23 through March 22, offers training for those who live and work with traumatized children. Each training will take place from 5-7 p.m. at the IMESD at 2001 SW Nye Ave. in Pendleton.

The trainings will include a video from Dr. Bruce Perry of the Child Trauma Academy on the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics, as well as accompanying materials, and then there will be a group discussion.

Additional training dates could be offered following these scheduled sessions, depending on de-

mand. Online registration is encouraged by going to the IMESD's Web site at www.imesd.k12.or.us and clicking on Professional Development.

This training is open to school personnel, social service agency personnel, foster parents, parents of traumatized children, and anyone interested in using trauma-informed practices with the children in their lives who have experienced trauma.

The second, an "emotional first aid" course from the Trauma Intervention Program of Portland/Vancouver, Inc., seeks to provide people with the specific skills necessary to come to the aid of friends, neighbors, coworkers, clients, family members and

strangers immediately following a tragedy.

The seminar will be held March 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tuccannon/Palouse Room at Wildhorse Resort.

This training is intended for people who work in education, social services, faith-based helping community, public agencies and public safety personnel.

The training seminar is free, but lunch is not provided. To register, please visit the IMESD web site, www.imesd.k12.or.us, and click on the "Professional Development" tab.

For more information, please contact Ruth Clark at 541-966-3127 or e-mail ruth.clark@imesd.k12.or.us.

Three arrested on drug related charges

Morrow County Sheriff's Office deputies were involved in the drug-related arrests of three suspects in the Hermiston area last week.

Rolando Estrada-Guadarrama, Jessica Gray and Daniel Walchli were all arrested as part of an investigation the MCSO conducted jointly with Blue

Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team (BENT) on Gun Club Lane in Hermiston. BENT detectives and Morrow County deputies also seized methamphetamine from the property and recovered a stolen trailer.

Estrada-Guadarrama, 37, was arrested on drug-related charges, war-

rants, identity theft, resisting arrest and frequenting a place where drugs are kept or sold. Walchli, 37, and Gray, 24, were arrested for frequenting a place where drugs are kept or sold. All three were transported by MCSO deputies and lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

The investigation is ongoing.

Snowpack remains below average for Oregon

NRCS February water supply outlook released

Oregon's meager snowpack has significantly improved as a result of the mid-January storms, but still remains below normal. The latest information on Oregon's snowpack and streamflow forecasts can be found in the Water Supply Outlook Report released by the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS).

Snowpack conditions have rebounded as a result of heavy mountain snowfall. In fact, the statewide snowpack increased from 38 to 71 percent of normal in less than a week. In addition to mountain snow, precipitation across most of the state was well above normal for January. However, despite this boost, most of Oregon remains below average for both snowpack and water

year precipitation.

"Though January storms brought much needed moisture across the state, we still have room for improvement," said Jon Lea, the NRCS Oregon Snow Survey team supervisor. "It is still relatively early in the season and a lot can change between now and April 1, when peak snowpack accumulation typically occurs."

According to the February 1 NRCS Water Supply report, snowpack conditions ranged from 52 percent of average in the Lake County area to 87 percent of average in the Mt. Hood area. In Oregon, snow measurements were collected from 80 automated snowpack telemetry (SNOTEL) sites, 33 manually measured snow courses and 25 aerial markers.

Statewide, the water year precipitation increased from 62 percent of average to 83 percent of average. Despite this boost, all basins remain below normal for water year precipitation as of February 1. As a result, streamflows are still expected to be below normal for the summer of 2012. Summer streamflow forecasts in the southern and eastern basins remain significantly lower than the basins in the northern and western parts of the state.

"State meteorologists are calling for continued weak to moderate La Niña conditions this spring, which often bring below normal temperatures to Oregon," said Lea. "If model predictions are correct, cool mountain temperatures

-See SNOWPACK/PAGE TEN

IF YOU HAVE--

- Been on a trip
- Entertained guests
- Celebrated a birthday
- Married your secretary
- Caught a big fish
- Moved
- Had a baby
- Sold your cows
- Had an operation
- Bought a car
- Painted your house
- Had company
- Been married
- Cut a new tooth
- Died
- Sold out
- Been robbed
- Been shot

Or done anything
 Telephone, email,
 come in, or in any
 convenient way
 inform the
Heppner Gazette-
Times
 541-676-9228
editor@rapidsolve.net