

310-tower wind farm proposed on 60,000 acres near Heppner

By David Sykes

A 310-tower wind farm capable of producing 502 megawatts of power, enough to power 125,000 homes, has been proposed to be constructed on 60,000

acres six miles east of Heppner in the Freeze Out Ridge area, Invenergy, a Chicago-based energy development company has announced.

No timeline for construction was announced; however, the company is going straight to the State of Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) and not seeking approval from the county planning commission.

Todd Cornett, division administrator with EFSC, told the Gazette Tuesday that the process usually takes a little over a year to approve the permit allowing Invenergy to move forward with construction. Cornett said that could change if there are significant appeals to the project, which could stretch the time before construction two to three years.

Cornett said there would be a public information meeting scheduled in the area within four weeks.

Invenergy already has one wind project in the area near Ione, and people from the company have been



310 wind towers like this one will stand on the Heppner Wind project if it goes through.

The Heppner area recently meeting with Heppner's mayor and city manager and attending Chamber of Commerce meetings.

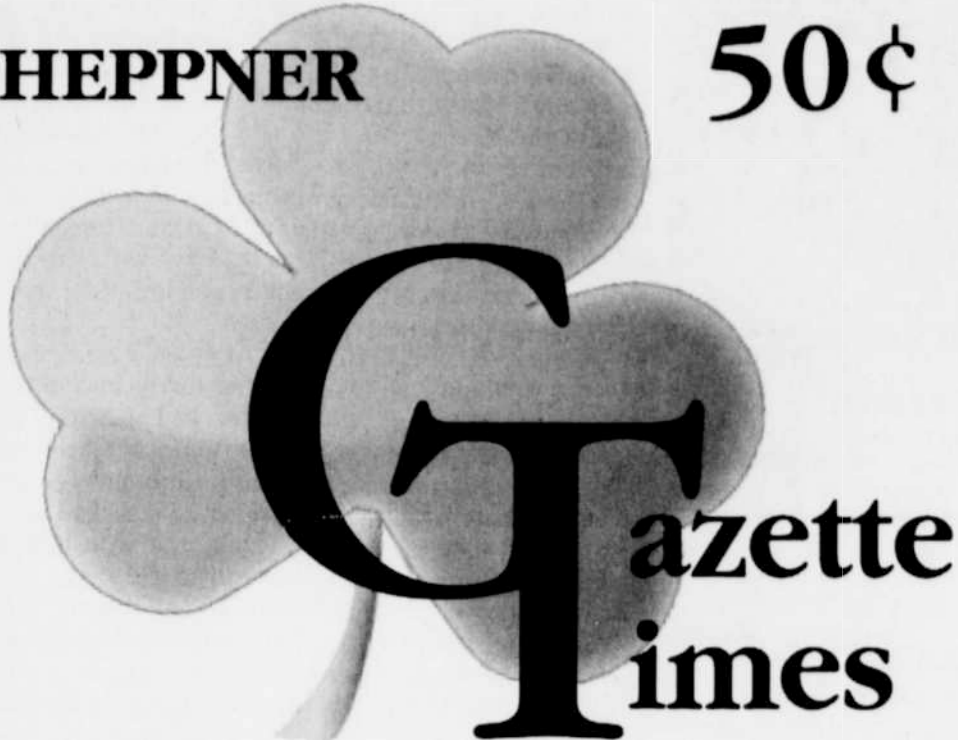
The following news

release was issued by Invenergy to the Gazette-Times:

"The Heppner Wind - See HEPNER WIND FARM/PAGE EIGHT

HEPPNER

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OACA honors Ione coach

Ione High School volleyball coach Dawn Eynetich has been named the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) Coach of the Year for 1A volleyball. Coaches are chosen for each sport and classification, according to Rob Younger of the OACA.



Dawn Eynetich

"It's more about the girls than about me. You have to have the right girls in the right place in order to have a winning team," says Eynetich. "They were very motivated, and that makes it easy to coach."

Eynetich and more than 200 other coaches and family members will be recognized at this year's OACA Coach of the Year banquet on May 26 in Autzen Stadium at the University of Oregon. She says she's not nervous, but doesn't really know what to expect, other than that she will receive a plaque.

"Everyone has made it a bigger deal than I have. I never even knew that they did this, so it was a surprise to get (the letter) in the mail," Eynetich says. "As long as I don't have to talk, I'll be good."

Eynetich, 32, was born and raised in Ione, graduating from Ione High School in 1997. She and her husband, Jeff, own IRT, a local trucking company. They have two sons, ages four and seven.

She is in her fourth year coaching high school volleyball in Ione but in her seventh year coaching overall, having started out coaching middle school volleyball. This is the first time she has been recognized in this way, but she's not letting it go to her head.

Two county schools among best in state

Riverside, Heppner named in U.S. News Best High Schools

For the third year in a row, both Riverside and Heppner high schools in the Morrow County School District were named to the U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools list for 2012.

Heppner High School received a silver medal ranking for 2012, and was ranked as the 24th best high school in Oregon. In 2010 and 2011, Heppner High was awarded a Bronze medal ranking.

Riverside High School received a bronze medal ranking for 2012, as it did in 2010 and 2011.

There are 335 high schools in Oregon, and 76 of those were ranked among the U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools for 2012. Each year, U.S. News & World Report evaluates nearly 22,000 public high schools in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Schools are awarded gold, silver or bronze medals based on

state proficiency standards, how well they prepare students for college, and other factors.

The state rankings methodology is based on whether a high school is nationally ranked gold or silver. All high schools nationally ranked as gold and silver are numerically ranked in their state based on their position in the national rankings.

"Our district is proud of Heppner and Riverside highs' accomplishments," said Superintendent Dirk Dirksen. "It is a testament to their K-12 learning systems, and whenever a school moves into an elite status of schools, this is great cause for celebration. Learning is a lifelong endeavor. The work that is done prior to high school often leads to high school success. Our district is proud of all K-12 students, staff, community members and families that make this all possible."

Heppner, Ione track teams head to state



Both the Mustang and Cardinal track teams have members on their way to state finals in Monmouth this weekend. Top: The Heppner Mustang track members going to state finals in Monmouth are (Back L-R) Carrie Haguewood, Coach Lora Winters, Emma Osmin (Front L-R), Conner Pappas, Andrew Bara, Bryce Fowler, Jacob Moses, Seth Palmer and Jeff McConnell. -Contributed photo Bottom: Ione's 4x100 relay team (seniors Luke Emmel and Steven Holland, junior Evan Rietmann and Justin Estabrook, and sophomore alternates Francisco Ramirez and Bailey Haguewood) with silver medals; the relay team are among the Ione athletes advancing to state. -Photo by Paula Emmel

-See more on PAGE FOUR

City may remove pit bulls from dangerous animal list

By David Sykes

The Heppner City Council Monday discussed removing pit bulls from the city's list of dangerous animals.

Owning the dogs on the list requires owners to post a \$100 fee and prove they have at least \$100,000 in liability insurance in order to keep the dogs. Normal dog fees are \$7 for each neutered pet and \$15 for unneutered, with no insurance requirement.

The council discussed the perception by the public that pit bulls are inherently more dangerous than other dog breeds. City Manager Dave DeMayo said he spoke to Dr. Dick Temple, a veterinarian in Lexington, who said it was his opinion that "if treated humanely and trained, (pit bulls) are no different than any other breed of dog." DeMayo cited former Heppner City Manager Jerry Breazeale as saying that the problem with the breed is that they continue

to attack their victims and won't withdraw until forced to do so. DeMayo asked the council to "reconsider" having the pit bull listed on the dangerous animal list.

Several members of the public in the audience at the council meeting Monday night spoke on the subject. Sheryll Bates, who lives on Cannon St. in Heppner, said she watched a neighbor's (who no longer lives in the area) pit bull chase a young person down the street until the person had to jump her fence to keep from getting bitten. Joe Perry of Heppner asked if it was worth the chance if it put one child in danger of being hurt by a -See PIT BULLS/PAGE FIVE

MCSO approves sex ed policy

By April Sykes

The Morrow County School Board, at their Monday night meeting at Irrigon High School, adopted a new policy for health education and human sexuality instruction. In order to arrive at the policy, the district underwent a lengthy exploratory process which included meetings with parents, teachers, administrators, community members and health professionals.

According to the policy, the plan of instruction, which aligns with Oregon health education standards and benchmarks, includes information that promotes abstinence for school-age youth, but not to the exclusion of other methods for preventing unintended pregnancy, and provides information on HIV infection, hepatitis and other sexually

transmitted diseases.

The policy includes a provision that allows parents to have their student opt out of the instruction.

The board also ratified contract adjustments to the Morrow County Education Association (licensed teachers) collective bargaining agreement.

The "adjustments" include an \$80 increase per month in the amount the district will pay for teachers' health insurance premiums from \$1,060 to \$1,140 per month for the 2012-13 school year. Eligible employees who opt out of the district's health insurance coverage may receive half of the amount (\$570) as a contribution toward a district-sponsored health reimbursement arrangement. -See SCHOOL BOARD/PAGE EIGHT

Graduations approaching

The Heppner High School Baccalaureate service will be held on Wednesday, May 30, at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 525 N. Gale St. in Heppner. The HHS graduation ceremony will be on Saturday, June 2, at 2 p.m. at the high school gym.

The Ione High School Baccalaureate is planned for Tuesday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at Valby Lutheran Church, 60492 Valby Rd., Ione. The Ione High School graduation will be held on Friday, June 8, at 7 p.m. at the Ione High School gym.

The Gazette-Times senior congratulation page, featuring Heppner and Ione seniors' photos, will be published in the May 23 edition of the paper. Anyone wishing to have his name included on the page should contact Megan at the G-T by Monday, June 21, at 5 p.m., phone 541-676-9228, fax 541-676-9211 or email her at megan@rapidserve.net. The cost is \$10.

Irrigon High School graduation will be Friday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at the school. Riverside High School graduation will be Saturday, June 2, at 1 p.m. at the school.

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Memorial Day, May 28 for the holiday. All news and ad deadlines will be the previous Friday, May 25, by 5 p.m. The newspaper office will reopen on Tuesday, May 29.

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