

BUTTERCREEK WIND FARM

-Continued from PAGE ONE interested in developing the wind farm project in an effort to get a foothold in the United States wind turbine business. Its subsidiary, the Sany Corp., makes wind towers and needs to demonstrate the reliability of its Chinese-made turbines to further procure turbine sales in the US.

"Ralls will not even own the windfarms when they are operational, because of the planned resale of the projects," the company says.

"Frankly, the suggestion that Ralls would acquire the windfarm projects for espionage or for other purposes inimical to national security strikes Ralls and its counsel as not credible," the court filing said.

There is a possibility the project could move forward with different wind turbines, possibly General Electric or Vestas-type turbines; however, CFIUS has reportedly not given its

okay on this proposal.

Ralls and Sany said in court documents they are only interested in gaining a foothold for their turbines sales in the US.

"At the outset, it is important to understand why, while Ralls and Sany are formally separate and independent entities, due to their affiliations described above, it is necessary that Ralls act as a development arm, in effect, for Sany Electric turbines. Although Sany is a large private company, Sany Electric—the subsidiary that manufactures wind turbines—is small. Before it can expect to gain a meaningful foothold in the U.S. market, it will need to show to large-scale purchasers—such as utilities and large wind developers—that the Sany Electric turbines produce energy efficiently and are reliable. In short, the turbines need to have what is known in the industry as

'run-time,' i.e., a sufficient period of operating experience that Sany Electric can point to show that its equipment will operate reliably for the long-term," company lawyers said in their court documents.

The ownership of Ralls and Sany Corporations are intertwined between two Chinese citizens. Dawei Duan owns 80 percent of the outstanding stock of Ralls, and Jialing Wu owns 20 percent of the issued and outstanding stock of Ralls. They are both directors of Ralls, and Wu is the CEO of Ralls. Duan is also the CFO of Sany, and a vice president of Sany Heavy Industries, a publicly-traded Chinese company that is majority-owned by Sany. Wu is a vice president of Sany, and also the general manager of Sany Electric, a wholly-owned Chinese subsidiary of Sany. Sany Electric is the maker of the wind turbines.

Heppner's scenic bikeway holds inaugural ride

Inaugural ride sees Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway from dream to reality

Heppner's Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway became a reality last weekend when the first riders took an inaugural ride along the route.

The ride marked the culmination of several years of efforts to make the route a reality. In 2009, Tom Mafera, previous District Ranger for Heppner Ranger District, was part of a discussion at that year's Cycle Oregon, where he and other riders talked about an opportunity to develop and promote designated scenic bikeways. These routes would be considered the best of the best bike rides in Oregon. He expressed interest and took the lead in organizing a local committee to propose a route within the Heppner area. He asked the Heppner Chamber of Commerce to be the official proponent, with the role of working directly with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), while the committee would serve as more of an advisory group to the chamber.

With the help of many people, the proposal for the Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway was completed in early 2011 and sent to OPRD for consideration. The 109-mile bikeway, which crosses FS Road 53 from Heppner to Ukiah, travels north along Highway 395, then west along Highway 74 back to Heppner, was selected for further review by the state bikeway committee. Following a rigorous review process, it was accepted as one of the Oregon State scenic bikeways and officially designated in September 2011.

The committee not only wanted to promote the new bikeway, but also celebrate the fact that it was officially "on the map." The promotion and celebration included a two-day ride of the bikeway that was attended by a small group of riders invited from Pendleton, La Grande, Walla Walla, Madras, Prineville, Heppner and Ione. As this was the inaugural group ride along the bikeway, the number of riders was intentionally kept small to ensure good



Evan Mackenzie of Pendleton (front) and Robin Bredfield of Heppner wheel along the bikeway during the inaugural ride last weekend. -Contributed photo

logistical support and coordination.

"We have a great team that has worked hard with the chamber to bring the dream of the Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway to fruition," commented Sheryll Bates. "This weekend we saw the dream become a reality, and it was so exciting to see all of the planning bring such success."

Bikeway committee members include Jay Gibbs, Deb Gutierrez, John Edmundson, Todd Buchholz, Dr. Betsy Anderson, Jean Cassidy, Robin Bredfield and Sheryll Bates.

The weekend's event started out with dinner and an evening social at Hager Park on Friday night. The riders hit the road bright and early Saturday morning with the option of starting in either Heppner or Ukiah. Everyone enjoyed pizza from Howe's About Pizza, boxed lunches prepared by Heppner Family Foods, breakfasts on both Saturday and Sunday by The Stable of Youth (Bob-

bette and Ali), and motel and tent accommodations by Northwestern Motel and RV Park and Willow Creek RV Park.

A Saturday evening barbecue hosted by the local bikeway committee was well received and gave everyone a chance to get to know each other and learn more about other new bikeways in Oregon that many of the riders had already experienced. The inaugural ride brought great visitors who enjoyed the ambience of a small town. They said they were impressed with how clean and well-kept the city of Heppner is and how friendly the community is. Besides a few flat tires and a few drops of rain, the event was very successful and the committee and riders are already looking forward to an even bigger and better ride next year.

"All community members are encouraged to join in the fun and keep the dream a reality...either as a rider or a volunteer or both," said Bates.



(L-R): Tom Mafera, Chuck Hedges and Ric Hancock, all of Prineville, pause for a photo op during the day's ride. -Contributed photo

OWGL fall workshops slated, grower input sought

Oregon Wheat Growers League county presidents have begun preparations for their fall and winter workshops. All county events are free to wheat producers and OWGL members.

Blake Rowe, Oregon

Wheat CEO will provide an industry update at each meeting and engage growers in discussions on specific wheat issues in each region. FSA/NRCS/OSU updates will also be provided.

Morrow County President Eric Orem has chosen Nov. 1 for a growers workshop and dinner, in conjunction with Morrow County Grain Growers' annual meeting.

County Court news

The Morrow County Court met at the OHV Park on Sept. 19 with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 30 meeting with Senator Wyden's staff, and the July 25 and Sept. 12 court meetings. The court also reviewed and approved the account payables in the net total amount of \$169,079.33. The court reviewed the cash balance activity for the week of Sept. 17, 2012 thru Sept. 23, 2012. The report indicates that, at this point, the county is ahead of last year's cash balance by \$262,924.

Road Report: Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported that the work on Bunker Hill and Clark's Canyon was coming along well. The crew will be attending Flagging Training on Thursday. On the recommendation of the Department, the court reviewed and approved utility Permit No. OJJ between Columbia Basin Electric Co-op and the county for the installation of an overhead line about 1.2 miles south of Social Ridge Road. The service is for a stock

water pump. There was a general discussion regarding trading the D-8 Cat that has been used in the rock pits for a D-6 Cat with blade and ripper. The smaller tractor would be easier to transport for snow plowing and could be used on the Bombing Range Road project as well as many other future projects. O'Brien was told to continue looking into the trade agreement.

Sheriff's Association Collective Bargaining Agreement: The court reviewed and signed the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the county and the Teamster Union. Employee's retro pay will be calculated and sent to the employees in a reasonable time after the Union and the Local Union President have signed and fully executed the agreement.

The court conducted the following business: At the request of Steve Myren, the court authorized Sgt. Rayburn to exceed

the vacation accrual cap until Oct. 31, 2012. At that time, he must be back in compliance. The court appointed Dean Robinson to the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee as a coexistence proponent. The court appointed Commissioner Rea and County Assessor Greg Sweek to the Strategic Investment Program negotiating committee for the "Frog" SIP agreement.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed. The meeting adjourned for lunch and a tour of the OHV Park. The tour lasted longer than expected, so the long-range planning workshop was rescheduled.

This information is provided by Commissioner Leann Rea; anyone who would like to receive County Court minutes can contact Karen Wolff at 541-676-5620.

Youth group holds fundraiser

The Heppner ecumenical youth group is raising funds toward the purchase

of a new air conditioner for Ron and Beverly Howe for their Howe's About Pizza business in Heppner. The project will be ongoing until enough funds are raised.

Anyone who would like to donate to this outreach project may contact youth group leaders Robanai Disque at 541-989-8535, Vicki Rayburn at 541-240-1427 or Shelli Britt at 541-676-5478.

FLU CLINICS

October 1 - Irrigon Senior Center - 11am-11:30 am
 October 2 - Boardman Senior Center - 11am-11:30 am
 October 3 - Heppner Senior Center 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
 -Ione Fire Hall 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
 Flu shots are also available at all regular immunization clinics:
 Mondays & Tuesdays-- Boardman
 Thursdays- Heppner

HEPPNER LES SCHWAB CONGRATULATES HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL'S HOMECOMING COURT!

Junior Court-

Mekayla Kindle, Samm Lemmon, Jeff Dowdy, and JC Putman

Senior Court-

Baily Bennett, Tessa Gould, Emma Osmin, Aidan Wright, Stephen Thompson, and Bryce Fowler.

Tires LES SCHWAB

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