

HEPPNER

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GT Gazette Times

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Heppner raises a ruckus



Locals and visitors alike gathered for the chance to raise a ruckus at the first Ruckus in the Boonies music festival in Heppner last Saturday (top). The featured performers weren't the only highlights of the event. Above, an enthusiastic Megan Futter (center) was the winner of the white trash costume contest, while at right, Rita Glover (center) tries to keep a tally of the wieners being consumed during the hot dog eating contest. -Photos by Tylynn Cimmiyotti

Federal Appeals Court finds Obama's wind farm decision unconstitutional

Editor's note: The following article was published on the North American Windpower website (<http://www.nawindpower.com/>) July 24, 2014. The article refers to a wind project on Buttercreek in Morrow County. The Obama Administration stopped construction of the wind farm following its purchase by a Chinese company. The

Gazette-Times printed a series of articles about the shut-down. By C.J.Voss In a surprise ruling issued last week, a U.S. appeals court held that President Barack Obama had unconstitutionally deprived a Chinese-controlled buyer, Ralls Corp., of its property rights in four wind farm projects

by forcing it to divest that property for national security reasons. This case arises from Ralls' March 2012 acquisition of four project companies that were formed to develop wind farms in north central Oregon (on Buttercreek in Morrow County). The project companies' assets included easements permitting the construction of wind turbines, power purchase and generator interconnection agreements with the local utility, transmission interconnection agreements with nearby wind farms, and the permits and approvals necessary to construct the turbines.

Ralls had challenged the presidential order that had been issued in connection with a review of foreign investment by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an interagency U.S. government body charged with assessing the potential national security effects of foreign acquisitions of U.S. businesses.

The appeals court explained that, in the context, due

process requires that the investor be informed of the official action, be given access to the unclassified evidence on which the president relied in making his decision, and be granted an opportunity to rebut that evidence.

Although the ruling did not challenge the president's substantive determination that the Ralls transaction threatened U.S. national security or his decision to block Ralls' operation and ownership of the wind farms as a means to mitigate the threat, it likely will result in a more transparent and fairer national security review process of foreign investment in the U.S.

Appeals Court Decision
The wind farm projects acquired by Ralls were located adjacent to
-See WIND FARM APPEAL/
PAGE FIVE

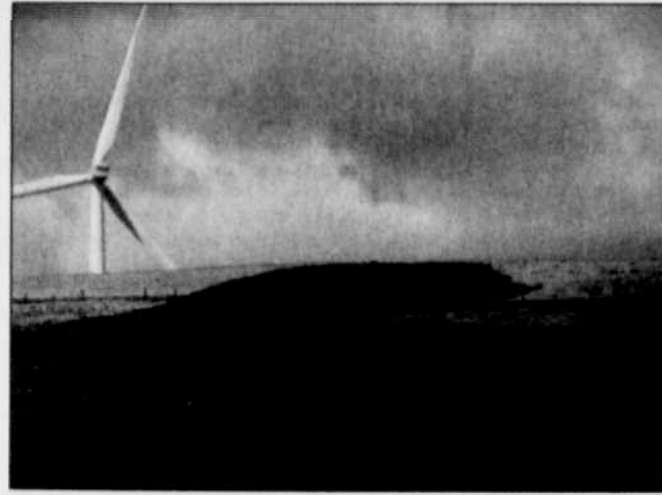
Lightning strike ends in friendship, not tears

By Andrea Di Salvo
An lone couple had a close call from a lightning strike last week, but their greatest memory is of the kindness of their neighbors.

Gerald Wilson, 85, of Ione says he and his wife Linda were at home last Tuesday, July 22, when the storm moved in around 7 p.m. The first thing he recalls is the sound.

"There was a great big boom, a hell of a lightning strike and a thunderclap, and it sounded like it was

-See LIGHTNING STRIKE/
PAGE TWO



This teardrop-shaped black spot on the earth is the only sign that remains of the fire that threatened the homes of Gerald and Linda Wilson and their neighbor Bob Perry. The Wilsons' home sits down and to the left of the burn, while Perry's home is down and to the right. Wilson said the fire was only about an eighth of a mile from their house. -Photo by David Sykes

Electric co-op announces retirement, promotion

The Board of Directors cooperatives in The Dalles. of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative has announced that Thomas Wolff has been selected to succeed Jerry Healy as the utility's general manager, following a five-month national search and recruitment process. The Office Manager in February appointment is effective Sept. 1.



Thomas Wolff

Wolff has been employed with the co-op for 15 years as the Manager of Finance and Administration. Wolff, who was raised in Heppner, is an Oregon State University graduate and earned his CPA (Certified Public Accountant) license while auditing rural electric



Jerry Healy

Healy and his wife Carmen look forward to some travel, warmer winters, and enjoying the upcoming birth of their first grandchild.

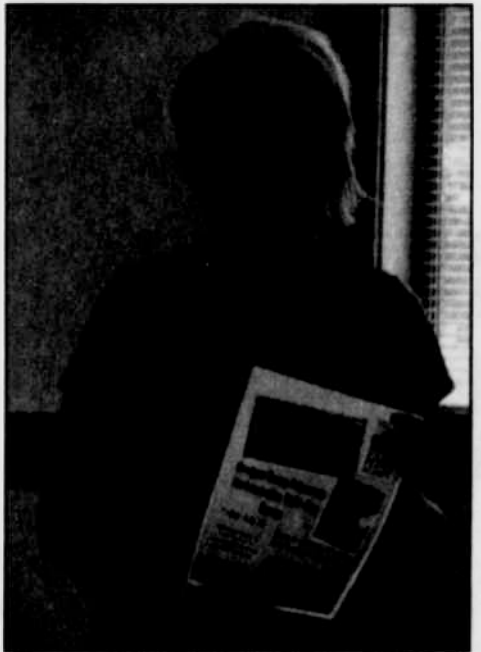
Wolff and his wife Karen reside in Heppner. Current Manager Jerry Healy is retiring after 33 years with the utility. He started his career with CBEC as an Assistant Office Manager in February 1981, working his way up the administrative ranks. He was promoted to manager on Sept. 1, 1998. Healy has served on several industry-related state and regional organizations and forums.

Chip-sealing planned on Hager

The City of Heppner will begin chip-sealing on Hager Street Thursday, July 31. The project is scheduled for completion Monday, Aug. 4. Hager Street will be closed to all through traffic, but the contractor will be able to accommodate local residents. This will be the final phase of the city's beautification project.

New SAGE Center manager visits chamber of commerce

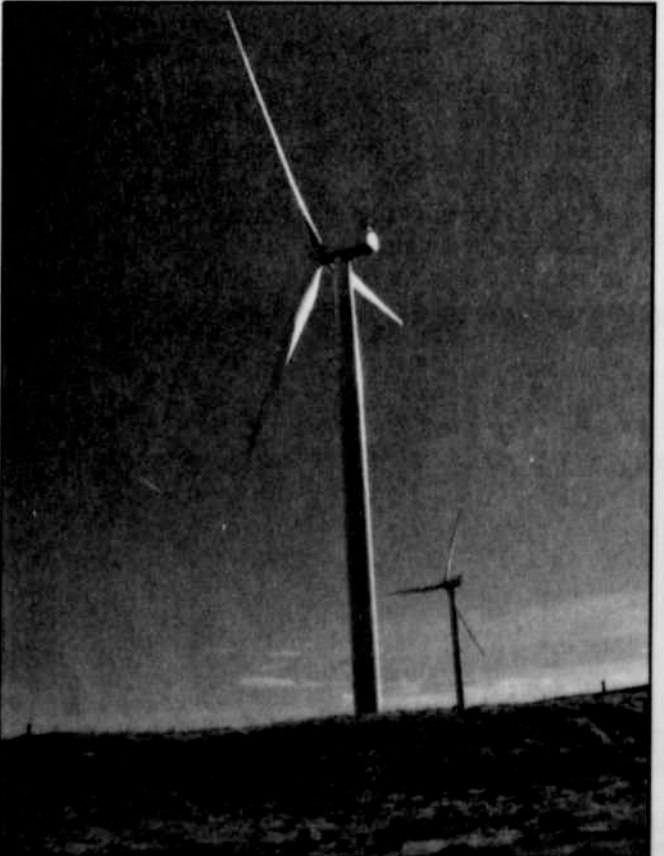
By David Sykes
New SAGE Center Manager Kalie Davis paid a visit to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce recently and told members about upcoming events and current activities going on at the interactive visitor center located on Interstate 84 in Boardman.



SAGE Center Manager Kalie Davis visited the Heppner Chamber of Commerce luncheon recently to talk about what's going on at the center. -Photo by David Sykes

Davis said the center has been busy preparing for a couple of events for the public. On Aug. 22 and 23 there will be Tillamook Cheese Days

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
-See SAGE AT CHAMBER/
PAGE THREE



Ralls Corp.'s right to build wind turbines like this along Buttercreek is still in contention. -File photo

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