

Umatilla Co. rejects wind farm plan

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Board of Commissioners took a stand against a wind farm, concerned the development would harm farmland.

Wheatridge Wind Energy LLC seeks to build a 500 megawatt, 292-turbine wind farm in Morrow County and on a section of Umatilla County. But the company's preliminary application to the Oregon Department of Energy and its Energy Facility Siting Council does not address where it would install transmission lines. That violates Umatilla County

planning requirements. Commissioner Larry Givens said at the board's meeting last week the transmission lines would have negative effects on irrigated farmlands in Umatilla County. The board voted 3-0 against the application and found Wheatridge failed "to provide adequate evidence to comply with Umatilla County and state of Oregon standards" and the "application does not comply with relevant state law standards and should be denied."

The adoption of the findings came after the board on Sept. 9 rejected the application for the same reasons.

Givens and Commissioner Bill Elfering at that meeting were critical of the company's application for being vague about where it would install the lines. Elfering said the company did not even specify where it would place substations and needs to show where those lines would go.

The county last Wednesday also voted to pay \$22,607 to Kellington Law Group of Lake Oswego for its work on reviewing this case and making recommendations. Givens explained the situation involves how the Wheatridge project relates to the Navy's bombing range in Morrow County

and to the Boardman to Hemingway project, the 500 kilovolt electric transmission line that would run from a substation near Boardman to the Hemingway substation near Melba, Idaho. Due to the complexity, he said, county planning director Tamra Mabbott and county counsel Doug Olsen suggested outside assistance.

Mabbott told the commissioners the county is seeking reimbursement for the lawyer fees from the Oregon Department of Energy. The county also notified the state agency and the siting council about opposing the Wheatridge application.

HERMISTON

Notice on marijuana ordinance sent to property owners

East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston has mailed more than 1,700 notices to commercial property owners about the effects of a proposed ordinance banning all commercial marijuana activity within city limits.

The legal notice, required as part of the process to change Hermiston's land use codes, states that the ban "may affect your property values."

A news release from the city clarified that the effect, if any, would come from no longer being allowed to grow, process or sell marijuana on the property.

During its Aug. 24 meeting the city council directed staff to begin the process to update Hermiston's codes for all zones to outlaw any land use not

in compliance with state or federal laws. Marijuana was legalized in Oregon last year through Measure 91, it is currently still illegal at the federal level.

"Hermiston voters, and Umatilla County voters as a whole, opposed Measure 91 by 62 percent," city manager Byron Smith said in the news release. "The proposed ban therefore uses the allowances in Measure 91 to strengthen our existing marijuana prohibitions."

The planning commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance at 7 p.m. on October 14 at city hall, and city council will hold a public hearing on the issue at 7 p.m. on October 26 at city hall. The full notice to property owners is available at www.hermiston.or.us.

HERMISTON

Race, banquet keep Horneck's memory alive

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

Two events are planned Saturday to remember Don Horneck and raise money for a memorial scholarship created in his honor.

A 5K fun run and walk at Riverfront Park starts the day at 9 a.m., and a banquet and auction at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center will finish the festivities.

Horneck, who died from a heart attack in September 2014, was an agronomist and soil scientist at the Oregon State University Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center for 15 years and was a member of the local Lions Club. Both organizations have teamed up to honor their former member with these events benefiting the Don Horneck Memorial Scholarship Fund through the OSU Foundation.

HAREC Director Phil Hamm said the endowed scholarship fund currently has about \$67,000, and the interest earned from the fund will provide annual scholarships for OSU agronomy students.

"What we're hoping to do here is to make that endowed scholarship more valuable than it is today," he said. "It would be great if we could raise another

\$30,000 or so to make it to the \$100,000 mark. If we had \$100,000, it means \$4,000 or \$5,000 (each year)."

Lions Club member Charlie Clupny said Horneck was an active member, and the club wanted to honor his work in the community. He said many other volunteers outside the club have stepped up to help as well. Hermiston High School Principal Tom Spoo will be cooking the meat at the banquet, and Ford Bonney from Hale's Restaurant will be the auctioneer for a variety of donated items. All proceeds benefit the scholarship fund.

"The whole purpose behind this is to see if we can't get another Don Horneck (through the scholarships) because he was known all over the world," Clupny said. "He's worked all over the world out of little Hermiston, so there's farmers and people in agriculture and agribusiness that are indebted to this guy for the work that he did his whole life."

Horneck's wife, Vicki, said she was looking forward to the events. She said her son was traveling from Brazil and a daughter was traveling from Atlanta to attend, along with another daughter who lives in the area.

Vicki Horneck said it has been a difficult year, but support from friends

Saturday schedule

• Registration for the Don Horneck Memorial Scholarship 5K Run/Walk on the Oxbow Trail begins at 7:30 a.m. at Riverfront Park, and the run/walk begins at 9 a.m. Basic registration costs \$20 and can also be completed online at active.com.

• The Don Horneck Memorial Banquet & Auction begins with a social hour at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by live and silent auctions. Tickets cost \$35 and are available at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Kuhn Law Office and Banner Bank.

• Other donation levels are available, which provide different benefits for both events. For more information, contact Charlie Clupny, 541-720-4130.



Horneck

has helped her through. She thanked everyone who helped establish and contributed to the scholarship fund and everyone who helped organize these events.

"I think the scholarship is great," she said. "I think it's something that Don would really appreciate. Agronomy is an extremely important field, and a lot of people don't know that much about it. It is just a wide open field and easy to get a job right now because there aren't that many of them out there."

HERMISTON

Desert Arts season opens with Sounds of the Cinema

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

People will have an opportunity to walk down memory lane as Presidio Brass presents Sounds of the Cinema.

Celebrating the world of Hollywood, the group combines a brass quintet, piano and percussion instruments as it presents jazz and classical music used in movies, film soundtracks and musicals. The San Diego-based group opens the 2015-16 Desert Arts Council season Saturday in the Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$22.50 for students. Tickets bought in advance are discounted by \$5.

People will hear recognizable songs that evoke memories, said Mary Corp, past president of Desert Arts Council.

"They are going to enjoy hearing some of their favorite songs in new arrangements," Corp said. "It's very high energy."

Phyllis Shovelski, Desert Arts president, said the unique sound of Presidio

Brass captivates audiences. People in attendance, she said, will be tapping their toes and cheering for more.

"Expect a big dose of humor with blazing virtuosity, sensitive moments and first-class entertainment," she added.

While in town, the group will present a master's class with the Hermiston High School band. Last season, an a cappella group did something similar with the school's choir, Corp said.

"It allows them to spend time with people that are tops in their instrument with the music industry," Corp said. "They can have a better vision of the possibilities if they practice or really commit to their instrument."

Corp, Shovelski and the rest of the Desert Arts Council are excited about the 2015-16 season. Upcoming shows include Second City Comedy Tour, Dancing with the Hermiston Stars, A Temptations Revue and the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival.

The latest crop of improvisational greats from Second City will present Holidazed & Confused Wednesday,

Desert Arts 2015-16 season

- Presidio Brass**
•Saturday, Sept. 26
- Second City Comedy Tour**
•Wednesday, Dec. 3
- Dancing with the Hermiston Stars**
•Saturday, Jan. 9
- A Temptations Revue**
•Friday, Feb. 12

Dec. 3. The boisterous revue promises to have people laughing through the holiday season.

The third installment of Hermiston stars will dance their way across the stage, while raising money for their favorite charities. The popular event is Saturday, Jan. 9.

Former lead singer of the Temptations brings unforgettable Motown hits and choreographed dance steps to Hermiston. With songs like "My Girl" and "Sugar Pie Honey Bunch," it provides a perfect prelude to Valentine's Day. The performance is Friday, Feb. 12.

Closing out the season is the 12th arts Festival May

6-7 in downtown Hermiston. It features regional artists, as well as music, festival food and kids' activities.

"Desert Arts season will amaze you with quality and professional level of performance and presentations," Shovelski said.

Ticket packages or single show tickets can be purchased at www.desertartscouncil.com. In addition, people can buy Presidio Brass tickets at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 415 S. Highway 395, or Hermiston Parks and Recreation, 180 N.E. Second St. For more information, visit www.desertartscouncil.com, www.facebook.com/desertarts or call 541-567-1800.

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RENEE STRUTHERS

Community Records Editor

Renee has worked at the East Oregonian for nearly eight years and handles obituaries, calendars and other records, proofreads stories and pages and writes a weekly "Out of the Vault" history column and semi-regular book review.

Renee grew up in Heppner, graduated from Linfield College and worked in the wine industry for a decade. She lives in Pendleton and enjoys gardening, fiber arts, history and music. She's a board member for the local KBLU radio station and a Umatilla County Fair volunteer. She has one grown son.

Contact Renee at rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0818.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 3:30 PM

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