

MISSION



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A welder braves Wednesday's wind as he works on one of the two carports being constructed in the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute parking lot. The carport, which will feature 432 solar panels, will produce about 140,000 kilowatt hours of electricity.

Solar carports help toward net-zero goal

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

In an effort to achieve net-zero energy consumption, Tamastlikt Cultural Institute is building two solar power carports in the museum's parking lot.

Both carports will cover 18 parking spaces each, with a combined 432 solar panels generating 140,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year — enough to power 13 average North-west homes.

Museum Director Bobbie Conner said the project should be completed by early February. Tamastlikt received funding from Pacific Power, Energy Trust of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to pay for the carports, totaling \$467,000.

Combined with the museum's wind turbine installed in 2014, Tamastlikt expects to save \$26,000 on their annual energy bills. The goal, Conner said, is to reach net-zero consumption by completely offsetting the building's energy use with on-site renewable power.

"The motto here is to reduce, and then renew," Conner said.

Energy independence is part of the tribes' sovereignty, Conner said. As the cultural and educational center on the reservation, she feels Tamastlikt is the best place to demonstrate the potential of wind and solar technology.

The push for net-zero at Tamastlikt began in 2003,

when former facilities manager Michael Cooper started looking for ways to reduce the museum's six-figure energy costs. On Cooper's watch, Tamastlikt slashed its electricity use by 67 percent and gas use by 76 percent over the next decade.

After tightening efficiency, Cooper led the charge to build a wind turbine that came online in March 2014. The solar carports are the next step in the museum's march to net-zero, Conner said, but there is still more work to do.

"We have more reductions to achieve as we introduce more renewables," she said.

Tamastlikt received a \$350,000 grant from Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy program, and expects another \$78,138 in cash incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon. Conner said the museum will look for additional funding in the coming months to install more solar panels that could boost generation up to 250,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Lizzie Rubado, project manager with the Energy Trust, said they look forward to continue working with Tamastlikt.

"I do think they're a great example of how you can take advantage of the renewable resources in your community," Rubado said. "They're definitely on a quest to go net-zero, and we're excited to be supporting them."

PENDLETON

Volunteers cook up Christmas spirit

BMCC hosts 45th annual Christmas Eve dinner

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

It takes a lot of moving parts and helping hands to cook dinner for 600 people.

Several dozen volunteers were up to the task Thursday afternoon at Blue Mountain Community College, prepping for the school's 45th annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner. The kitchen crew arrived early to start mashing potatoes, carving ham, slicing pie and brewing coffee.

At the center of it all was J.J. Hill, advisor to the BMCC student ambassador program, who kept things coordinated from the serving line to meal deliveries.

"It keeps me on my toes," Hill said with a smile.

As Hill buzzed around the kitchen, families slowly began filling Pioneer Hall and waited to be called for a table. Kids eagerly opened toys after meeting Santa and his elves in the next room.

Members of the BMCC Associated Student Government organize the community Christmas Eve dinner every year as a way to bring people together for the holiday. Dawn DiFuria, BMCC outreach and leadership director, said this year's event brought in nearly \$6,000 in donations from the community, almost doubling last year's total.

"The idea is that this is for everybody," DiFuria said. "It's BMCC reaching out to the community."

Every donation helps, as the menu Thursday included 50 hams from Hill Meat along with stuffing, veggies, potatoes and dessert. Volunteers started cooking earlier in the week, Hill said, though there was plenty left to do just an hour before mealtime.

"It's 100 percent commitment every year," he said. "It's really cool to see this all come together at 3 or 3:30, before the event starts."

Michael Palmer and his wife, Tamara Strickley, worked together mixing large pots of gravy. Strickley said this was their third year volunteering after having moved to Pendleton from Atlanta.

"I just enjoy helping out in



Staff photo by George Plaven

Evangelina Olivera serves pie as part of the BMCC Community Christmas Eve Dinner.



Staff photo by George Plaven

J.J. Hill, kitchen coordinator for the Blue Mountain Community College Community Christmas Eve Dinner, sorts meals to be delivered around Pendleton.

the community and meeting ally enjoy it here a lot. I like new folks," she said. "I actu- that when we help out we can

see immediate results."

Across the kitchen, student James Gourlie watched over the ovens and periodically checked the temperatures of baking ham, stuffing and green beans.

Gourlie, 41, is in his first year after coming back to school for pre-nursing. He heard about the dinner while participating in the TriO Student Support Services club.

"As a member of the school community, I feel it's important I actively participate as well," he said.

The kitchen's hard work soon paid off as tables filled in the dining room with friends, neighbors and families coming together to celebrate the Christmas spirit.

"That's what it's all about," Hill said. "Everybody from all walks of life coming together, breaking bread together. It's just a cool thing to see."

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Man arrested after trooper injured in high-speed pursuit

East Oregonian

An Oregon State Police trooper suffered minor injuries Wednesday while trying to keep a man from getting away.

Anthony Joseph Yattaw, 26, of Happy Valley, is in the Baker County Jail on multiple charges after a chase and crash that also injured another driver.

State police in a written statement reported a trooper Wednesday at 2:28 p.m. spotted a 2008 Saab that callers said was driving recklessly on Interstate 84 near milepost 302 eastbound near Baker City.

Troopers checked the Saab's speed at more than 100 mph and attempted to stop the vehicle. The Saab stopped on the 302 off-ramp, where the driver dragged and threw a trooper to the ground before getting away. State police did not identify the officer, who suffered minor injuries.

State police tried to catch the driver but cut off the chase due to his reckless driving, state police reported, and the car zoomed out of sight.

Not long after, the Saab crashed into a 2011 Dodge pickup and a 2013 Ford pickup at the intersection of Hughes Lane and Highway 30.

The driver of the Dodge, Becky Harrell, 55, of Baker City, suffered minor injuries, according to state police, while the driver of the Ford, Nathan Hull, 48, also of Baker City, was not injured.

The driver of the Saab then ran onto 10th Street and into the Oregon Trail Livestock parking lot, which is where troopers took Yattaw into custody without further incident and booked him into jail for attempt to elude in a

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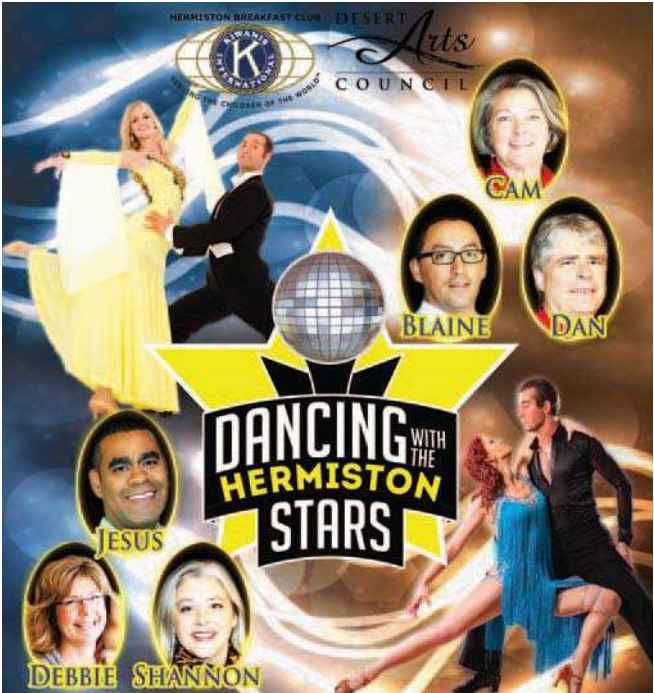
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