

# Impressive solar system at Commissary

A crew last week installed a new solar power system—call Solar Stackers—that will help power the Commissary building.

When active, the Solar Strackers will rotate with the direction of the sun. The structure can withstand winds up to 120 miles per hour. This was important, as the crew installed the panels about the time of a windstorm blowing across the reservation and region.

The Commissary small business center is a project of the Warm Springs Community Action Team.

The Commissary food pavilion will be outside the building, along with the new solar system panels and platform. WSCAT provided the following information about the power system, as described by the company:

### About the panels

Stracker Solar, based in Ashland, produces the highest-efficiency dual-axis tracking systems available anywhere; elevated to maintain full use of the ground below. The company was incorporated in 2017 and has become the solar industry leader in dual-axis tracking.

Strackers set a new standard of reliability, having learned from, and eliminated, the problems that plagued tracking systems in years past.

Improved material strengths, construction tolerances and control reliability have allowed Stracker Solar to build a truly safer, stronger and more reliable tracker.

Stracker's all-steel structure is domestically produced, utilizes all-electric control and drive systems and proudly wears the prestigious UL3707 listing as a badge of safety and reliability.

### The next wave

The Stracker platform is an innovative pole-mounted structure designed to maintain full use of valuable real estate below, without any need for fencing.

Its large, high-power solar PV arrays articulate 22-feet above the ground to maintain a minimum 14-



Solar Stacker installation outside the Commissary business center.

feet ground clearance at all times. This makes Strackers ideal for parking lots, agricultural sites, campuses and any open space. Strackers are certified for 120-mph winds and worst-case earthquake events and carry the industry's longest 30-year structural warranty.

The Stracker system is completely modular, easily relocated and is proving an ideal solution for even steep, rugged or North-sloping terrains.

Strackers continue to receive accolades from satisfied customers and the solar industry, as they bring a level of economic development & clean-economy jobs to the communities they serve.

### Cutting-edge technology

Strackers' intelligent control systems utilize a proprietary, GPS-validated, algorithm that has 99-percent accuracy and years of proven performance. The autonomous, dual-axis tracking system keeps the arrays pointed directly at the sun all day long, every day of the year, to provide the most efficient solar production (and shade) possible.

This accurate solar tracking results in a full 50-70-percent greater energy production than any fixed PV system, and with a significantly lower carbon footprint per unit of energy produced.

## A generous pet food contribution to the tribes

Fences For Fido, in partnership with Warm Springs Commodities, this month provided a very nice gift of support for reservation households and their pets.

Fences for Fido is a long-time pet care partner of the Confederated Tribes. The group recently delivered 20,000 pounds of donated dog and cat food from Purina to support families with pets of the reservation.

Fences For Fido has operated a supplemental pet food bank on the reservation for five years, in partnership with Commodities. At times they offer the spay-neuter and vaccine care clinic; and this month provided the dog and cat food donation. The large-scale donation from Greater Good and Purina significantly expands that support.

"This is truly the greatest holiday gift we could offer families with pets," said Kelly Peterson, co-founder and board chair of Fences For Fido.

"Access to pet food and supplies is limited on the Reservation, and this donation helps ensure that pets stay healthy, fed, and together with the families who love them."

### Trusted partnership

Warm Springs Commodities plays a vital role in meeting community needs by distributing essential food and supplies. Their ongoing partnership with Fences For Fido en-



sures that pet food reliably reaches families who otherwise have very few access points. Theo Perez is the Commodities director.

"We're grateful for this partnership and for Greater Good's generosity," he said. "Families here care deeply about their pets, and this support helps lighten the load during a time when many budgets are stretched."

### Care in action

Fences For Fido has long served socially, financially, and geographically isolated communities across the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to unchaining more than 3,700 dogs, and delivering more than 2,000 dog houses, the organization has distributed over 700,000 pounds of pet food to families in need.

On the Warm Springs Reservation, Fences For Fido provides year-round pet services—including spay/neuter, vaccines and wellness clinics, emergency veterinary care, and ongoing pet food support.

## Community notes...

The Warm Springs **Commodities Food Bank** is open from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday at the Commodities warehouse in the Warm Springs Industrial Park.

The **Metolius Food Pantry** is open every Friday from 4-6 p.m. at 575 Hood Avenue. You need to bring your own bags.

People age 60 and older are welcome to eat lunch for free every Friday at noon at the **Jefferson County Senior Center** on Madison Street in Madras. They also serve lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Warm Springs **Behavioral Health** offers several groups during the week. Fridays there is

a Relapse Prevention Group, Anxiety Group and Wellbriety Group Therapy Meeting. Learn more by calling or stopping by the Behavioral Health Center.

If you're without your **WIC benefits** or have missed WIC appointments, call today and get scheduled! Walk-ins are welcomed! 541-553-2352.

The **Maternal Child Health**, MCH, program at the Health and Wellness Center offers car seats for each new child born, home visits, prenatal and postpartum support, and breastfeeding support. Clients can also have assistance with car seat installation checked.

Call 541-553-2352 or stop by the MCH Office in the Community Health side of the Indian Health Service Clinic in Warm Springs.

## Award for Permanent Exhibit

The Museum at Warm Springs has received a contribution of \$100,000 from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The museum will use \$90,000 to support the renewal of the museum's 7,500-square-foot Permanent Exhibit.

The Permanent Exhibit has not been renewed since the 1993 opening.

The museum will also use \$10,000 for Camp Naimu, a Warm Springs Culture Camp. This is a three-day camp for tribal children and neighboring community children.

In all during the recent awards, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Awards \$1,447,909 to 28 nonprofit organizations and Oregon tribes, supporting programming in the areas of arts and culture, education, environmental preservation, health and public safety.

Grant funds were awarded during the fourth quarter check presentation at the Grand Ronde Governance Center on December 10. Other awards to tribal entities include:

Burns Paiute Tribe: \$100,000. Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, \$100,000.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, \$100,000.

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, \$99,159. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, \$100,000.

The Coquille Indian Tribe,

\$100,000. The Klamath Tribes. \$100,000

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon is committed to honoring the tribal traditions of sharing and giving back. In 1997, through a formal compact agreement between the tribe and the state of Oregon, Spirit Mountain Community Fund



was established as a way for the Tribe to give back to the local communities that supported them during their most vulnerable time, the termination era.

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