

Massive Oregon solar project OK'd

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SALEM — A solar facility planned for 3,900 acres in a south-central Oregon farm zone has won regulatory approval despite objections that it will interfere with surrounding agriculture.

The state's Energy Facility Siting Council has voted unanimously to clear the Obsidian Solar Center for construction near Christmas Valley, roughly

four years after the project was initially proposed.

The decision comes after a state hearing officer rejected arguments by neighboring landowners that the solar facility will impermissibly disrupt farm operations due to fugitive dust, invasive weeds and displaced wildlife such as elk and rodents.

"The protestants failed to establish the proposed facility, as conditioned, would seriously interfere with accepted farming practices or that the facility will

materially alter the overall land use patterns in the area," said Jesse Ratcliffe, a state government natural resources attorney.

Opponents hadn't proven that mitigation measures planned by the solar developer to address such problems would fail, he said. "Essentially, the hearing officer concluded that the protestants hadn't provided evidence that the impacts they alleged were likely to occur."

Revegetation and erosion control measures will ensure

the solar facility meets soil protection standards, while plans to mitigate its impacts on wildlife habitat are also sufficient, according to regulators.

The solar facility doesn't diminish living standards, private property values or business interests, according to regulators, and won't exceed the capacity of public utilities, roads and local emergency services.

The project will be limited to extracting 5,000 gallons of

water per day from any wells located on the property. Since it was first proposed, the project's size has been scaled back from about 6,000 acres to 3,900 acres.

"That was to avoid impacts to sensitive resources," said Kellen Tardaewether, senior siting analyst with the Oregon Department of Energy.

The solar developer was also permitted to take an exception from the statewide land use goal of farmland preserva-

tion, though some EFSC members said future projects should better support such a decision.

"I really think that applicants need to do more in the future," said Hanley Jenkins, an EFSC member and former county planning director. "There need to be reasons to do that other than, 'Gee, there are going to be economic benefits to the community.' Any development is going to provide some additional financial benefit."

GRANT COUNTY SENIORS



Goodness, it is daylight saving time already. My office clock never got set back all winter so now it has the right time. It was nice today for the daylight lasting longer.

My sisters came last week and surprised me with a one-day visit. We had a great time. We laughed, joked with each other, talked a lot as we don't see each other often, so we had a good catching-up time together.

The other day I heard talk that we are still hoping to open for in-house dining on April 4. Every time I go in the building, some things are changed in preparation. Keep that date in mind and we will be sure to let you know if it is really happening like that. It feels good to know that all the air in the building is clean and is being cleaned seven times every hour.

The pokeno players are enjoying time together and playing pokeno. We do have room for more players, if you are interested in having a good time away from home for a couple hours on Friday from 1 to 3 or 3:30 at the senior center. Call 541-792-0202 if you would be interested in knowing more about the pokeno game.

Shay and Kim are making the special Irish meal on Monday so that the folks we deliver meals to can have it fresh instead of frozen to reheat on Thursday, as we only deliver on Monday.

Lunch on Monday will consist of the famous Irish-style meal. Corned beef, scalloped potatoes, red cabbage, relish tray and peanut butter cookies. Yum yum yum.

Then on Thursday, the real St. Patrick's Day, lunch will be baked chicken, rice, copper penny salad (which I have never heard of), and whoopie pie for dessert. Thanks, Shay and Kim, for food variety.

The Carrie Young Memorial sponsored our meal for Thursday. Thank you so much. Without sponsors and volunteers we could not make the senior center successful. The volunteer drivers this week are Peggy Molnar, Jeanette Julsrud, Joyce Atchley, and Patty Davis. Thank you, ladies, for your dedication to this cause.

To reserve your lunch, call 541-575-1825 by 10 a.m. or so Mondays and Fridays and pick it up between 11:30 a.m. and noon. The suggested donation is \$5 for 60 years of age and older and \$6 for under 60 years of age.

2nd Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and a sound mind.



Our cooks Terry Cade and Carrie Jewell prepared for us some Asian food. We had sweet and sour chicken with steamed rice, a fresh green salad, and cherry fruit tart for our dessert. I had to get a second helping for I was extra hungry. We thank them for their hard work and appreciate our meals.

Our greeters at the table were Kristi Guimont, Bob Cockrell, and Jan Ensign. Kristi and Bob collected and counted up the money. Kristi led us in the flag salute and made the announcements. Yours truly prayed the blessing over the meal.

The Monument School is selling citrus fruit right now, so if you would like to order and support the students, please give them a call. Don't forget that bingo and potluck dinner is held every last Saturday of the month. Bingo starts at 4 p.m.

We had our friends from Spray join us for lunch. We can help support their town. They have their senior lunch on Thursdays at the Grange in Spray. The winner of the free meal ticket was Christian Yukawa.

I am so grateful that the Lord gave us some more snow. It came and melted away quickly, but everything counts, right? Let us continue to lift up prayers for more moisture, and may the Lord give us lots of spring rains!

After I fed little Billy (I thought it was befitting of him),

I noticed that his mouth was really cold, his body was cold, and he kept crying. I don't think Yuki licked him dry enough. I decided to use the blow dryer on him and dry Billy off.

I wrapped him up in a towel and proceeded to dry him with the blow dryer. He stopped crying and I just kept rubbing him all over, turning him over to dry him off, and I could tell he was just loving it. He did not protest or squirm. I then heated up the towel that he was in with the dryer and wrapped him up. He fell asleep, and I laid him down in front of the stove.

I then went down to the goat shed and milked Yuki while she ate some grain. I brought the milk back up and fed little Billy. Within a couple of hours, he was up and moving around. No more funny position of his head, no more glazed look in his eyes, and no more look of death!

Scotty was cute, but I have to say, Billy is way cuter! He has the most adorable face. I think the good Lord made human babies and animal babies irresistibly cute so that we would love them. I think for animals, so that we would take pity on them and take care of them. Leah got a new companion, Billy. That was, until a couple days later, I went down to the goat pen and there were two sets of twins that were born on the same day. Oy! I had baby goats up to my ears.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal. The Lord knoweth them who are His. And, let everyone who nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.



We live in the "Temperate Zone" of weather, you know. That is why we can have snow in the morning and robins searching in the green grass in the afternoon of the same day. Even heard the "cooey" birds this week. That's a sure sign that spring is coming!

The newspapers have some info on the grants that are coming to Grant County. We are waiting with bated breath for an official notification so the contractor can order materials. Our request was for new flooring, new roofing, and new counter-tops. Along with the new siding, the ol' Hall will really be up to snuff soon! (Isn't that a queer saying — up-to-snuff? Wonder how that got started?)

Anyhow, on to the news of the day — our meal today was a slice of ham, macaroni and cheese, peas, that delicious cottage cheese/fruit/Jell-O salad, and cherry pie for dessert. Thanks to Pam W. and Pam G. for a delicious meal.

Pam H. was at her place at the reception desk. Deliverers Gwynne, Mary, Carlos, Carla, Ginger, and Tom did their respective duties in order that all the meals got to where they were supposed to go. Thanks to all.

Our sponsor for today's meal was Joel Coombs General Contractor. And he actually was present to get a meal. If you are a sponsor, you can come, too. We would be very happy to have you. And in April, you can come

in and sit down with us at a table and we can eat TOGETHER! Without masks! PTL

As I was thinking about all the upgrades that have been made and are being contemplated for the future in our center, I was reminded of all the presidents that have had a part in keeping the center going for the last 50 years. One of them was my father, who along with Derrol's dad, secured the funding that made the construction of the present kitchen and restrooms possible. Bruce Kaufman and Joe Phippen were the men who made the sale of the Grange to the seniors possible. Frances Preston secured the grant to put in the new handicapped ramp at the back door. And Ginger Kendall has been our guiding light the last five years through lots of changes in personnel and building upgrades. I thank each of them for all their hard work.

I see by the minutes of the last board meeting that the yard sale is set for May 13 and 14 here at the hall. So mark that on your calendars. Some people put it on their phone, others in a planner, but if I want to see it and remember it is coming, it has to be on the calendar. The one by the phone and the one in the bathroom and the one in the bedroom all receive a notation. If you write it down three times, you'll remember, I hope. See you there.

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. Ephesians 2:22

And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Grace Chapel (EMC)
154 E. Williams St.
Prairie City, Oregon
541 820-4437
Pastor Robert Perkins
Sunday School (all ages) 9:30-10:30
Sunday Worship 10:45-12:00

New Life Bible Church
2 Corinthians 5:17
Every Sunday in the L.C. Community Center (Corner of Second & Allen)
Contact Pastor Ed Studdtman at 541-421-3888 • Begins at 4:00pm

3ABN
Three Angels Broadcasting Network
24/7 Inspirational Christian Broadcasting
Tune into KSPL 98.1 FM
For more information, call 541 620-0340

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Come Worship with us at
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day
1st Sunday Worship/Communion 10am
3rd Sunday Worship/Communion/Potluck... 4:30pm
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday Worship..... 10am
Sunday Bible Study..... 8:45am
For information: 541-575-2348

MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church
SUNDAY SERVICE 9 am
541-932-4800
EVERYONE WELCOME

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Join us on Facebook
live Sunday 10am
Like us on Facebook!

Living Word Christian Center
59357 Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon
Celebration of Worship
Sundays 5:30pm
Youth: 0-6th Grade
Midweek Service
Thursdays 6:30pm
Youth: 0-6th Grade
Jr./Sr. High Youth Connection
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Overcomer's Outreach
Mondays at 6pm at **LWCC**
A Christ-Centered, 12-Step Recovery Support Group
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-932-4910
www.livingwordcc.com

John Day Valley Mennonite Church
Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:50 a.m.
Pastor Leland Smucker
Everyone Welcome • 541-932-2861

JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Worship • 9AM
(541) 575-1326
johndayUMC@gmail.com
126 NW Canton, John Day
Food Pantry Friday 3-4PM
Like us on Facebook!

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service..... 10:45 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Children & Teen Activities
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO
Weekdays: Sonshine Christian School
Pastor Randy Johnson
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895
www.johndaynazarene.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 11 am
Fox Community Church..... 3 pm
Sunday Evening Bible Talk..... 6 pm
Saturday Men's Study 6 pm
Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us
541-575-1202 Church
311 NE Dayton St, John Day
Pastor Al Altnow