

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer,
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I Can Dig It!

Once used as Seventies slang, it also fits during the Spring and Summer months for those who become anxiously engaged in gardening, landscaping, construction projects, the honey-do lists, road repairs, and so forth. It is a time of concern for us here as we inevitably incur outages from those who dig where our power lines are located. This creates a safety hazard and puts lives in jeopardy. It also causes additional work for our crews, who have to drop everything to go repair the line and restore power to our affected members. To save us all from harm, and save time and money, let me share with you information on a new number you can call before you start digging. It is as easy as it gets as it has only three numbers – 811.

The new 811 number is a national "Call Before You Dig" phone number designated by the FCC to eliminate the confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers, and to help save lives, costs, and minimize damages to underground utilities. The call will be directed to a Local One Call Center where personnel will notify affected utility companies, who will send crews to mark underground lines for free.

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig helps prevent injury, expense, and penalties. Every year, almost 700,000 utility lines across the U.S. are hit by digging projects. Only 52 percent of people plan-

ning to dig are likely to call to have lines marked before digging. The penalties for not calling beforehand are significant. The person causing the damage to underground facilities (it is the same for telephone, gas, electric, cable), will be charged for the repair of the facilities. They will also be subject to enforcement actions by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission and Civil penalties of up to \$1,000 for the first violation and up to \$5,000 for each subsequent violation. Civil penalties for intentional violations of the Oregon Excavation Law are up to \$5,000 for the first violation and up to \$10,000 for each subsequent violation.

So, let's all be safe and call the 811 number before any digging around underground utility lines. It will end up saving us all a lot of time, money, and possible injuries.

On the same token, it is also a time that a lot of folks trim or fall trees on their property. We invariably end up putting lines back up that someone has dropped a tree across or a limb has fallen upon. If you are falling any trees that have the potential of falling across our power lines, please notify us and we can make arrangements to drop the line until the tree is down. It is free if we drop the line, but it will cost you if you drop the line. We charge the full costs of repairs to anyone who damages any of our lines by negligence. If you notice limbs or trees that pose an imminent danger to our lines, please give us a call so we can notify our tree trimmers to put it on their schedule. This will help us be proactive rather than reactive and have to come out during a storm or at after hours to repair a downed or damaged line.

Together, we can keep our lines and our people safe, our costs down, and the system up and on. Thank you for helping us to help you.

Global warming report outlines some solutions

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its report, May 4, detailing available solutions for reducing global warming emissions. The Summary for Policy Makers of Working Group III notes that steps to reduce global warming will increase energy security, create new economic opportunities and reduce air pollution.

The United States is responsible for 30 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, but being a big part of the problem means that if we take action to significantly reduce our emissions we will make a big difference. Oregon, with its legacy of conservation and energy innovation, can play a key role in reducing global warming.

"Oregon has an unparalleled diversity of renewable energy resources including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, wave and small hydro. We are already home to over 200 clean

energy companies, said Sylvia Hayes, Founder and Executive Director of 3EStrategies. "Portland is a national leader in commercial green building and has already reduced its city-wide carbon emissions to below 1990 levels, while growing its economy. With an all out commitment on the part of Oregon citizens and the federal government, we could become a model for the rest of the nation in effectively solving the climate change challenge."

Scientists have determined we need to reduce our carbon emissions 80 percent by the year 2050 in order to avoid the catastrophic global warming impacts the IPCC laid out in Working Group 2. Waiting will only make the task more difficult. Without action, Oregon will continue to experience increased early season flooding and late season droughts due to smaller snow-packs and earlier snow-melts.

"Congress must deal with

global warming immediately," said Erin Anderson of the National Environmental Trust. "We call on Oregon's entire congressional delegation to join the growing consensus in Congress for action and support these efforts that will help push us towards using existing technology."

The report explains that investing now in global warming solutions will be cheaper and less disruptive than delaying action. The report also confirms that voluntary measures and weak standards will not result in widespread adoption of clean energy solutions, including greater energy efficiency, higher fuel economy and more use of renewable energy.

Overall, the IPCC report will include more than 2,500 scientists appointed by more than 130 countries.

The full IPCC report can be downloaded at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/SPM040507.pdf>.

Vernonia Lions Club presents

No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament



Saturday, May 19 at The Buckhorn Restaurant

Registration starts at 5:30 pm.

The tournament starts at 6pm

\$40 Buy-In No Re-Buys 50% goes to charity
Room for 49 players only, so sign up fast!!!



Projected Pre-paid VISA card Payouts:

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th

With 20 players \$180 \$112 \$68 \$40 \$0

With 40 players \$344 \$208 \$120 \$80 \$48

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To sign up, or get more information, please call

Aaron Miller at 503-429-6049 or George Tice at 503-429-3751.

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