

Organization ranks market as top in Montana

By Enterprise Staff

Western Sustainability Exchange's Livingston Farmers Market was ranked first in Montana through the 14th annual America's Farmers Market Celebration.

The local market's ranking came out of voting that took place between June 20 and Sept. 19. Voters across the U.S. voted for their favorite market for national recognition and cash prizes.

"American Farmland Trust, a national nonprofit dedicated to saving farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land, has run the Celebration for 14 consecutive years,

elevating the increasingly essential role farmers markets play in providing communities with access to fresh, locally grown food and connecting farmers directly with their customers," the release said.

In 2021, the Farmers Market Coalition joined the Celebration as a new partner and co-sponsor of the event.

"2022 marks the 20th year that Western Sustainability Exchange

has been organizing the Livingston Farmers Market," said Market Manager Shannan Mascari. "It's an honor to be named the number one farmers market in Montana during my management, but the credit really goes to the managers before me, the dedicated vendors that come from all over, our market partners, and our generous sponsors, and of course, all the amazing people that voted for us!"

The America's Farmers Market Celebration awarded a record \$10,000 in total cash awards to the top five markets in America — \$5,000 for first, \$2,500 for second, \$1,500 for third, \$750 for fourth, and \$250 for fifth, according to the release.

Funds are used for marketing, communications, and other needs that help expand the market's reach and impact.

Moose Chase Kids Race will be held Sun.

By Enterprise Staff

The 14th annual Moose Chase Kids Race will be held Sunday, Oct. 2.

The event invites children to run around Sacajawea Park while raising funds in support of LINKS for Learning, a LINKS news release said.

The goal of the Moose Chase is to inspire youth to lead active, healthy lifestyles by providing families with a fun, local event to attend together on a Sunday afternoon.

The event is set for noon Sunday at the South Gazebo in Sacajawea Park.

Children may participate in the following races:

- 5K Moose Run (ages 6-16)
- 2.5K Moose Trot (ages 6-16)
- 1K Moose Chase (ages 12 and under)
- 50-yard Diaper Dash (ages 3 and under)

The entry fee includes race shirts for the first 200 registered applicants. Ice cream treats and hot cocoa will be available for all. Silo Espresso will be onsite for coffee and donuts.

Participants are also asked to bring a non-perishable

food item, such as canned fruit, peanut butter or boxed macaroni and cheese, for donation to the Livingston Food Resource Center.

Parents are welcome to run with their kids. Jogging strollers are OK. People are asked to not bring their dogs.

The event will be held rain or shine, organizers said. Social distancing precautions are recommended at the start and finish line.

Online registrations for the Moose Chase are available at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MT/Livingston/TheMooseChaseKidsRace> through Thursday for \$20. After that, registration can be made Sunday at the event for \$25 — race day registration starts at 11 a.m. under the gazebo at the park.

There will be prizes that all participants will be eligible to win in a post-race raffle.

LINKS for Learning is a non-profit organization that provides quality after-school and summer educational programming for Livingston elementary youth. The Moose Chase Kids Race directly supports LINKS programs. Learn more about LINKS: <http://www.livingston.k12.mt.us/links.html>.

Tiny town hosts 1st wind-solar-battery 'hybrid' plant

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A renewable energy plant being commissioned in Oregon on Wednesday that combines solar power, wind power and massive batteries to store the energy generated there is the first utility-scale plant of its kind in North America.

The project, which will generate enough electricity to power a small city at maximum output, addresses a key challenge facing the utility industry as the U.S. transitions away from fossil fuels and increasingly turns to solar and wind farms for power. Wind and solar are clean sources of power, but utilities have been forced to fill in gaps when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining with fossil fuels like coal or natural gas.

At the Oregon plant, massive lithium batteries will store up to 120 megawatt-hours of power generated by the 300-megawatt wind farms and 50-megawatt solar farm so it can be released to the electric grid on demand. At maximum output, the facility will produce more than half of the power that was generated by Oregon's last coal plant, which was demolished earlier this month.

On-site battery storage isn't new, and interest in solar-plus-battery projects in particular has soared in the U.S. in recent years due to robust



In this image provided by Portland General Electric, windmills and solar panels line a renewable energy facility in Lexington, Ore., on May 24.

The plant located in a remote expanse three hours east of Portland is a partnership between NextEra Energy Resources and Portland General Electric, a public utility required to reduce carbon emissions by 100% by 2040 under an Oregon climate law passed last year, one of the most ambitious in the nation.

PGE's customers are also demanding green power — nearly a quarter-million customers receive only renewable energy — and the Wheatridge project is "key to that decarbonization strategy," said Kristen Sheeran, PGE's director of sustainability strategy and resource planning.

Under the partnership, PGE owns one-third of the wind output and purchases all the facility's power for its renewable energy portfolio. NextEra, which developed the site and operates it, owns two-thirds of the wind output and all of the solar output and storage.

"The mere fact that many other customers are looking at these types of facilities gives you a hint at what we think could be possible," said David Lawlor, NextEra's director of business development for the Pacific Northwest. "Definitely customers want firmer generation, starting with the battery storage in the back."

tax credits and incentives and the falling price of batteries. The Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility in Oregon, however, is the first in the U.S. to combine integrated wind, solar and battery storage at such a large scale in one location, giving it even more flexibility to generate continuous output without relying on fossil fuels to fill in the gaps.

The project is "getting closer and closer to having something with a very stable output profile that we traditionally think of being what's capa-

ble with a fuel-based generation power plant," said Jason Burwen, vice president of energy storage at the American Clean Power Association, an advocacy group for the clean power industry.

"If the solar is chugging along and cloud cover comes over, the battery can kick in and make sure that the output is uninterrupted. As the sun goes down and the wind comes online, the battery can make sure that that's very smooth so that it doesn't, to the grid operator, look like anything unusual."

Hurricane, from Page 1

go to a Category 4 or 5. We are more used to the 2s and 3s."

Forecasters predicted Ian would make landfall more than 100 miles south of Tampa and St. Petersburg, likely sparing the densely populated Tampa Bay area from its first direct hit by a major hurricane since 1921.

Officials warned residents that Tampa could still experience powerful winds and up to 20 inches of rain.

"Please, please, please be aware that we are not out of danger yet," Tampa Mayor Jane Castor said in a video on Twitter. "Flooding is still going to occur."

During the night, Ian went through a natural cycle when it lost its old eye and formed a new one.

The timing was bad for the Florida coast, because the storm got stronger and larger — 120 mph to 155 mph — with landfall just a few hours away.

The size of the storm also grew, with tropical storm force winds extending 175 miles from the hurricane's center.

"With the higher intensity you're going to see more extensive wind damage," University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said. "The larger wind field means that more people will experience those storm-force winds."

The most damaging winds could hit a coastline where the population has jumped sevenfold since 1970, according to the U.S. Census.

Vinod Nair wasn't taking any

chances. He drove inland from the Tampa area Tuesday with his wife, son, dog and two kittens to a hotel in Orlando, where only tropical storm force winds were expected.

"You can't do anything about natural disasters," Nair said. "We live in a high-risk zone, so we thought it best to evacuate."

Ash Dugney warily watched ocean water being sucked out below a Tampa Bay pier Wednesday morning. He said he didn't trust Tampa's storm drainage system to keep his corner tuxedo rental business safe from flooding that he said has happened even during mild storms.

"I don't care about the wind and the rain and the stuff like that, I just care about the flooding,"

Dugney said, adding that he moved essentials out of the shop and moved other items up to above waist-high level.

Flash floods were possible across all of Florida. Hazards include the polluted leftovers of Florida's phosphate fertilizer mining industry, more than 1 billion tons of slightly radioactive waste contained in enormous ponds that could overflow in heavy rains.

Forecasters placed roughly 120 miles of central Florida's east coast under a hurricane warning Wednesday, signaling that Ian may remain a hurricane longer than previously expected as it moves inland.

Isolated tornadoes were spinning off the storm well ahead of landfall.

One tornado damaged small planes and a hangar at the North Perry Airport, west of Hollywood along the Atlantic coast.

More than 200,000 homes and businesses were without electricity, and Florida Power and Light warned those in Ian's path to brace for days without power.

The federal government sent 300 ambulances with medical teams and was ready to truck in 3.7 million meals and 3.5 million liters of water once the storm passes.

"We'll be there to help you clean up and rebuild, to help Florida get moving again," President Joe Biden said Wednesday. "And we'll be there every step of the way. That's my absolute commitment to the people of the state of Florida."

Russia, from Page 1

however, triggering protests, scattered violence and Russians fleeing the country by the tens of thousands.

The mobilization prompted the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to warn Americans in Russia to leave immediately because "Russia may refuse to acknowledge dual nationals' U.S. citizenship, deny their access to U.S. consular assistance, prevent their departure from Russia, and conscript dual nationals for military service." Earlier embassy security alerts also advised Americans to leave, saying they could be harassed and have difficulty obtaining consular assistance.

The EU expressed outrage over the suspected sabotage Tuesday of two underwater

natural gas pipelines from Russia to Germany and warned of retaliation for any attack on Europe's energy networks.

Borrell said "all available information indicates those leaks are the result of a deliberate act," even though the perpetrators haven't so far been identified.

"Any deliberate disruption of European energy infrastructure is utterly unacceptable and will be met with a robust and united response," Borrell said in a statement on behalf of the EU's 27 member countries.

Kremlin spokesman Peskov said allegations that Russia could be behind the incidents were "predictable and stupid," saying the damage has caused Russia huge

economic losses.

The war has brought an energy standoff between the EU, many of whose members have for years relied heavily on Russian natural gas sup-

plies, and Moscow.

The damage makes it unlikely the pipelines will be able to supply any gas to Europe this winter, according to analysts.

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