

## Home, Business Owners Harness Solar Power In Pa.

By Kim Leonard

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW  
FOX CHAPEL, Pa. (AP) – Phillip N.H. Smith worked on an experimental solar-powered house when he was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1951. Now, the retired Copperweld Corp. chief executive and his wife, Martha, want to use some of the sun's energy to power their Fox Chapel home. They plan to install solar panels on the roof of an attached garage, once a state subsidy for alternative energy equipment becomes available.

"This is a chance for us to see what we can do," he said. Hundreds of home and business owners and even local governments have been pricing solar panels, small wind turbines and other energy-making systems in the three months since Gov. Ed Rendell signed into law a bill that, for solar equipment, would cut costs by 35 percent. The federal renewable energy and energy efficiency tax credit program recently was expanded, meaning even more potential savings.

Homeowners like the Smiths are waiting for the state Department of Environmental Protection to write the rules for Pennsylvania's program, specifying what types of home and small-business systems are covered and how and where they can be installed, department spokesman Charlie Young said.

Similar incentives in other states, such as Maryland, have increased solar panel installations dramatically. So far, almost 2,300 people have signed up for DEP's e-mail notifications about the program, Young said, and the program could be running by early next year. Contractors who install solar rooftop panels are seeing an uptick in inquiries. "We have 200 potential customers – a lot are waiting to see what the rebates are," said Rich Foltz, president of Vox Energy Solutions in McCandless.

"We go out every week and do proposals. People are just starting now to get educated, and they say they're doing the research and waiting for the rebate. I compare it to buying a \$60,000 car for \$40,000 – who

wouldn't take the deal?"

About \$100 million has been earmarked for state rebates for solar installations at residences and small businesses, Young said. Another \$25 million is to be available for wind and geothermal equipment.

The recent renewal of federal investment tax credits for solar power, once capped at \$2,000 for a residential system, could cover another big part of the costs. The new federal incentive is 30 percent of the project cost, Young said, though state officials are unsure at this point how the two programs might overlap.

Costs vary for home solar systems. Foltz said an average, 2,200-square-foot home with two adults and two children uses about 9,000 kilowatt hours each year.

A system that could "zero out" electricity bills for that home might cost \$40,000 to \$50,000, and involve as many as 24 solar panels. Foltz added the financial benefits of solar panels vary greatly, depending on the price of electricity in the region.

Steve O'Hare just bought four more 120-watt solar panels at

around \$600 each for his Shadyside home, adding to the two he installed a few years ago. They feed electricity to a battery that powers the garage and outdoor lights, plus his tools and a dehumidifier in the basement.

His family's electric bill was around \$80 a month without the panels. "Now, it comes in at \$50," said O'Hare, who owns rental properties and restores older homes. "I'm very pro-solar alternative and I'm trying to get all my neighbors interested. Even if they put a couple panels up, it would offset their electric bills."

Much of consumers' new interest in solar, wind and other systems, in fact, is rooted in worries about rising electric bills in the next two years.

State officials have warned some utilities could raise their rates by 40 percent or more as the capped prices imposed under the state's deregulation law in 1996 expire, and demand for power increases.

Most of Vox's solar installations have been in the center part of the state, but the company started serv-

icing Western Pennsylvania early this year, Foltz said. So far, it's put about four systems online in the Pittsburgh region.

Conservation Consultants Inc. plans to double the solar panel array on the roof of its South Side building, said Ann Gerace, executive director. The nonprofit promotes environmental responsibility through programs such as home energy audits.

The expanded system should produce 10 percent of the energy used in the building, where 55 people work. And because utilities have to buy excess power produced by solar systems, Gerace said, "We figure when we're not here on the weekends, we might as well give it back and let Duquesne Light pay us for it."

The Smiths had been considering solar panels for their home for years. What convinced them was a four-day power outage last year that ruined all their refrigerated and frozen food, and forced them to replace an older refrigerator that never recovered, Martha Smith said.

The couple say they might put a small wind turbine on their three-acre lot on a hilltop, to help power

the electric-heated house where they raised six children.

More immediately, Martha Smith intends to go solar on the local roads. She ordered a Solar Bug vehicle for \$15,000 from Free Drive of Bozeman, Mont., that should be delivered in November.

Resembling a miniature golf cart with one seat in front and one in back, the electric-powered car has a roof full of solar panels.

Smith said she's been promised the second car the company produces, and she's ordered a vanity license plate: "Sunbug2."

## Pa. Newspaper Accuses Rival Of Stealing Obituaries

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) – A city newspaper, The Times-Tribune, has sued a rival paper and accused it of plagiarizing dozens of obituaries.

The Times Leader, of Wilkes-Barre, lifted 50 obituaries the week of Oct. 27, when it began publishing a Scranton edition meant to compete with The Times-Tribune, according to the lawsuit filed Wednesday in Lackawanna County Court.

"Rather than commit the time, resources and money necessary to implement an original obituary section for its new newspaper, defendant simply copied obituaries from The Times-Tribune ... and published them in its newspaper as though it had prepared them," the lawsuit reads.

Ralph Kates, an attorney for The Times Leader, denied the accusation. He said the newspaper obtained the death notices from Legacy.com, a Web site that partners with more than 700 newspapers to place obituaries online.

Kates said both newspapers are affiliates of Legacy.com and that the site's terms and conditions allow obituaries to be republished.

"What I think is going on here is the Scranton Times is suddenly having its monopoly position in news threatened by a competitor and this is the only way it can see to try to inhibit a competitor's entry in the market," he said.

But Hayes Ferguson, chief operating officer of Legacy.com, said in an e-mail that the site "does not allow the obituaries we host to be republished by any entity, including other affiliate newspapers."

The Times-Tribune's lawsuit accuses the Wilkes-Barre paper of misappropriation, unfair competition, fraud, breach of contract and other counts. It seeks monetary damages and an order prohibiting The Times Leader from copying obituaries.

Tim Hinton, a lawyer for The Times-Tribune, said The Times Leader "didn't want to go to market with a brand-new paper without an obituary section, so they copied ours." He accused the rival paper of "taking advantage of our time and expenditure and our connections with funeral homes to sell newspapers."

The Scranton paper does not take other papers' obituaries from Legacy.com, he said.

The Times-Tribune is owned by Scranton-based Times-Shamrock Communications. The Times Leader is owned by Wilkes-Barre Publishing Co. Inc.

## Pa. Man Accused Of Killing 86-Year-Old Faces Death

ERIE, Pa. (AP) – An Erie man accused of killing an 86-year-old woman during a burglary and robbery of her home may face the death penalty if convicted.

Erie County District Attorney Brad Foulk announced Thursday his intention to seek the death penalty if 21-year-old Willie Baker is convicted of first-degree murder.

Baker is accused of killing Anne Ropelewski on Sept. 13 after robbing her of \$45. Police say Ropelewski was stabbed several times.



Oh No!  
**DONNIE MELLOTT**  
Is turning the  
**BIG 50**  
**11-17-2008**  
Love, Terri & Eric

**Surprise 90th Birthday**  
Everyone is invited to a surprise open house for **Mary J. McKee** to be held at Pleasant Grove Christian Church, Warfordsburg, on **November 22, 2008**, from 2-5 p.m. in honor of her 90th birthday. No gifts, please!  
11-13-21

**John Deere 50**  
Restored Original Front Weight 3 Pt. Power Steering  
**\$6500**  
Call **301-678-7669**

**TURKEY DINNER**  
Sunday, November 16  
11:00 a.m. to ?  
**BREEZEWOOD FIREHALL**  
All-You-Can-Eat Takeouts Available  
Benefits Fire Company

**Big Bingo**  
R.W. & BT Firehall  
Sat. Nov. 15th  
Giveaway- \$2300  
\$20 Donation (everything included in pack)  
Doors open: 4 p.m.  
Bingo: 6 p.m.  
Kitchen will be open!  
Tickets available at the door!

New Items at **ELVEY'S**  
FLOWERS & GREENHOUSES  
987-3191 - 522 North Silk Wreaths & Stone Toppers  
Christmas Cactus  
Christmas Bows  
Made To Order  
Poinsettias Arriving  
Next Week  
**SALE - SALE - SALE**  
Tulip Bulbs - 50% Off  
Christmas Items - 50% Off

**BARD'S COLLISION**  
Rt. 522, Needmore, Pa.  
**717-573-4097**  
Quality Collision And Body Repair  
Certified Heated-Down Draft Paint Booth  
Laser Frame Straightening Machine  
INSURANCE WORK WELCOME  
FREE ESTIMATES

**Turkey & Ham Dinner**  
FAMILY STYLE  
November 16  
11:30 to ?  
Six Mile Run Firehall  
Six Mile Run, Pa.  
\$8 Adults;  
\$4 Children 5-12 Yrs.  
Children 4 & Under Free  
\$8 Takeouts  
Call 814-928-4034  
Sponsored by Six Mile Run Area Vol. Fire Co.

**BINGO**  
27 Games including specials, quickies and two jackpots (1 over \$140, 1 over \$700)  
Tips Sold  
Food Available  
Thursday Evenings  
Hancock Fire Company  
3 Fulton St., Hancock, Md.  
Doors open 5:30  
Games start 6:30  
301-678-7739  
10-5-F

**EADER'S BUTCHER SHOP**  
Timber Ridge Rd.  
Call 717-294-3954 or 717-294-3882  
Specials Thurs., Fri. & Sat., Nov. 13-14-15  
Hamburger . . . . .lb. \$1.89  
Sausage . . . . .lb. \$1.79  
SIGN UP FOR TURKEY GIVEAWAY!  
We now accept food stamps  
HOURS: 9-5 Th.-Fri.-Sat.  
DEER PROCESSING AVAILABLE!

**SIPES FARM MARKET**  
233 Lincoln Way West, McCbg.  
Phone 717-485-5053  
Hours: Mon-Fri. 9-5; Sat. 9-3  
Red Navel Oranges  
Tangerines  
Grapefruit  
Citrus Gift Boxes  
Christmas Candy  
Pa. Farm Market Vouchers Accepted Here - Good thru 11-30

**FOOD AUCTION**  
Hustontown Vol. Fire Co.  
Fri., Nov. 14  
6:00 p.m.  
Kitchen opens at 5:00 p.m.  
MISCELLANEOUS FOOD ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED OFF

Congratulations to **AMY JO MORTON** on passing the state boards in Harrisburg. You are now a full-fledged licensed Registered Nurse. Full Speed Ahead!  
Love, Your family

Bt. Cabins Independent Bible Church  
P.O. Box 4  
Burnt Cabins, PA  
814-259-3459  
Pastor Bob Benson  
MINI MESSAGE  
Heb. 11:32 "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets."  
Veterans Day is a day to honor all those who have served their country and helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. "Thank you!" to every man and woman who has worn the uniform of one of our armed forces. As Christians, we should also pause to remember those who have, and still do, fight the good fight of faith, as they serve their God day after day. Many of the freedoms we enjoy today owe as much to the labors of God's people as they do to the protection of our military. Pray for our service men and women. Pray for your pastor and other leaders in your church. Pray for God's blessing on America.

**FULTON ANTIQUES & AUCTION HOUSE INC.**  
211 LWE, McCbg.  
717-485-5674  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
Mon.-Thurs. 10-5; Fri. 10-9; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 11-5  
Don't forget Christmas in McConnellsburg, Christmas craft show in the store on 12/5 and 12/6  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Vendors welcome  
• Free set up.  
We are also a donation drop off point for Greener Pastures and Bedford County no kill shelters.

**MORTON'S ATTIC**  
226 N. Second St.  
McConnellsburg, PA  
717-485-3928  
Antiques & Collectibles  
Candles  
Folk Art  
Furniture - Country & Victorian  
Crocks - Stoneware  
Amish Rugs - Cookbooks  
OPEN  
THANKSGIVING DAY  
Webster will be on hand to greet you  
Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., 1-5 p.m.  
Fri. 1-6 p.m.; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 11:30-5; Closed Wed.

**OAKMAN'S POWER WASH**  
717-372-7300  
1220 Patterson Run Road  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233  
• Residential  
• Commercial  
• Industrial  
• Agricultural  
Powerwashing & Blacktop Driveway Sealing  
Wood Restoration  
Decks & Log Homes  
Painting Interior & Exterior  
Small Carpentry Jobs  
Parking Lots & Line Painting  
10% Discount w/this ad  
Fully Insured  
9-11-F

Holly, Jolly Christmas Longaberger **BASKET BINGO**  
Sponsored by the Needmore Fire Co. Auxiliary  
Sun., Nov. 16, 2008  
Doors open at noon.  
Light lunch at 1 p.m.  
Games start at 2 p.m.  
\$20 DONATION COVERS GAME PACKAGE AND LIGHT LUNCH  
King Tutt Highlights:  
New Wrought Iron TV Stand w/shelves, all 3 sizes of 2008 Christmas Baskets  
CALL AND RESERVE YOUR SEAT IN ADVANCE AND GET A FREE PACK OF SPECIALS!  
Amy Hill, Consultant  
Lou Dennis, Caller  
For info or to reserve seats call Carol, 717-573-4528  
Amy 717-573-4599

Benefit **BASKET BINGO**  
November 30  
Needmore Vol. Fire Co.  
Doors open at 12 noon  
Games start at 2 p.m.  
Tickets \$20  
RAFFLES AND TIP JARS  
All proceeds will go to Danny and Tina Buterbaugh  
For info, tickets or to make a donation, please call Nancy Bivens at 717-799-7343 or Patti Mills, 294-3676  
11-13-31

Holiday Special **BINGO**  
November 23  
Featuring Baskets and Gift Cards  
M'CONNELLSBURG FIREHALL  
1:00 p.m.  
Doors Open At 11:00 a.m.  
Cash - King Tuts  
Raffles - Door Prizes  
40 Regular Games  
\$25  
11-13-21

LIVE **CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE**  
Starting at \$35.00  
Still Taking Orders for Fresh Handmade Christmas Wreaths Starting at \$15.00  
Remember us when you are Christmas Shopping for the Gardner in your family!!  
We have gift certificates available.  
Winter Hours:  
Monday - Wednesday by Appointment  
Thursday - Saturday 9 am-5 pm  
Sunday 1 pm-5 pm  
Check our website for inventory list of what we have and what's coming  
**BUCK RUN NURSERY**  
Located 6 miles east of McConnellsburg on Rt. 16 (Cove Gap) at entrance of James Buchanan Birthplace.  
717-328-5980  
www.buckrunnursery.com

Oh No!  
**DONNIE MELLOTT**  
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Love, Terri & Eric