

Energy fair opens today

By JOHN DODGE
World Staff Writer

The Northwest Alternative Energy Fair, a potpourri of energy displays, films, workshops and entertainment, opens today and runs through the weekend at the Grays Harbor County fairgrounds near Elma.

More than 40 exhibitors will be on hand with displays demonstrating solar energy, conservation, home insulation, recycling, composting toilets, wind turbines, solar greenhouses, portable saw mills and a host of other ideas to reduce energy consumption and offer alternatives to centrally-located thermal power plants.

Exhibits will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with evening entertainment scheduled in the horse barn from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SOLAR DESIGN in the Pacific Northwest will be

discussed 4 to 5 p.m. Friday by Marty Oatman of Balance Associates. Also scheduled for the indoor stage in the grange building is an energy play by the Timberline High School Drama Class, 6 to 7 p.m.

Jim Duree will be master of ceremonies at a square dance at 7 p.m. in the horse barn. Music will be by Good Earth String Band, Uncle John's Band, The Logs and Phil Sheridan.

Among the special presentations Saturday in the grange building are: Bruce O'Halloran, speaking on tax incentives for solar energy and conservation, 10 to 11 a.m.; Gilbert McCoy, University of Washington engineer, small hydro power systems, 11 to noon; Alex Fassbener and Laird Perry, working solar heating systems in the Northwest, noon to 1 p.m.

An energy alternatives legislative hearing is scheduled 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday. Among the participants are Congressman Don Bonker, Grays

Harbor County Commissioner Mike Murphy and State Rep. Mary Kay Becker, D-Bellingham.

At 6 p.m., Omer Mithun will lead a discussion of solar architecture. At 7 p.m., action shifts to the horse barn for an evening of vaudeville, music and dancing, featuring Shelly and the Crustaceans and Jef Jaisun's rock and roll orchestra.

SPECIAL EVENTS Sunday include an informal group discussion 10 to 11 a.m. entitled Choosing Energy Sources for the Future — the Moral, Economic, and Political Issues.

A second-hand fashion show is set for 1 to 2 p.m. in the grange building. "Friend of the Future," an energy play by the New Age Rhythms, will be presented 3 to 4 p.m.

The fairgrounds movie theater will be the scene of a continuous showing of alternative energy films, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday through Sunday.

The fair is sponsored by the Grays Harbor Crabshell Alliance.

Hoquiam prepares flood zoning

By BRYN BEORSE
World Staff Writer

Floodplain zoning that would require all new homes — or substantial remodeling jobs — to sit at least 10 feet above sea level in the City of Hoquiam was adopted by the planning commission Thursday.

The regulations will go to the city council for inclusion in a long-awaited new zoning ordinance.

If the city adopts the regulations, flood insurance will be available to residents through a federal program. Also, federally insured loans will be available for construction and development that otherwise would not.

SOME FAIRLY tall foundations may have to be built for new homes in certain areas of the city, Planner Donna Voss said.

Otherwise, flood insurance costs would be "prohibitive."

The alternative to floodplain zoning, she said, is a vast, costly new levee project.

Much of Hoquiam would be affected in what is called a "100 year flood," which has the likelihood of occurring about once in a hundred years.

To avoid a high foundation, a house could be certified by an architect as "floodproof" or immune to water damage from a certain water level, she added, if proper construction is used.

IN OTHER business, the commission will also recommend a set of antenna regulations for the new zoning ordinance.

In residential areas, antennas of more than 10 feet in height on roofs will require a special use permit, while those obstructing views will need written permission of affected property owners.

Antennas will not be allowed to impinge on neighboring property and for anything but receivers, an FCC license will be required for that particular function of the antenna.

Property setback requirements will apply.