

Wind power is 0 for 3 in northwestern Kansas

Oberlin's City Council has washed its hands of the wind power deal, which hasn't blown anyone much good out here.

It's hard to fault the council members, who are charged with making some big decisions on the town's future. The vote upset the wind firm's principals, who now are 0-for-3 with northwest Kansas towns, already having "nos" from St. Francis and Sharon Springs.

Council members asked why they should sign a contract to pay more for power down the road than the city pays today for its most expensive source, Sunflower Electric Power Co. out of Hays. The Sunflower Wind people really didn't come up with a good answer for that, at least not that we heard.

The city also had doubts about the firm's lack of experience and financing, with several council members complaining that they'd never even seen a balance sheet. That's information the company didn't have to provide, but the lack of transparency didn't help the company sell anything.

Sunflower Wind did present a reasonable plan to build wind farms and to build the equipment to stock them. Whether that would have been self-sustaining was a valid question, and a difficult one to answer.

Investors, too, shied away from the firm, which is more of an idea than an operation at this point. It would have helped to have a power contract or two to show them, and the firm pushed the cities — maybe a little hard.

The firm bent over backwards to please Oberlin, rewriting its proposal several times to try to make it more attractive. The company at first wanted the city to dump its current suppliers as soon as

the wind farm was ready, but the city didn't have much incentive to do that and the council wasn't buying it.

The final version contained a "reverse bidding" process provision that no one really explained well. It didn't, apparently, give the council any reason to go with the proposal, though the firm said it was designed to protect the city from paying too much.

The sales proposition wasn't there, in the final analysis, and the council at large remained unconvinced that the deal was in the city's best interests. If they felt that way, the members really had to vote no.

Their vote probably won't set too well with Sunflower Wind people, who have blamed nearly everyone, including the newspaper, for their problems selling the plan. One principal complained that he had been told no action would be taken at the meeting last week, but it looks like the council, hearing that its consultant wasn't going to recommend signing a contract, was just tired of fooling with the issue.

The firm did leave things on friendly terms, saying it would be ready to serve Oberlin when Oberlin was ready. Maybe that time will come. Sunflower announced last week it was buying a building in Hutchinson to begin building European-designed wind turbines.

When the company has more than ideas to sell, the city just might be willing to listen. The terms might not be as attractive then, or they might be better. Everyone would like to be using "green" power, though the federal hydro power the city gets is about as green as it comes.

Only time will tell on that part.

— Steve Haynes

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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It's hard to tell if I was really nicer than naughty last year. I tried to be good but, as usual, life can throw some curves. Anyway, Santa was good to me.

So was my lovely, mother-in-law, Margaret, who gave me a four-set DVD collection of John Wayne movies. It includes two of my favorites: *The Sands of Iwo*

Jima (1949) and *The Quiet Man* (1952).

The former will be great to see since I just finished James Bradley's book, *The Flags of Our Fathers*. The book described how the three surviving flag raisers from the battle made a cameo appearance in the movie that featured the famous World War II island battle.

The later movie appeals to my Irish roots. Granted the heavy brogues and story are a bit corny. However the film was made in Ireland and John Ford did a quality job of directing it.

But it's the cast that makes this movie. John Wayne as the Irish-American, ex-boxer, Sean Thornton. His character goes back to the mother country and falls for a local girl, Mary Kate Danaher, played by Maureen O'Hara. Other notable actors in the movie are Victor McLaglen and Barry Fitzgerald.

The one actor I enjoy seeing, even more than the "Duke," is Ward Bond. He plays the Catholic priest, Father Lanergan. When I moved to this area, I discovered that just to the north of us lies Bond's birthplace: Benkelman, Neb.

So if you drive by the home and see my car in the drive, don't bother knocking. For the next few evenings I'll be there watching John Wayne movies.

Ken Harding, St. Francis; Merlyn Sherlock, St. Francis; Katherine Keeker, St. Francis; Don Keeker, St. Francis; Blake McCall, Baldwin City; Marvel Gleason, St. Francis; Jim Anderson, Bird City; R.J. Northrup, Overland Park; Darrin Ross, Wichita; Victor Zwegardt, St. Francis; Dan and Kathy Gleason, Anchorage, Alaska; Marjorie Kennedy, Loveland, Colo.; Lawrence Schleppe, Copan, Okla.; Mildred Stute, Haigler, Neb.; Ervin Peters, Bird City; Susan Schleppe, Denver, Colo.; Tammy Schleppe, New York, N.Y.; Spencer Schleppe, St. Francis; Melvin Schleppe, St. Francis; Lucille Price, St. Francis; Mike and Karen Cecil, Goodland; Van Burrus, St. Francis; Glori Milne, St. Francis; Brad Richard, St. Francis; Ron Ewing, St. Francis; Kenneth Zimbelman, Ozark, Mo.; Shirley Straub, Sharon Springs; Stan Gienger, El Centro, Calif.; Royce Gienger, St. Francis; James L. Gienger, Castle Rock, Colo.; Dan and Judy Gardner, Oxnard, Calif.; Marvin Walz, St. Francis; Joe Hoffman, St. Francis; Vernie B. Combellick, Littleton, Colo.; Kerry Hammeke, Topeka; Ana Brewer, St. Francis; Marian L. Miller, St. Francis; Morita Truman, St. Francis; Roger McQuigg, St. Francis; Cindy Neitzel, St. Francis; Aimee Northrup, St. Francis.

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GOD SAYS

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10: 7, 9



News From the Past

15 years ago - 1992

The Chamber of Commerce Christmas scrip drawings will be held at the Cheyenne Theater this year on three Thursday nights, Dec. 3, 10 and 17. Each Thursday before the drawing there will be a group or choir who will entertain with Christmas Carols and singing for 30 minutes before the drawings.

Brett Sayre, Southwestern Bell Telephone's external affairs manager for St. Francis, said the company is set to convert its central office switching equipment to digital technology on Dec. 5.

The St. Francis Music Club will, for the second year in a row, be presenting *The Nutcracker* in December. Over 100 local children, ages 3 to 16, from Teresa Porter's Dance Ranch, are involved in the production and have been working on their numbers since September.

After six years, the St. Francis Rec Board has decided to sell the rec building, because the building has not been utilized as expected.

First place in the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Lighting contest went to Melvin and Pat Confer.

25 years ago - 1982

The new sign, put up by the St. Francis Chamber of Commerce, features both a changeable message board and the lower painted part which shows "St. Francis - The Good Life." It is located near the entrance of the airport and the Good Samaritan Village on Highway 36.

Returning letter winners for the St. Francis boys basketball team include Gerald Lauer, Dwight McDuffee, Bill Krueger and Mark Forsythe.

A clothing thrift shop for everyone is open Fridays from, 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the United Methodist Church Educational Building. Mrs. Dorothy Curry runs the operation with the help of other volunteers.

Scott Hilt at 119 pounds placed first at the St. Francis Indian Wrestling Tournament. Placing second was Darrell Vandike while Shawn Vernon and Doug Ross placed third.

The last rows of brick were put up on the north and west faces of the new medical clinic building the first of December and the clinic is expected to be complete in February.

The Church of Christ building, located on the corner of Spencer and Valley streets, is nearly completed and services are being held there.

45 years ago - 1962

Among the members of the 95-piece Kansas State University Wildcat marching band is Charles Graves of St. Francis.

A new Cub Scout den has been formed with Darrel Bandel, Chris Loyd, Eddie Kite, Jerry Rose and Ronald Zwegardt. Den mothers are Helen Bandel, Dulcie Kite and Gertie Loyd.

Lawn Ridge 4-H Club of Cheyenne County has been announced as having outstanding accomplishments in safety, health and recreation activities according to Roger Regnier, State 4-H Club leader.

J.C. Hixon, halfback for the St. Francis Indians, has been honored for the third straight year by the Northwest Kansas League coaches. He was picked to the all-league team.

60 years ago - 1947

The formal opening of the

Vaughn Beauty Salon Monday was deemed highly successful by the owners and operators, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Vaughn.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Lampe, who operate the Modern Cleaners, dry cleaning establishment in St. Francis, have recently built an additional room in the rear of the plant and have installed new equipment of the very latest and most modern type.

It's too bad but it can't be helped this year. There will be no Christmas lights along the main thoroughfare because the municipal plant is too badly overloaded.

Instructor George Johnson of the high school music department has announced the school's a cappella choir, composed of 83 voices, will attend a clinic in Norton. All the schools in the Northwest Kansas League have been invited to participate.

The Kaiser-Frazer Corporation, manufacturers of Kaiser and Frazer automobiles, have established a dealership in St. Francis, a franchise having been granted to Lockard and Reynolds, operators of the Sinclair station at the west end of main street.



Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Gildewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

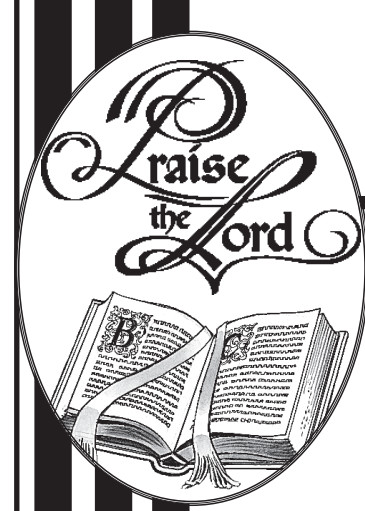
Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday eve Bible Study 7 p.m.



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