



College campus snares grant to go geothermal

The announcement last week that a Kansas community college has snared a grant to help pay for converting its campus to geothermal heating and cooling sounds great. It'll be widely applauded, but it's a little frightening.

Geothermal systems take heat out of the ground in the winter and puts it back in the summer, much like a heat pump takes heat out of the air to heat a home. A few systems are hardly likely to affect the environment, but there's a symptom here of a larger problem.

We don't really know how "alternative" energy sources will affect our home planet, because to date, we haven't had much experience with them. Wind, solar, geothermal, water (wave, current or gravity), all these so-called "green" sources are mostly unknowns.

It's true they won't directly produce the "greenhouse" gases so feared today as a cause of global warming, so they may be an improvement, but what exactly they will do the environment as a whole — we really don't know.

In a sense, we're in the same position with this as industrial society was a century or two ago, when we were just launching our heavy use of fossil fuels.

Burning fossil fuels for energy is easy — they burn, you capture part of the heat — but inefficient. The more we've burned, the more efficient we've become. But it's still pretty primitive.

While wind and solar systems are the most popular, proposals range from geothermal to dozens of way to harness water power. Each will have its environmental price, a price which may not be apparent without years of experience.

That's because every transfer of energy involves the basic principles of physics, one of which is that for every action, there's an equal

and opposite reaction.

So consider the possibility, as we move more and more to alternative power, that thousands of wind generators spring up on the plains of Mid America. Energy is removed from the atmosphere and transferred to the east and west coasts, where the bulk of the population lives.

Could that someday affect the weather somewhere? Of course.

If you move enough energy, you're transferring heat from one place to another. Thousands of wind generators might affect the weather here and there, often in ways no one will predict.

Wind speeds altered? Weather in the Midwest cooler? Over the Atlantic, warmer? Could be. No one knows for sure.

And if thousands of solar panels someday line the Southwest, could that remove enough heat to affect the climate there? Quite possible. Again, no one knows what the long-term impact might be.

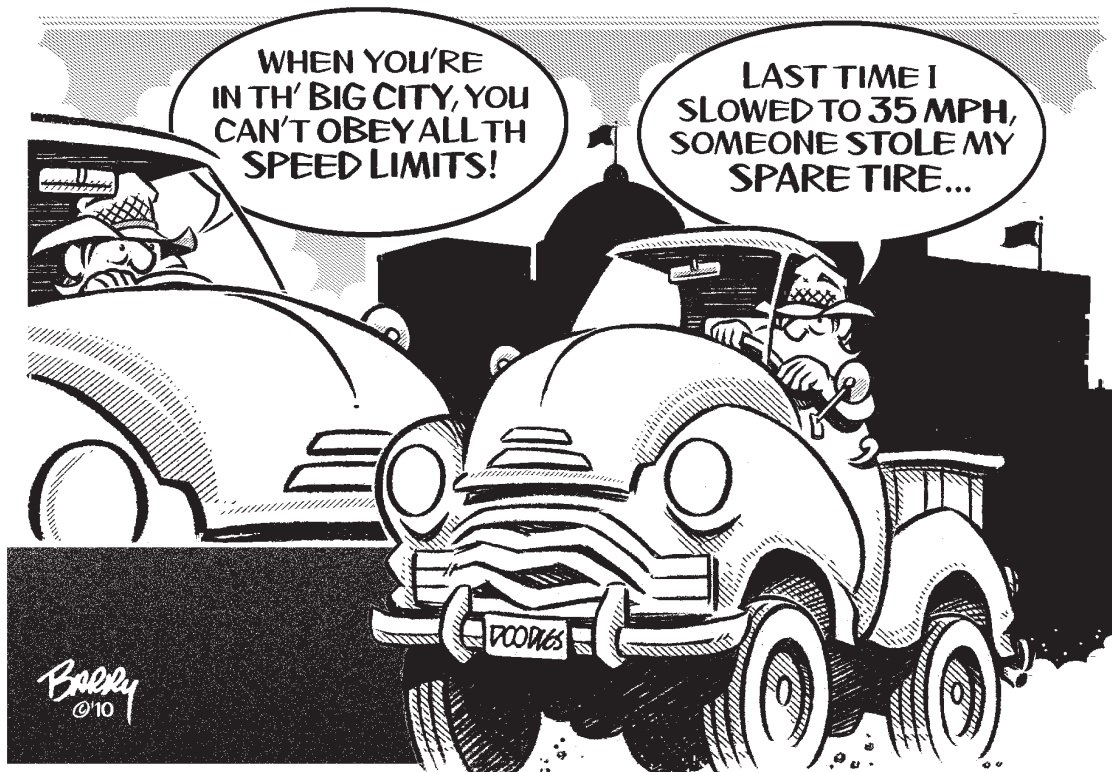
Geothermal systems? Build enough of them, you're sure to affect the underground foundations of our continent. Rocks might get cooler far below, water sources could be altered or disturbed, flows changed, no one knows. The result could be everything from dry wells to earthquakes.

All we really know is we've heard that fossil fuels are bad for us and we're searching for better alternatives. And those seem apparent, but without careful study, how do we know they're really an improvement over what we have?

The answer is, we don't. We're just poking around in the dark.

This is not to say we shouldn't look for better energy sources; just that any major change like this demands careful study. Otherwise, we will pay a price no one can measure today.

That's a scary prospect. — Steve Haynes



Officer upset with department

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter with the hope of encouraging both the citizens and city leadership in St. Francis to start taking a closer look at the Police Department and the complete failure of its current leadership.

In the past 30 days, another officer and I have voluntarily resigned from the agency. The public and city leadership need to ask why this has happened and ultimately, hold Chief Shane Guggenmos responsible for the state of this department. This letter is written from my perspective, and I do not speak for the other officer who has left.

I had the pleasure of serving the community this past year as one of four officers. In my seven years working in rural communities in western Kansas, St. Francis was absolutely my favorite place to live and work. The town lived up to the motto of "as good as it gets!"

I found the community to be very warm and caring and you all made Kara and I feel right at home even though we were not from here. We both had the pleasure of being involved in several civic organizations and were part of a great church family here in St. Francis. The City Council is one of the most dedicated and sincere groups of elected citizens I had the pleasure working with.

Letters to the Editor

In law enforcement, we must have the consent, approval and support of the citizens we serve. If we fail at accomplishing even one of these needs, no officer or agency can be successful in carrying out effective public service.

After working with the chief and his "sergeant" for the last several months, I found they neither respected nor valued that philosophy or approach to policing. I ultimately decided that I could

no longer be associated with the agency as long as the chief was taking it in the current direction.

I hope that the people will take action and approach the City Council about what is going on. It is important that any community take an active interest in its public safety service. It is what guarantees and protects our quality of life and, more importantly, our values and beliefs.

Tony Rodriguez, St. Francis

Man left yammering

I heard on radio...\$1...today would be worth 2 cents in 1933. I remember five hamburgers for \$1... 10 cents for a loaf of bread, 25 cents even nickel bids at auctions...

At Lena Scrivner auction (no one bid on bunch of stuff.) I said I'll give "U" a dollar for dictionary (was declined). Other stuff added sold for \$2.50. I bot dictionary, for dollar from buyer! (were Lena Scrivner heirs...entitled to the dollar.)

I suggest "when yammering;

(Oops, did I invent a word?) the time when an auctioneer is chanting; no bids are made! If anyone hollers a \$1...display item...Yamer once! Sell quick!

"Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit serving the Lord" Romans 12:11.

Frank Sowers

Benkelman, Neb. P.S. Health care reform is boooony! They want to pile more taxes on US.

How much is interest on debt?

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkans.com Sometimes it comes with St. Patrick's Day or when I hear the bagpipes. "It" being the connection with the past and a pride in my family's heritage.

I know I'm not special. I've met many Americans who identify with where they came from. Whether they are by origin Spanish, Japanese, Indian, Italian, German, Swedish... or come from a closer place like Mexico, Puerto Rico or Canada, all have something to be proud of.

What amazes me is how these nationalities have come together to make us all better. The United States has always been a place to draw from the old to make something all together unique.

We came here with our religion, food and customs and shared them with each other. Where there had been intolerance in our homelands, the country our relatives moved to offered freedoms unlike anywhere else.

America may not be perfect, but, in an imperfect world, we en-

joy a quality of life that is unsurpassed.

A few times in my life I've had the fleeting thought of going back to Ireland or Scotland to live. But then I have to ask myself, "Why?" Wouldn't that be a step backwards?

So I celebrate being here and knowing this continues to be the best nation on earth for everyone.

Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The following new books have arrived at the St. Francis Public Library: *Six Hours One Friday* by Max Lucado; *Kisser* by Stuart Woods; *Memory And Identity* by Pope Paul II; *Going Rogue* by Sarah Palin; *Deeper Than The Dead* by Tami Hoag; *Midnight Rainbow* by Linda Howard; *Deadly Deals* by Fern Michaels; *I, Alex Cross* by James Patterson; *Sizzle* by Julie

Garwood; *Fired Up* by Jayne Ann Krentz; *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah; *A Measure Of Mercy* by Lauraine Snelling; *Worst Case* by James Patterson; *Bed of Roses* by Nora Roberts; *Days of Gold* by Jude Deveraux; *The Secret Pilgrim* by Joh LeCarre; *Personal Injuries* by Scott Turow; *Special Forces* by Tom Clancy; *Airborne* by Tom Clancy; *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama; *Do You Love*

Football by John Gruden; *Chicken Soup For The Single's Soul* by Jack Canfield; *Clear And Present Danger* by Tom Clancy; *Marine* by Tom Clancy; *The Deceiver* by Fredrick Forsyth; *The Trigger* by Arthur Clarke; *Star Wars, Episode III* by Matthew Stover; *Bright Star* by Harold Coyle; *Ordinary Heroes* by Scott Turow; *U.S.S. Sea Wolf* by Patrick Robinson.

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GOD SAYS
The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends. He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.
Proverbs 14:20, 21

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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 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, 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.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

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.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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.
Communion 1st Sunday of the month

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

Praise the Lord