

FACED

Wind farms for the county discussed by commissioners

By Karen Krien
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Giant wind mills are appearing more frequently across the county and, with Kansas' winds, especially in Cheyenne County, it seems like this would be an ideal place for the wind farms.

Chuck Kribs, Cheyenne County Development coordinator, said he had three or four calls from wind energy contractors who were interested in putting towers in this part of the country.

Sometime ago, he said, there was an announcement to put together a

program for a high-voltage transmission link but, not very close to Cheyenne County as it follows I-70.

We need to stay on top of the project, Mr. Kribs said. We need to see what it will take to put a leg in this part of the county if we want wind energy.

"If we had a transmission line and, if a transmission company wanted to put a wind farm in the county, it would be a good thing," Mr. Kribs said.

I have a gut feeling, he said, that the county that holds out the most

pay inducement will get the farms. The transmission links will probably not be built until 2013 or 2014. This could give time to collect money for wind energy.

Actually, he said, the bottom line is, if we get transmission lines, the wind farms will follow.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had been at a meeting and felt there was two sides to wind farms -- that when a wind farm was put up, there would probably be some people staying in motels and eating in restaurants, but the companies brings their own concrete plant, their own equipment, and when they are done within a couple of months, there are only two or three jobs in the county.

It was pointed out that two or three jobs are two or three jobs that the county doesn't have now. Plus, the farmers, whose land is leased to put up the wind farms, would have more money.

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part-time teachers, Gloria Cassidy, Jennifer Krien and Sandy Smull as well as full-time teachers, Dennis Friedrichs and Kaye O'Brien.

The board voiced concern about losing programs (Mrs. O'Brien is a librarian; and Mr. Friedrichs is an industrial arts and technology, and physics teacher. Mr. Schiltz also pointed out how important the part-time teachers are, especially in helping students prepare for Kansas Assessments.

The discussion ended in offering contracts all licensed personnel with the exception of the five mentioned above. However, at the end of June, if there is money, they will be offered contracts. Mr. Schiltz said he had talked to the five teachers and they understood the position of the school.

The board members discussed the fact that one of the area legislators, Senator Ralph Ostmeier, had voted

for the actual sales tax increase but Rep. John Faber had voted "no."

The board then went into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-licensed personnel. When they returned, they agreed to offer contracts to: paraprofessionals, Valerie Clark, Charlene Fiedler, Leisha Hilt, Dana Keller, Tina Schmid and Teresa Sowers; bus drivers, Melvin Confer, Ralph Lebow, Ben Leibbrandt and Edie Walters; cooks, Loreta Ford, Barb Holzwarth, Marsha Kechter and Kathy Vandike; custodians, Carl Jenkins, Marlin Queen, Angie Sundstrom, Garrett Sundstrom and Kevin Tremblay.

Other contracts offered to non-licensed personnel are: food manager, Alice Kinen; bus manager, Sean Straub; secretaries, Sharon Olofson, Marilyn Raile and Teri Richard; supplementary assignments, Kyle Buffington, Tina Elliott, Larry Flemming, Mike Frewen, Kristi Guthmiller, Talley Morrow and Te-

resa Porter.

The board agreed to continue the Title I program in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. There will also be one licensed Title I teacher and a part-time paraprofessional.

In the past, the board has offered summer school. They discussed how summer school helped students. Mr. Schiltz said that it was debatable how it helped because there are no tests.

Summer school, which cost \$8,535 last year, has been one of the programs cut in many of the Kansas schools, Mr. Schiltz said. The board voted to not have summer school this year and will consider having it in 2011.

The summer weight program, in year's past, has been split three ways. This year, Nathan Smith, head football and track coach, agreed to take on the program for 1/2 of what has been paid in the past or around \$3,000.

Student member of winning team

St. Francis high school graduate, Ethan Zwegardt, is one of nine Seward SkillsUSA members heading to the national competition for placing first in their selected events at the SkillsUSA state contest in Wichita on April 13-16.

Ethan is a student at Seward County Community College Area Technical School and the son of Rod and Vera Zwegardt, St. Francis.

According to the *Crusader News*, Seward has had teams compete in the SkillsUSA opening and closing demonstration contest but never had they achieved a gold medal in that contest.

In the opening and closing demonstration contest, the students are judged on their knowledge and

skills to properly open and close a SkillsUSA meeting.

This will be the first time that this year's team members will be in the national competition and all plan to put their best efforts forward against teams from around the country.

The SkillsUSA students also won 18 statesmen awards for completing questions on their knowledge of the SkillsUSA.

Team sponsor, Sybil Wagner, noted that this year's team members won the most awards of any other school at the state competition and she is pleased with their accomplishments.

The team will head to the national competition in Kansas City, Mo., in June.



Jackson Ebert

Introducing

Jackson Rhys Ebert

Jorja Rae Ebert is excited to introduce her baby brother, Jackson Rhys, born Feb. 5, 2010. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20-inches long. Mom and dad are Nikki (Krien) and A.J. Ebert of Greensboro, Ala.

Grandparents are Dennis and Iva Krien, St. Francis, Pat Schiek, Coker, Ala., and the late Bill Schiek, Bob and Carol Ebert, Auburn, Ala. Great-grandparents are Ferdinand and Chloris Krien, St. Francis, Hugh and Fran Harper, Custer, S.D., Irene Hardin, Paris, Texas, and the late Chick Hardin and Frankie McLean, Cordova, Ala.

Relay for Life barrel races scheduled June 18-20

The 3rd annual Relay For Life barrel races are scheduled for June 18-20.

The first race will be at the Wendy Chambers arena in Ft. Lupton, Colo., on June 18. Entries open at 5:30 p.m. with the races to follow at 6:30. The next two days of races will be held at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma, Colo.

All three days, the races will consist of a youth race and open 4D races (the open races will be a 5D format if there are more than 100 racers). There will be a processing fee at Wendy's and in Yuma each day or a two-day combined fee. The races will have an 80 percent payback and are Better Barrel Racers (BBR) applied for. On June 19 there will also

be a "Kick Cancer To The Curb" race. Three racers from the youth or the open make up a team, donate \$30 to the Relay, and run for awesome prizes. All events will be cash only.

The final race for the day on June 19 is the infamous Bikini Barrel Race and auction. There is no entry fee to run in this race but the racers will be running for cash awards! They must be in swim attire!

The auction for this race will be before the race and all the proceeds will be donated to the Relay.

This year there will be a "target time saddle" for the racers to run for. The races on June 19 and 20 will count for this. The racer will pay to participate and the racer



with the two closest times on the same horse will win the saddle. This money also will be donated to the Relay.

The Yuma High School cheerleaders will be running the concession stand in Yuma and will be donating part of their proceeds as well.

Everyone is invited to come support a very worthy cause and have a great time while they're there! For more info call Kindi at 970-848-2412 or Danielle at 970-580-9980.

Parade entries needed

The 125th celebration of Bird City is just three weeks away and the committee is still looking for entries in the parade. They want residents to put on their thinking cap, use their imagination and plan an entry!

Some suggestions are: floats, individuals, horses and antique vehicles just to name a few.

The 125th Celebration will serve as the theme and there will not be any judging of the entries.

The committee encourages families, businesses and organizations to have an entry.

Pre-registration is encouraged along with a brief description of the entry to be given to the parade chairman at the Cheylin football field at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 12.

The parade route will begin at the water tower at 10:30 a.m. and proceed down Main Street, ending at the First National Bank.

Call Karen Flemming (734-2463) with the entries.



TAX

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She had written a grant which will cover all but around \$9,000.

The console which is now being used had a transmit button that would stick. Prairie States Communication, Imperial, had cleaned the console but could not guarantee that they had fixed the problem.

The grant to replace the console expires at the end of 2010. After discussion, the commis-

sioners decided to purchase the new console with 911 phone tax money.

There has been a problem with the 911 dispatcher not receiving law enforcement communications. The repairman said he thought the problem was due to the old radio in dispatch which is 15 years old. It will need to be replaced in 2013 because it will not be compliant with narrow band.

The commissioners agreed to

replace the radio using 911 funds from the phone tax.

Mrs. Padgett said she was looking into secondary 911 telephone lines. Should something happen to the courthouse, she said, there would be back-up lines in place. No decision was made.

Mrs. Padgett also said she had appointed Tyler Howard as her assistant. He will be in charge when Mrs. Padgett is out of town.

Many enjoy surprise birthday

The children of Leon Merklin surprised Leon on May 15. Carrying out the surprise were Dennis and Mary Merklin, Bradley and Pat Merklin and Mike and Cindy Mitchell of Wilber, Neb.

Others attending were Christopher and Stacey Merklin and Lyberty of Atwood; Heather Merklin and friend, Don Tobin of Lawrence; Andrew and Justin Mitchell of Wilber; David and Dana Rose, Dawson and Dailey; Charles and Barb Merklin, Stacey and Alexandra Hazuka, Belinda Serrano, Jacob, John and Emmily, all of Bird City; Bill Merklin of Meade, Terrie Barners of Tyrone, Okla.; Janice Day of Laurene; Marlin and Peggy Merklin of Liberal; Larry and Lori Bauerle of Hutchinson; Fred and Lenna Studer of Goodland; LeAnne Peters of Shawnee Mission; Deanne Denny of North Platte, Neb.; Lanie Studer of Castle Rock, Colo.; Betty Lewis of McDonald; Al and Bonita Garcia and three grandchildren of McCook, Neb.; David Merklin of Benkelman, Neb.; Bill and Ruby Stock of McCook; Relgene and Wilma Zimbelman of Benkelman; Holly and Jordyn Hunt and Dustin

Bryan of Wyoming; Mike and Ginger Chadwick and Dusti, Alvin and Sylvia Zimbelman, Eldon and Dorothy Palmer, Jeff and Bobby Wolski and three children, Bill and Bonnie Fisher and five children, all of Goodland; Darlene Merklin, Morita Truman, Lacy, Dallas and Trevor Reed, Ron and Betty Loud-

en, Thelma Raile, Deloy Rogers, Ruth Reynolds, Justin and Danielle Gardner and Gus, Gena, Cara and Jasper Hunt, Kevin and Angie Berens, Joshua and Matthew and the honored guest, Leon Merklin, all of St. Francis.

The group enjoyed the wonderful meal, visiting and taking pictures.

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

Ads and copy DEADLINE for the June 3
The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be Tues., June 1 at 5 p.m.

The offices will be closed on Monday, May 31th. Newspapers will be delivered a day later.

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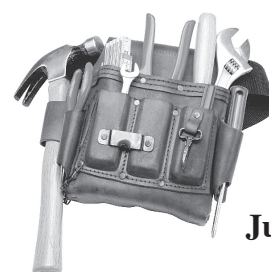
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