

COLBY
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8 pages

Lieutenant governor speaks

Kansas' future is in wind

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California, Colorado and the Black Hills of South Dakota all have gold in their respective histories. Kansas Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson said Kansas can also have gold a mine, but people won't be digging in the ground to find it.



Parkinson

They will be looking up. Parkinson said Kansas can benefit from the development of wind-generated electricity.

"It would be like a gold rush to the middle of the country," he said Monday. Parkinson was a featured speaker at the Colby Wind Summit held at City Limits Convention Center.

"This would be the biggest boon ever, in my lifetime, in western Kansas."

Parkinson said research shows winds are strong enough to turn turbines to generate electricity throughout western Kansas, specifically the counties that border Colorado. With continually increasing costs of other forms of energy, like oil, natural gas and coal, he said wind is becoming a more attractive way to generate electricity.

He said Kansas currently has

3 percent of all of its electricity generated by wind. In her 2007 state of the state address, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said her goal is to have 10 percent produced by 2010 and 20 percent by 2020.

Parkinson said other states have more wind-generated electricity than Kansas.

"Why is Kansas behind the times," Parkinson asked.

The challenges Kansas faces to increase wind generated electricity include location for wind generation, utility providers to purchase the electricity and transmission lines.

"The first step is to find a great site," he said. "The hardest step is to get a utility to buy it, by far the most difficult."

Parkinson said studies, which may take up to four years to finish, are underway to improve electric transmission lines.

One proposal is to install transmission lines from wind projects near Spearville east to Wichita and north into Nebraska to connect with other transmission lines. He said a cost estimate for transmission line construction is \$1 million per mile.

Parkinson also said some wind and utility officials have a perception Kansas is an anti-wind state and feared it is not an economically feasible idea in Kansas.

Parkinson said the only area he knows that is off limits from wind turbines are the Flint Hills, a popular, scenic area.

Parkinson said wind turbines

“The first step is to find a great site.”

Mark Parkinson
Kansas Lt. Gov.

will increase in Kansas once environmentalists, utilities and consumer advocacy groups come together in an unprecedented way to make more wind turbines productive in Kansas.

Some western Kansas locations are in the early stages of wind generation.

Projects in Gray and Ford counties already can produce a combined 212 megawatts.

Of all the wind projects in the state, including the ones planned for this year, they total producing up to 1,013 megawatts.

Those megawatts also produce dollars.

"One thousand megawatts costs \$200 million with long-term land leases and jobs," he said. Kansas is the seventh state in the country able to produce more than 1,000 megawatts.

"Kansas wind right now, for the most part, is used by Kansas. There is potential to sell to other states."

He said more people should utilize the winds in Kansas should certain things happen.

He said those three issues are when wind generation is economically competitive to coal-based electricity; Congress passes a law to force all electric

utilities to have a certain percentage of electricity produced by renewable sources and Congress passes a carbon tax.

Parkinson said wind-based electricity is becoming more competitive with coal.

"This map shows why we are so excited," Parkinson said pointing to places in extreme western Kansas where winds are usually the strongest in the state.

"I remember when wheat was \$4. Things are also looking up in energy," he said.

After the summit, Parkinson commented how wind projects relate to the debated, proposed coal-fired electric plants near Holcomb.

"Western Kansas does need base-load power," he said.

With proposals to sell the electricity from the Holcomb plants to out of state customers, Parkinson said western Kansas will still need a source of electricity.

The summit was sponsored by National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Kansas Rural Center, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission and the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Construction crews assembled a wind turbine near Spearville. Kansas Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson spoke Monday in Colby about the potential success of wind-generated electricity.

Kansas City man stabbed in Colby motel; arrest made

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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A Kansas City man was stabbed at a local motel and a Levant man has been arrested for the incident.

Guin Mangandy, 36, of Kansas City was found bleeding from

several upper body stab wounds at the County Club Drive Motel after a call was made to the Colby Police Department at 8:53 p.m. Monday, Detective Sergeant Gary Shull said this morning. The motel is located at 460 N. County Club Drive.

"Mr. Mangandy was transported to Citizens Medical Cen-

ter by ambulance where he was treated for his wounds," Shull said. "The injuries are not believed to be life threatening and Mr. Mangandy has been released from the hospital."

At 9:18 p.m., Santiago Quintero, 28 of Levant, was stopped two miles west of Colby on Interstate 70 by Colby Po-

lice Department Officers, Shull said. Officers were looking for Quintero after witnesses of the stabbing provided them a description of Quintero, who happens to be an acquaintance of Mangandy, he said.

"On April 15, Mr. Quintero was charged in Thomas County District Court with aggravated

battery with a dangerous weapon," Shull said.

"The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

Quintero is being held in the Thomas County Jail on a \$100,000 bond.

Shull said late Tuesday after-

noon a search warrant was executed on the vehicle Quintero was driving at the time he was stopped on I-70 and evidence from the car is being forwarded to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab in Great Bend.

Assisting the police were the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Highway Patrol.



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Jeff Thomas, business development manager with Overland Park based Custom Energy, left, talked to Thomas County Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers, as well as county clerk Shelly Harms about a proposal to save the county utility costs.

County reviews energy plans

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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A small mountain of paperwork rested on the Thomas County Commissioners' desk Monday after three energy companies vied for the job of upgrading four county buildings.

"If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me" Ryan Freed, program consultant for the Kansas Energy Office in Topeka said.

Freed sat in on the three and one-half hour long meeting as representatives from Lenexa

based Johnson Controls, Inc., and Chevron Energy Solutions and Custom Energy Services, L.L.C., both from Overland Park, proposed ways to save energy in the courthouse, law enforcement center and office complex.

Freed listened as the representatives talked about the state Facility Conservation Improvement Program.

The program allows government entities to enter into an agreement with a private energy service company to identify and evaluate energy saving opportunities. Those opportunities can be as simple as motion sensors for room

lighting to as elaborate as geothermal (underground) heating and air-conditioning systems.

"We like to call ourselves a local company with global access," Jon McCoy, public sector sales manager for Johnson Controls, said.

McCoy, along with Matthew Leaper, business development manager, and Casey Lauer, project development engineer, told Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers their proposal would likely save taxpayers \$21,448 per year over the next 30 years, or about \$643,462.

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Briefly

Orchestra set Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will conclude its 2007-08 season with a children's concert, *Music Through the Ages*, at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, in the Colby High School auditorium. The orchestra will partner with the Colby school band and vocal programs in presenting this final concert of the year, said Sharon Kriss, publicity chair and member of the orchestra. "More than 170 children from Colby grade school, middle school and high school will participate in this wonderful afternoon of music," she said. The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra is pleased to weThis final concert will be free to the public; however, free-will donations will be accepted at the door.

Marriage event April 26

Couples Conference 2008: Making Good Marriages Great will be live via satellite and is being sponsored by Colby Wesleyan Church and Church Communication Network from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26. The satellite conference will be held at the church, 320 W. Pine, with breakfast and lunch included. Free childcare is available

by reservation. To reserve a place or questions, call 462-8391.

'Aprilfest' planned

The Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization is sponsoring "Aprilfest," from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, April 27, in the school's gymnasium. The event, said Susan McLemore, one of the coordinators, will be a "fun afternoon of polka dancing and bingo." Music will be provided by the *Wes Windholtz Polka Band* from Hays, which features accordion, guitar, clarinova and saxophone. An admission fee will be charged for entry into the polka dance or bingo, or both. For costs, call McLemore 443-3042.

Museum sets meeting

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will have its annual meeting at 6:15 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at the facility, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. The "Connection" campaign kick-off will be fun and entertaining, organizers said, and feature appearances by archeologists, homesteaders, and many other personalities. To reserve a complimentary ticket or

questions, call (785) 460-4590 or e-mail: prairiem@st-tel.net by Wednesday, April 23.

Teams forming for event

Teams are now forming for the July 25-26 annual Relay for Life in Thomas County, said Diane Stithem, publicity chair. This event will again be held at Fike Park in Colby and all proceeds will go toward cancer research, finding a cure and fighting the disease. If interested in forming a team or individuals wanting to be on a team, call 462-2383 or 443-2119 and register.

Annual springfest May 3

The town of McDonald will hold its third annual "Springfest" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 3, on the main street of downtown McDonald. Events scheduled include Teddy Bear Show/Contest; horse-shoe pitching tournament; coin toss for children; Mother/Daughter tea, craft items, garage sale finds, baked goods and more. For questions, call McIntosh, (785) 538-2475. McDonald Springfest is open to all. "We hope everyone will plan to spend the day in McDonald," she said.

Garden program planned

"Growing Healthier Garden Plants," cancelled due to the snowstorm last week, has been rescheduled at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22, in the 4-H Building on the Thomas County fairgrounds. The program will offer the latest information on preparing gardens for this year's growing season, said Clint Milliman, Thomas County Extension agent.

Amusement group to meet

The Thomas County Amusement Association, which oversees operations, purchases and upkeep of the community-owned carnival rides, will meet at 8 p.m., Monday, at the 4-H Building.

Grass pickup Monday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department's grass pickup begins Monday officials said. "Clippings must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on the resident's regular trash day and must be in a separate tipper can from household waste," said Chris Bieker, public works supervisor. "Clippings must be placed in a tipper marked "grass" and loose, without plastic bags."