

Weather

Township asks county to split wind-farm cash

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Stramel said he has land that will be used for the project, and the company will pay him rent to use his land for a turbine.

Stramel figured that since the county will receive \$2,250 per megawatt produced, a potential of \$243,000 will be generated for the county each year.

If the county divided 25 percent of that among the three townships, he said, each would receive \$20,250, leaving the county with \$182,000 a year.

Stramel said Summers has 21 miles of road right-of-way that could be used by Acciona and that the township, along with the other two, will share an increased burden.

He said that the township will have to hire people to make sure Acciona runs lines correctly and digs trenches properly, among other activities.

Commissioner Paul Steele reminded the trustees that the company, under the hold-harmless contract, promises to fix any road damage, and that it will hold the townships harmless of damage. He said the supervision would not be necessary.

"You don't think it's a little reckless (to not watch over work being done)?" countered Stramel. "I would just like to see a little something come back (to Summers Township)."

Reed added that, "Being left out of negotiations (between Acciona and the Thomas County Commissioners) doesn't sound like open and fair government, and the county getting money in lieu of taxes doesn't pass the smell test, to me."

"We didn't (exempt Acciona from property taxes)," stressed Steele. "The state legislature did."

"You don't see anything

wrong with a company buying you off?" Reed asked. "It smells to me as borderline illegal. If the Legislature doesn't want to tax it, then what gives the county the right to get money back?"

"Every dollar that comes into our budget is accounted for," Christiansen said. "It will go into the general fund, and that payment will help every taxpayer of Thomas County."

Steele said he didn't see that the township should have any extra expenses as a result of the wind farm.

The discussion was finished up quickly, since the next appointment was waiting.

"We'll give it some thought," Christiansen said. "I kind of understand what you mean."

No action was taken on the matter, especially since the commissioners haven't yet received word that the project will get off the ground.

Girl, 18, killed child for 'fun'

From "GIRL," Page 1

feet shackled together, Bustamante rose and faced Elizabeth's mother and siblings before she was sentenced Wednesday.

"I know words," she said, pausing to take a deep breath and struggling to compose herself, "can never be enough and they can never adequately describe how horribly I feel for all of this."

"If I could give my life to get her back I would. I'm sorry."

Elizabeth's mother, Patty Preiss, who on the first day of Bustamante's sentencing hearing called her "an evil monster" and declared that she "hated her" sat silently, staring forward during Bustamante's apology.

The Olten family declined to comment to reporters, as did Bustamante's family.

Bustamante had been charged with first-degree murder and by pleading guilty to the lesser charges she avoided a trial and the possibility of spending her life in an adult prison with no chance of release.

The teenager's defense attorneys had argued for a sentence less than life in prison, saying Bustamante's use of the antidepressant Prozac had made her more prone to violence. They said she had suffered from depression for years and once attempted suicide by overdosing on painkillers.

But prosecutors sought a longer sentence. They noted that Bustamante had dug two graves several days in advance, and that on the evening of the killing had sent her younger sister to lure Elizabeth outside with an invitation to play. Missouri State

Highway Patrol Sgt. David Rice testified that the teenager told him "she wanted to know what it felt like" to kill someone. Prosecutors also cited journal entries in which Bustamante described the exhilaration of killing Elizabeth.

"I strangled them and slit their throat and stabbed them now they're dead," Bustamante wrote in her diary, which was read in court by a handwriting expert. "I don't know how to feel atm. It was ahmazing. As soon as you get over the 'ohmygawd I can't do this' feeling, it's pretty enjoyable. I'm kinda nervous and shaky though right now. Kay, I gotta go to church now...lol."

Bustamante then headed off to a youth dance at her church while a massive search began for the missing girl.

Officials prepare for disease

From "OFFICIALS," Page 1

agricultural and livestock jobs as well.

She said a possible outbreak of animal disease could cause serious problems, so it's important for those who would handle it to get training before an emergency.

"It is important for speed and efficiency of response," she said, "to ensure local officials are able to handle an emergency, they are being educated on the processes to take, their specific roles during a crisis and building relationships with colleagues."

"A serious outbreak can't just be

handled by one person. It takes a group effort."

Cmic said she was pleased about the number of participants at the training session and especially how many officials from Thomas County showed up.

"Thomas County is in good hands," she said. "Your county representatives seem to be well informed, willing to take initiative and I've gotten a good response from them."

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House drawing new district map

From "HOUSE," Page 1

eliminates a single district each in southeast, southwest and central Kansas, adding districts in the Kansas City area.

Senators were expected to consider multiple plans when they debated congressional redistricting Wednesday afternoon.

Their bill expands the underpopulated 1st District of western and central Kansas to sweep in the Manhattan area in northeast Kansas. Local officials want to remain in the 2nd District.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns for Thursday Evening (February 9, 2012) and Premium Channels, listing various TV shows and their times.



Table with columns for Friday Evening (February 10, 2012) and Premium Channels, listing various TV shows and their times.

Briefly

Women's group to sell soup for preschool

Kappa Upsilon, a women's service group, has rescheduled its annual soup supper to benefit Puddle Duck Preschool for 5 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, at the Community Building during the Colby-Hugoton basketball games.

Colby schools holding book fairs this week

A Scholastic Book Fair at Colby Grade School continues from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday. A fair at Colby Middle School is open during school hours and parent-teacher conferences through Monday.

Dr. Regier to talk about her work in Ghana

Dr. LaDonna Regier, who has been practicing medicine in Ghana, West Africa, for the past year, will talk about her experiences at 7 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 855 E. Fifth St.

Youth league signing players for spring

The Colby Area Youth Basketball League is registering players in first through sixth grades. Games will be on Saturdays from Feb. 18 to March 10.

Enjoy pasta and music at Auxiliary dinner

Bring your date for an evening of light music at a spaghetti dinner sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the American Legion Hall, 1859 W. Fourth St.

Baptist church plans marriage, family week

The Colby Independent Baptist Church will celebrate a Marriage and Family Week next week with Stephen Perkins of Ocean Springs, Miss., preaching a series of Bible messages at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. Monday through next Wednesday.

Red Cross blood drive scheduled in Colby

There will be a Red Cross blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. next Wednesday at the National Guard Armory in Colby. Chicken-salad sandwiches will be served.

Seniors plan potluck at Presbyterian hall

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes on Tuesday and Tuesday, March 13, at the First Presbyterian Church.

Free help with taxes offered by senior group

Free tax preparation will be available from experts trained by the American Association of Retired Persons' Tax-Aide program, by appointment only, on Wednesdays through April 11 at the Colby Community College library.

Group seeks Random Acts of Kindness

The Thomas County Community Foundation is promoting "Random Acts of Kindness Week" from Monday to Sunday, Feb. 19, to challenge residents, businesses and organizations to perform small charitable deeds.

Kids can learn to cook at free, fun classes

Kids-a-Cookin', a free, fun, hands-on cooking and nutrition class for third through fifth graders will be Thursdays, Feb. 16, March 15, and April 19. Sign-up by calling the Colby City Recreation Department at 460-4440.

Foundation plans pulled-pork dinner

The Thomas County Community Foundation invites everyone to a meal of pulled-pork sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, chips and dessert at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, during the Colby High School basketball Senior Night and Pink Zone night at the Community Building.