

Energy center site ready for action

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company. He said the firm has its main offices for North American in Atlanta.

He said the biodiesel plant is in the permit stage, and he expects it to move quickly because there is less pollution with a biodiesel plant than the others.

The permit for the biodiesel is expected by April, and Justus said the paperwork will be submitted to the state in the next three weeks. Paperwork on the ethanol plant permit is to be sent to the state next week.

“There isn’t much going on right now as we wait for the paperwork to be completed,” Pickman said, “but by March there should be lots of activity, and a tremendous amount of piping to be laid.

Justus said he expects it to take 150 workers to assemble the ethanol plant, and a smaller crew of about 50 to construct the biodiesel plant. Pickman said it will not take a lot of workers to do the infrastruc-

ture work.

“We have had calls from all over — from Florida, New York and other states — and they all want to come to work,” Pickman said. “We have had lots of positive comments and people calling every day who want to invest in the project.

“Most of the ones calling say they have school-age kids and want to raise them in a rural community.”

Jerry Fairbanks, attorney for First National Bank who is advising the

energy center, said the project has improved the feeling in the community.

Larry McCants, president of First National Bank and a leading investor in the energy center, said he thinks it has galvanized the community and given people a reason to smile.

McCants asked Justus if Bob Hamlin, the head of the construction crew from Ari Systems of Billings, Mont. is ready for the 24-hour

work schedule.

“I think he is ready,” Justus said, “but I am not sure the motels and restaurants are ready for that.”

He said there will probably be four people added to the 11 now working in the project’s downtown offices, and that there are two coming in from South Africa, where they had been working on another project. ReNewable has bought three buildings in the 1200 block of Main for its offices.

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Lawsuit filed against London firm

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin Herald

The owners of the burned-out Oberlin bowling alley have filed a lawsuit against underwriters for Lloyd’s of London who had the insurance on the building.

The suit, first filed in the Decatur County District Court, was removed to federal court based on the “diversity of citizenship” of the parties.

The suit seeks \$300,000, the amount Centennial Bowl and the Red Crown Lounge, which burned down in May, were insured for by the owners.

Ken Morgan and Maurice Zoderow, through their corporation, Zoderow and Morgan, Inc., filed the lawsuit in October. Their lawyer, Elmo Lund, said this week that it is pending in federal court.

Basically, he said, the insurance company reneged on their contracts and refused to pay for the fire damage. He said the men hired a local insurance company which brokered with a company in Kansas City, which brokered with the underwriters at Lloyd’s of London, Med James, Inc.

Lloyd’s is known for working with movie stars and the like to insure things, like an actress’s legs, which might seem odd to some. The company, a loose alliance of partnerships, works through an insurance broker to write policies. The company’s website states that they are “trusted to insure the world’s toughest risks.”

The lawsuit, said Mr. Lund, has been removed from county court to federal court in Wichita. In these cases, he said, it can take one to two years for a decision because of the schedule in federal court.

“Insurance companies like to drag the cases on,” he said, “but at sometime it will end.”

Mr. Zoderow said he was not allowed to say anything about the case, referring the caller to his lawyer. Mr. Lund said in insurance cases, it is normally “a fight for every inch.”

The bowling alley and bar were destroyed by a fire in the middle of the night May 30. A deputy state fire marshal investigated the ruins along with Undersheriff Randy McHugh. Cash boxes had been emptied and evidence of possible accelerants used to start the fire were found.

The fire marshal said the fire was caused by arson, but so far, despite many rumors, no charges have been filed, and no case has been presented to the county attorney.

The case is still pending, said Undersheriff McHugh, and they are waiting on some test results. No arrests have been made.

The petition says that the cost to replace the building is more than \$250,000 and the personal property more than \$125,000.

Mr. Morgan and Mr. Zoderow had a general liability insurance policy which insures the building for a maximum amount of \$200,000 and the contents for \$100,000. The men are asking for \$300,000 to be paid for the building and the belongings which were ruined by the fire.

The defendants in the case are Heritage Managing Agency, Ltd., an underwriter for Lloyd’s.

At 3 p.m. on Tuesday, those involved are scheduled to have a telephone conference on the case.

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