

Commissioners listen to plan to utilize wind power

By Karen Krien karen.k@nwkans.com
Joining together with 18 counties to pursue wind energy in northwest Kansas was proposed to the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met on Thursday.

Dan Hartman, representing the Logan County Development Corporation, said he was encouraging commissioners from the 18 counties in northwest Kansas to attend a Regional Wind Energy Group meeting at the Colonial Steakhouse Restaurant in Oakley. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Aug. 13.

Mr. Hartman said that wind energy is coming again and he doesn't see it being stopped or slowed down. He said it was in the best interest of the counties in northwest Kansas to come together and have a collective voice.

"We either grow or we die, he said. There is no option. He went on to say that wind energy is one of the first things that has come down the road that can put additional income in the hands of farmers and ranchers. This money, he said, translates into the communities. And, he said, we don't have to become a big city just to maintain it.

"We need to take the leadership realm and go with it," he said. "We live where there are the best and most consistent winds."

He said there will be several utility companies as well as Senator Sam Brownback. The commissioners appeared to be interested in going to the meeting.

Farmer complains about prairie dogs

Vernon Schrader owns land north of Bird City. He was at the meeting to talk about prairie dogs on neighboring land owned by Irene Burkhalter and farmed by her son Kevin Burkhalter.

He said the Burkhalter ground is "alive" with prairie dogs. They have ruined some of his wheat and he has talked to Mr. Burkhalter. However, he does not feel that Mr. Burkhalter is doing anything nor will he get rid of the dogs.

Dan Schlittenhardt, prairie dog manager, said prairie dogs will travel 8 to 9 miles. Untreated, they can gain 70 percent a year. He said at this time of year, treating prairie dogs is expensive and the chemical doesn't work very well.

He suggested that the county attorney sent both Mrs. Burkhalter and her son a letter explaining that Mr. Burkhalter is responsible for treating the dogs. If nothing is done, then the county will come in and treat the dogs and the Burkhalters will be billed for the costs.

Mr. Schlittenhardt said the damage is done and it probably won't hurt much if they wait until Oct. 1 to treat them properly.

Mr. Schrader will be kept informed.

Mr. Schlittenhardt gave his budget report and was given permission to attend a forum on Aug. 26 which concerns prairie dog treatment.

Budget goes up

Jack Eldridge, the county's auditor, discussed the budget. The commissioners found an excess of \$15,000 in the courthouse equipment reserve and it was

transferred to the courthouse capital outlay fund.

There were some other adjustments made and the commissioners approved the budget to be published in this week's Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times.

The budget increased 1.128 mills over that in 2008. Mr. Eldridge said a lot of the increase was due to the rising fuel prices.

A mill in 2008 was \$39,500; in 2009, the mill will be worth \$41,000.

Mr. Eldridge said that few counties he knew did not go down in valuation and others are going up in the double digits.

The budget hearing will be held at 9 a.m. on Aug. 31 in the courthouse during the regular commissioners' meeting.

In other business

In other business:

• Dr. Brett Poling, who has gravel for county roads, said he and Chris Bracelin had come to an agreement about letting the county trucks cross a small portion of his land to get to the gravel. He said he will need help with the fence. No decision was made.

• Carol Gambelin, 911 dispatch director, said she had hired Tyler Howard to fill in for the night dispatch position. She was also given permission to purchase two hand-held radios for \$435 each. The money will be taken out of the 911 Funds.

• The commissioners accepted the resignation of Randy Sangster, appraiser.

• Carl Williams retired as full-time maintenance supervisor as of Aug. 31. Shelley Christiansen has been working part time in the position. The commissioners appointed her as the new maintenance supervisor. Mr. Williams will continue part-time.

• Cathy Domsch, Bird City Century II director, updated the commissioners on the progress of the organization. She said in the fall, the new housing project will begin going up. Commissioner Andy Beikman said she must have her ducks in a row because she was sure getting a lot done.

• Sheriff Craig Van Allen and his deputies were given approval to attend a legal update class in Colby. This is a free class and the deputies will learn about new Kansas Statutes. He also said officer Ted McCoy will begin the training academy on Aug. 18, finishing in November.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be at 8 a.m. on Monday when the commissioners will count the ballots.

The next regular meeting has been moved to 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 18.



WILLIAM PORTER is prepared to lead the students and faculty of the Cheylin schools. Together with his wife, Veronica, they are making Bird City their new home. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cheylin schools ready to start the year with new leadership

By Linda Schneider dublins@hotmail.com
William Porter said he looks forward to working with the staff and students as Cheylin School's new superintendent/principal.

Mr. Porter was born in Sioux City, Iowa. He said that he comes from a "blended" family of nine children and he speaks fondly of his younger half-sister who died of cancer in 2000.

As a young man, he joined the Navy, trained as an electrician, and did two tours in Vietnam. When he went to college to become a teacher, he worked as an electrician. Why did he choose teaching over working as an electrician? he said, "I had more fun working with kids then with wires."

Mr. Porter was the first to graduate with a high school diploma on his father's side of the family. In addition, he is the only person on his mother's side to hold any thing over a bachelor degree.

His wife, Veronica was born in Akron, Iowa, and has two younger brothers. She was raised in a traditional two-parent family, quite unlike Mr. Porter's blended family. On a leave from the Navy, Will stood Veronica up on their first date when he found out she was 15-years-old, 8 years his junior. He went back to Vietnam for 13 months, came home on leave again, took her out for the first time when she was 17-years-old, and they have been married for 40 years.

They have four children, Stephanie, James, Daniel and Michael. Their three sons all work for the Union Pacific Railroad driving trains and their daughter has an in-home day care business. In addition, they have 11 grandchildren, ages 1-month through 20-years-old.

Mrs. Porter has held several

different types of jobs (from working at Zenith Radio on the assembly line in Sioux City to sewing industrial restaurant aprons in North Platte, Neb.) But her favorite job was working as a para professional for special-ed students for 4 years. It was challenging and something new everyday. She has not decided if she will substitute at Cheylin.

Being in the military, Mr. Porter and his family moved around a lot. They have lived in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and now Kansas. He also has an educational certificate in those four states.

Always working and teaching in small schools, Mr. Porter's biggest challenge has been keeping the small schools open. The last school district he worked at had nine schools that had to be consolidated to one. Sadly, he says the state legislation makes decisions and passes bills without a clue of how important our small schools are.

"They never stop to look at the big picture. Students are able to receive the better one-on-one attention they need in the smaller schools, while the bigger schools have more drop outs," he said. "But the larger city schools have the numbers for funding and more opportunities."

Mr. Porter has often worked with troubled kids who most people had given up on and helped most of them graduate from high school. This is what he likes to do best and he thinks it comes from the tough neighborhood he grew up in. Every now and then, one of the students will contact him and let them know how they are doing.

In coming to Cheylin, he said, "Following Dave Zumbahlen as superintendent is great, he left everything in good order."

Mr. Porter comes to Cheylin with 35 years in education, 27 teaching and 8 years in administration experience.

Demolition derby will entertain all

By Karen Krien karen.k@nwkans.com
Saturday night should be one of the biggest demolition derbies in the area.

With both the super weld and hobo (no weld) classes and a guaranteed \$1,000 first-prize in both classes, Clay Zimbelman, head of the Derby Committee, is expecting around 40 entries at the Cheyenne County Fair Derby. To accommodate the huge crowd, the board is bringing in extra seating. Action begins at 7 p.m. in front of the grandstand on the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

"There will be some really good competition this year," Mr. Zimbelman said.

With the super weld, he said, there will be more hard hitting and the action will last longer.

Rules for the super-weld class allows cars to be built stronger. They can also be repaired and used again and again until there is so much damage that they cannot be repaired. The super weld cars, Mr. Zimbelman said, lets the owner build it stronger than the original "weld-car" class.

Trophies and prize money will be handed out to the winners. Besides the first prize, there will be second-, third- and fourth-place prizes along with heat place money. Trophies

are unique, hand crafted by Mr. Zimbelman and John Guthmiller.

Head judge this year is Ron Neitzel. He will have his crew out on the derby arena. Mr. Neitzel is a judge at other derbies and he has received good reviews.

The starting time for the derby is 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9, in front of the grandstand at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. Mr. Zimbelman said the derby is expected to begin on time with the driver's meeting being held prior to starting time.

Lawnmower tractor pull

To keep the crowd entertained between the heats, the board has organized a lawnmower tractor pull. A sled which weights can be added has been constructed to fasten on the mowers.

There will be two classes: a stock class and a modified class.

Mr. Zimbelman said the only restrictions are: the mower has to be air cooled and the motor can be no larger than 30-horse power.

Those 10- to 16-year olds entering will be allowed to ride only stock mowers and will need a parent's signed release. Contestants 10 to 14 need to have parents present to help them.

Those entering the modified class must be at least 16-years old with a valid driver's license.

Bird City News

Maude Elliott's son, Bill Elliott, from Amarillo, Texas, arrived on Wednesday to attend the Antique Thresher Show. Also visiting with Maude and attending the Thresher Show was Trent and Abby Elliott with their children; Elizabeth and Drew. They arrived on Thursday. They all returned on Saturday to Amarillo, and celebrated Judy Elliott's birthday, Bill's wife. Trent and Abby returned to Dallas on Sunday morning.

Visitors of Stan and Dee Dorsch for the Antique Engine and Threshers Show were Scott, Dawn, Austrin and Andrew

Dorsch from Fort Collins, Colo. and Scott, Jennifer, Emily and Anna Erickson from Des Moines, Iowa. Anna was privileged to play fiddle tunes with the Highway 385 Band at the Friday evening entertainment.

Mr. and Mrs. August Homburg of Ellis, were overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Dorsch. Edna Homburg is a sister of Hulda Dorsch.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Dorsch were Monday morning brunch guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Antholz. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Siechrest of Hillsboro, were also guests.

Dance Ranch Enrollment
Aug. 8 - Aug. 22
Ages 3-18
Tap • Ballet • Jazz • Novelty
Enroll early to ensure optimal class size.
Classes start Sept. 8th
For more information call Teresa Porter @ (785) 332-2100
If no answer please leave message

Knights of Columbus BBQ
Saturday, Aug. 9 ~ 4:30-6 p.m.
Cheyenne County Fairgrounds
Serving BBQ Beef • Baked Beans
Potato Chips • Iced Tea
Free-Will Offering
(Suggested Donation of \$5 per person)

Bird City Diner
Cruise Night
2nd Saturday, 6 p.m.
Each Month
Cheeseburger Special for Cruisers
"Show off your ride and enjoy the fun."
Highway 36, Bird City, Ks.

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Sainty Super's in St. Francis, Kansas is looking for a Meat Department Manager. This is a full time position including salary commensurate with experience, annual bonus, and an excellent benefits package.
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E O E

"When can I turn my baby's car seat around to face forward?"
"Has my child's car seat been recalled?"
"Why doesn't my car seat stay high in my car?"
Car Seat Check Up Event August 15th
All Children Under the Age of 10 Should Attend!
Make sure your children are being transported as safely as possible. Attend a free check point with child passenger safety experts.
Dundy County Hospital
1313 North Cheyenne
Benkelman, Neb.
Friday, August 15th "Caring For Our Community"
2 to 5:30 p.m. (mt) website: bwtelcom.net/dch
"To what age should my child be in a safety seat?"