

# Wind energy planning begins

By Tom Betz

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Commissioners from 13 northwest counties gathered Wednesday morning near Oakley as the first step to developing a collaborative effort to develop wind energy in the region.

The wind energy conference was the idea of Dan Hartman, Logan County economic development director, who set up the meeting to see if the commissioners from the region were interested in pursuing a collaborative program.

Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas attended the session and Republican Nominee Max Linn, who won the primary election over Commissioner Kevin Rasure went with the commissioners.

The group agreed to meet again at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, to look at how to take the next step in forming a regional wind energy group.

Sen. Sam Brownback made the conference one of his stops on a 10-county tour, and told the audience he felt northwest Kansas was the sweet spot for wind energy development, and applauded the idea of a regional development effort.

Brownback said he favored developing all forms of energy and said he felt in the future the country would need all energy sources.

"I support all kinds of energy production including coal-fired plants," he said.

He said from the federal level he was supporting efforts to extend the production tax credit for wind energy for more than a year up to five years. He said it is hard to get that done and that is why the energy tax is being extended a year at a time.

He said he is working with Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado on legislation to support small wind projects with tax credits and incentives and possibly revolving loan funds for the smaller community based projects.

He said over the years the power grid has been built mostly state by state, and the wind power needs to have ways to extend the delivery beyond the state lines.



Sen. Sam Brownback (center) chatted with Sherman County Commissioners Chuck Thomas (left) and Mitch Tiede (right) and Thomas County Commissioner Ken Christiansen at the 13-county wind energy conference held Wednesday morning.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

One question raised from the audience was that the production tax credit are aimed at large corporations and does not help many of the smaller projects.

Brownback asked if making the tax credit tradable would help.

The answer from parts of the audience was that could be the best idea.

Hartman said the first question for the commissioners was to know if they can work together on such a regional project and the second was if they want to work together.

"People have discovered what we already knew," he said, "the wind blows in western Kansas.

"Wind energy is coming, and we can have better clout by working to-

gether. We each can do a project, but together we can do even more."

Speakers Charles Newcomb of Entegrity Wind Systems of Charlottesville, Prince Edward Island, Canada, and Mike Bowman of National Agricultural Energy Work Group 25x25 talked about the importance of wind energy and the opportunity to develop projects.

Bowman said the 25x25 group's goal is to have 25 percent of renewable energy come from agriculture by 2025.

"We need it all," he said, "large and small. What we develop will fill the gap as demand for energy climbs."

He said people need to follow a "Yes, if..." principal that is always positive rather than a more negative

approach to any ideas.

Newcomb said the wind energy development is certainly coming to western Kansas, and the people need to be educated about what is available and what works.

"You need to protect yourself from the hype around wind," he said. "There is lots of excitement, and that creates a lot of bad ideas."

He said using the Kansas wind map report is a good place to start, but that a National Weather Service study of wind shows it varies by as much as 50 percent per year.

"Be careful," he said. "Make sure the developer knows what they are doing and the turbines have been tested and is not just a prototype."

# City removes fence from slab at Steever Park

FENCE, from Page 1a

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked to have the city insurance checked before the park and location were approved more than a year ago.

Research on the Internet shows at least 30 skate parks open in the state, and some are fenced while at least a couple in Pratt and Syracuse are not fenced.

Colorado has more than 100 skate parks and the range is from fenced ones because they were originally tennis courts to having low fences to being wide open.

Most of the skate parks in both states have information recommended safety equipment be worn, and post a list of rules. Many have a warning that using the park could be dangerous and that the person does so at their own risk.

The insurance company questionnaire asks if a written set of rules are posted, and if the skate park is enclosed with a fence to control access.

Bohme said the committee was planning to put up a list of rules including most of what the insurance company is requesting, but did not plan to put up a fence around the park.

Another question is whether the

city requires liability waivers to be signed by anyone over the age of 18 using the skateboard park or by parents of those below that age.

Hill said he does not see the city requiring signed waivers because he does not see any way to pay someone to monitor the skate park. He was not sure about putting up a fence, and, who would pay for a fence if required.

Bohme said the youth committee is raising more money for the equipment to go on the slab, but that has not been ordered. She said the half pipe alone is estimated to cost \$20,000, and there is about \$25,000 available to purchase the equipment.

# Sherman Relay for Life begins tonight at track

RELAY, from Page 1a

famous Bingo tent will run, but in a different location near the parking lot.

At 9 p.m., luminaries will be lighted in the Ceremony of Hope. People pay \$10 each to sponsor luminaries in honor of friends or relatives who have cancer, survived cancer or died from cancer, Dechant said.

The Kiwanis Snack Shack will serve burgers until 10 p.m. and the Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast starting at 5 a.m., with the proceeds to go to the relay.

The goal for this year is \$42,000. Some of the money raised will be spent in Sherman County to help cancer patients pay traveling expenses to get treatments, Dechant said.

Last year, the relay raised \$45,000, including sale of 1,700 luminaries, he said. Early fund-raising activities have included selling bierocks, spaghetti dinners, other food items, garage sales and collecting aluminum cans for recycling. New for this year was an ice-cream social for the survivors and the "Don't Let Cancer

Get Your Goat" goat-deliver day. People paid to get a goat out of their yard or to put in someone else's.

For information, call Dechant at Frontier Ag at (785) 899-3681, Jessica Kannady at home, (785) 890-3285 or Sherida Shoff at First National Bank at 890-2000.

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# Woman part of Heroes of Hope

WOMAN, from Page 1a

a friend who could remove it." She had the lump removed in Longmont, Colo., and the day before her 25th birthday was diagnosed with stage 2 Hodgkins Lymphoma.

"I was at stage 2," she said; "there are four stages."

She then had chemotherapy every other week for six months and had contrast scans, where she was injected with radiation and then doctors looked to see if the cancer was shrinking.

In six months, the cancer was gone, she said, adding she had lost all her hair and had other side effects from treatment, including dark spots on her skin called burns, but she knows it could have been worse.

"Hair comes back," Kear said. "I'm still alive. You hear about so many who lose the battle with cancer."

One who did was Kear's husband's grandmother, who had the same type of cancer and is the reason she became involved in Relay for Life six years ago. Her mother-in-law wanted to do the race in honor of her mother, and Kear decided to join her.

"Two years later," Kear said, "I was surprised to be walking the survivor lap. It was so surreal."

At the training, Kear said, she was told one of the things Heroes would do is talk about what Relay for Life means to them. She speaks very passionately about what the relay and the society have done.

"Twenty years ago people died from the type of cancer I had," she said. "Now, thanks to the American Cancer Society, research and technology has improved, and it is possible to beat it."

Also, she said, the society is one of few charities that put on their web site where all their money goes. She recommends calling the society's toll-free 24-hour hotline at (800) ACS-2345 or visiting the web site at www.relayforlife.org to find out more.

And she encourages prevention and early detection.

"I encourage people to go to their doctor for check ups," she said. "Many people think cancer happens to old people, but it doesn't discriminate."

One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer during their life, she said; money raised at Relay saves lives by paying for research, early detection and prevention education, advocacy efforts and patient services.

Kear said she appreciates what the society has accomplished in improving the resources available. When someone has cancer and is fighting for their life, she said, the last thing they need is to be worried about how to afford a wig, how to get to their doctor appointments and how to pay for a hotel afterward.

Kear said she will continue to work with the society because she wants to help to find a cure.

"I hope my kids' kids don't even know that word," she said.

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For the Pratt Estate & Others

Date: Saturday, August 23

Time: 10 a.m. CT (doors open at 8 a.m. day of sale)

Auction location: T-N-T & Jones Auction Facility\* 200 N. Franklin, Colby, Kan.

Preview sale items between 5-7 p.m. CT Friday, August 22

### Household Items

- Brass Quilt rack
- Brass towel holder
- Early American lamp
- Dishes
- Pink Depression Ice bucket & stemware
- Assorted silver candlesticks/nut bowls
- Mustache cup
- Hummel Salt & Pepper mustard w/tray
- Set of China (6+) Alfred Meakin (Medina) Shape
- The India Tree pattern; graving bowls; platters; cup & saucers; serving boat; soup bowls
- Bavarian Childs dish
- Crystal cake plate

### Toys

- Comics
- Mattel - Annie doll
- Mickey Mouse Musketeers hat
- Tin Toy (Childs) crane with seat
- Set of 7 German dolls in original boxes
- Gas model airplanes
- Slick Shooter Mattel Game
- JD toy tractor
- Popeye game
- Brio (Sweden) Geese feeding toy
- Give-A-Show Projector toy
- Erector set
- Childs microscope with box
- Marx train set/track
- Pogo (Hippy Hop)
- Tonka dump truck; crane loader
- Slingin' Slot game
- Saitoh 1969 Tin Silver bell clanger engine
- Lincoln Logs
- Hagelle's Marionettes in org box #304 Sailor

### Music Equipment

- Quanta 700 Stereo Set
- 33 Records
- Orion Cassette player
- Ludwig snare drum/stand
- 78 records-albums
- Electric Kids Organ

- Appliances/Tools
- Several TV's and DVD players
- Dishwashers, Stove, Maytag Washer/Dryer
- Panasonic Jetflo vacuum
- JC Penny Electric typewriter
- Wizard 5 Hp Rotor tiller
- Cub Cadet 5.5 Hp 21" cut self propelled mower
- Table Saws - Black & Decker - DeWalt
- Miter Box saw
- Hedge clipper (electric)
- Tool boxes assorted hand tools
- Better Homes & Gardens globe
- Vintage clothing
- Whiskey Barrel sink
- Advertisement display (old) from Pratt Hardware
- Seth Thomas Octagon Wall clock from Pratt Hardware
- Gold Banner-Coronado-1541-1941
- Drill Motor (electric)

### Furniture

- Assorted couches, chairs, rockers
- Assorted beds, headboards, modern Bunk Bed
- Walnut 4 pc bedroom cabinets
- Maple chest of drawer w/mirror
- Walnut desk
- Oak Lion's Head Buffet w/beveled mirror-1800s
- 1890s parlor table
- Credenza
- Oak Roll top desk
- 1930s Mission Pine cabinet top
- Mexican Childs rocker
- Cedar Chest
- 1970s Spanish style bar w/2 stools

Much more day of sale!

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# A New Star on the Horizon



The Goodland Star-News