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Contract offered for power

BV KIMBERLY DAVIS

kldavis@nwkansas.com Sunflower Wind has offered what company representatives say is as close to a "no-risk" contract the City of Oberlin will see to provide wind power to the city in place of the coalfired power the city is now buying from Sunflower Electric.

The contract sent to the city at the end of November offers to sell power at 9.1 cents per kilowatt hour. Brice Barton, with Sunflower Wind, said it also includes a "reverse bidding" structure that would allow the firm a chance to match any lower offer the city gets, if it can.

If another supplier wants to bid 16 months out from when the city's current contract ends, the city can take bids. If the bid is better than 9.1 cent, he said, then Sunflower Wind will have another chance to bid.

Basically, said Dan Rasure, managing partner with Sunflower Wind, the city will decide on the best, lowest price and the supplier that will work best for them.

The starting point in the contract, he said, is the current average price the city is paying now. Sunflower wind hopes to build a "wind farm" to generate power in Decatur County, both to supply the city and make power to sell. It would have biological and other backup power production for when the wind isn't

At a meeting on Thursday, Nov. 15, the council talked about the contract, although representatives from Sunflower Wind were not present. They plan to be at the meeting on Thursday to discuss the contract and answer questions.

Mr. Rasure said under the contract, the city wouldn't be required to run its power plant all the time.

"When we guarantee load to the tee the city doesn't have to run it all the time.'

in a "dire emergency," such as a line down or a grid failure. The city doesn't run the plant most of the time today, he added, but the Sunflower contract does require it to keep and maintain the plant as a backup. If the city decides to sell the plant Sunflower Wind has the first

Council todecide ondog

The City Council might decide the fate of an Oberlin family's American Staffordshire Terrier when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

At the last meeting in November, Jennifer Fahrenbruch asked the council if she could keep her dog. The city has an ordinance banning pit bulls, and it includes American Staffordshire Terriers in the list of types not allowed to live in city limits.

The Fahrenbruches live at 109 N. Grand, which is where the city's animal control officer, Jeff Johnson, saw the dog. Mrs. Fahrenbruch received a letter from the city giving her two weeks to get rid of the pet.

She instead decided to appeal to the council, telling the members her dog isn't a pit bull (See CITY on Page 8A)

chance to buy it.

Signing this contract, he said, would be a good insurance policy because the city knows it will be able to purchase power for just over 9 cents for years to come. This way, said Mr. Barton, the city can lock in a price now.

The contract, said Mr. Rasure, is only to take over the part of the city," said Mr. Barton. "We guaran-city's power needs currently bought from Sunflower Electric, a Haysbased generation and transmission Running the power plant, said cooperative with transmission lines Mr. Rasure, might be necessary across western Kansas. He said Sunflower Wind hopes to be the city's sole provider, but the firm is taking things one step at a time.

Under the contract, the men said, the performance data from Sunflower Wind will have to be as good or better than the current provider 16 (See NEW on Page 8A)

Yearly food drive gains momentum

1,653 items away from the goal.

The drive, which started the Friday after Thanksgiving, brought in the United Church. 60 items the first week and has been gaining momentum since, with 287 items the second week.

ning of 2008. All of the nonperish- Christmas.

With 3 1/2 weeks left, the food able food items, cash and punch drive at Stanley Hardware is only cards from Raye's Grocery which people bring in will be donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry at

The store is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday The food drive ends at the begin- and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays until



KINDRED FLAME made up of sisters Amy Carman, left, Patience and Miss Fortin (below) had a recent photo shoot and Angie Fortin (above) performed at the beginning of for the women's first CD. the year at the LandMark Inn. Mrs. Carman, her daughter

- Photos by Kimberly Davis and Anita Hirsch

Sisters release album

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

kldavis@nwkansas.com Music has always been a part of their lives, whether it has meant singing Christmas carols with the family, praising God or playing instruments.

Sisters Amy Carman and Angie Fortin said they grew up around music. Their mother, Donna, sings, though their father Jack, giggled the women, doesn't sing but loves music. Their sister Anita doesn't sing, either, but the two of them kind of make up for that.

Mrs. Carman said she can remember when Angie, who is seven years younger, was a baby and she would cry. Mrs. Carman said she and Anita and their mother would sing to her and she would stop crying.

Now, the two women have their first CD, "Kindred Flame," ready for sale. The two have been singing together since 1993, at least at family reunions. They would sing, and Miss Fortin said, she would play her drum. She was in grade school at the time and was learning to play the snare drum.

When Miss Fortin moved back to this area in 2005, the women started to perform at the local them musically. People think of



telethon, the county fair and other country music when they hear the porary Christian music and some events in town. They first called themselves "Sweet Prairie Fire," but decided to change their name to "Kindred Flame." The first name, said Miss Fortin, really limited

the only kind they sing.

Actually the sisters sing all different kinds of music. Miss Fortin said the CD is kind of on the folk

side of acoustic rock with contem-

word prairie, she said, and that isn't country. They also do some oldies now and then when people ask for

> Mostly though, said Mrs. Carman, they sing Christian praise and (See SISTERS on Page 8A)

Starting the advent season



AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH on Sunday, ning of the service. Ryan May lit the first candle of advent wreath at the begin-

- Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Escaped calf keeps city's police chief running for hours

"I need somebody with a rope."

Because without one, Police Chief Wade Lockhart and a posse of helpers were having a hard time last Wednesday corralling a wayward calf that had squeezed out of its pasture south of town.

The black critter first appeared about 9:22 a.m. in the 200 block of North Marks Avenue, a couple of blocks north of City Park. Neighbors turned it into the county dispatcher, who sent Chief Lockhart

out to see what it was up to. It turned out to be pretty quick. It had moved several blocks by the time the chief caught up to it. He almost had it cornered near the school bus garage, but without a rope, he

couldn't keep it there. "I guess I left it in the other patrol car," he said dryly, "along with my

While dispatchers tried to figure out whose calf it was, the chief and some helpers tried to keep the young animal in sight. At one point, it took off into the country and the chief called off the chase.

"It's out of my jurisdiction now," he sighed.

But later, a swing around the east side of town turned up the calf back by the high school, which turned out to be just across the railroad tracks — and within the city, too.

showed up with a horse and lasso and roped the calf, which was led back home, more than three hours after being spotted on Marks.

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By that time, another helper had

"I said I needed a cowboy," the chief said later.

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