

The Ottawa-Glandorf High School finished the season with an outstanding 27–1 record, capped by the school's first State Championship in high school men's basketball. They embody everything that is good about our young people and I commend them on their outstanding performance on and off the basketball court this year.

HONORING JOHN E. DAILEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated 40 years of his life to educating young people in Southwest Louisiana. At the end of this academic year, Mr. John E. Dailey will retire as principal of Notre Dame High School of Acadia Parish, my alma mater.

Mr. Dailey began his career in education at Notre Dame in 1964 and remained there until 1970 when he moved to Iota High School. During his time at Iota, Mr. Dailey was twice named Teacher and Coach of the Year, was a runner up in the Louisiana Principal of the Year process and oversaw vast improvements in the school's academic and athletic programs.

After over 20 years at Iota, Mr. Dailey returned to Notre Dame High School, where he would remain until his retirement this year. During his second tour at Notre Dame, Mr. Dailey oversaw a significant increase in enrollment, the addition of twelve classrooms, the implementation of an Agriscience Program, a rise in ACT scores to well above the national average, and nine State athletic championships and eight second place finishes. Mr. Dailey was also honored as the Administrator of the Year in the Diocese of Lafayette and recently inducted into the Notre Dame High School Shoe of Fame.

I rise today to honor Mr. Dailey because it is men and women like him that willingly take on the overwhelming job of preparing our youth for their entry into the professional world. Since 1964, Mr. Dailey has been making a difference in the lives of young people and Acadiana is grateful to all of the work that he has done. I know I am joined by many others when I tell Mr. Dailey congratulations and thank you.

COLORADO GREEN WINDFARM IN
LAMAR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, wind energy is an inexhaustible, affordable and economically beneficial source of electricity, and is the Nation's fastest-growing new source of power. I am proud to salute the dedication on May 14 of the Colorado Green windfarm in Prowers County, near Lamar, in southeast Colorado. This dedication will take place in conjunction with Lamar's 118th birthday celebration, to be held on Saturday and Sunday,

May 14 and 15, with the theme of "Winds of Progress Powering Our Future." The celebration is being sponsored by Lamar Chamber of Commerce, City of Lamar, Prowers County, Prowers County Development, Inc. and local business owners.

At 162 megawatts, Colorado Green is the Nation's fifth-largest windfarm, and provides enough power for approximately 52,000 homes at a price competitive with conventional fuels. The project was developed by GE Wind Energy and is co-owned by PPM Energy and Shell WindEnergy, which sell the wind power to Xcel Energy. It is the largest capital investment ever made in Prowers County, and it has already begun generating tremendous local economic benefits throughout the neighboring communities of Lamar and Springfield.

The economic benefits of the Colorado Green wind project include the creation of 10–15 new well-paying jobs at the site. During the height of construction, nearly 400 workers were employed, and these workers provided a sizable economic boost to local Lamar and Springfield businesses. For example, local motels had much higher occupancy than normal, and local restaurants and business experienced an upsurge of demand. The Texaco Food Mart in Lamar had to "bring in more help" in the early morning to deal with the added demand, and the Hay Stack Restaurant reported a 30 percent increase in business due to the windfarm construction.

I am inserting an article from the Lamar Daily News of October 29, 2003 that provides a first-hand illustration of the tremendous benefits that the Colorado Green wind project has brought to Lamar and the Prowers County area. This article, by reporter Virgil Cochran, shows the many economic benefits that wind development can bring to rural parts of our country.

With so much of rural America suffering economic doldrums, wind energy has helped Lamar regain its footing, and I look forward to more such development throughout rural Colorado—which has the nation's 11th-best wind energy resource—in the coming years.

Besides the formal dedication of the Colorado Green wind project on May 14, other activities scheduled in conjunction with Lamar's "Winds of Progress Powering Our Future" activities that weekend include a parade featuring a 113-foot GE wind turbine and free guided bus tours to see the new windfarm. There will also be a 5K Walk and Run, Antique Car and Truck Show, Ducky Derby, "Good Morning Lamar!" breakfast and a "Rock the Block" dance.

I congratulate Lamar as it dedicates the Colorado Green wind project and celebrates its 118th birthday on May 14 and 15.

[From the Lamar Daily News, Oct. 29, 2003]

WIND FARM CONSTRUCTION AN ECONOMIC BOON
FOR COUNTY

(By Virgil Cochran)

LAMAR.—The Colorado Green Wind Farm now under construction in south central Prowers County has already had a strong economic impact to the area—helping at least some local businesses offset slow sales blamed on a drought and generally sluggish economy. The giant project, the largest single capital investment in the history of Prowers County, will also continue to benefit the county for decades, boosting the property tax base and adding some 12–15 new jobs.

For one couple, David and Aracelli Fernandez, who live near the former Pleas-

ant Heights Church, just a stone's throw down the road from the project, the boom has already hit. David and Aracelli are producing burritos about as fast as they can make them and running two daily routes to provide the 200 to 300 workers on the job with some tasty nourishment.

"We'd starve to death if it weren't for that lady (Aracelli)," joked Chad-o Miller, a foreman with QCI erectors, which is installing the nearly 300-foot-tall turbines. Miller also predicted the workmen on the job will be sorely missed by the local grocery stores, motels, and restaurants when the project is complete.

David Fernandez told the Daily News Friday he and his wife have been selling an average of 400 burritos per day at \$2 each. When we met up with Fernandez around noon Friday, he had three oversize coolers in the back of his pickup which he uses to keep the burritos warm, but all were empty. David had sold his load of burritos for the day, and was attempting a rendezvous with Aracelli to transfer some from her vehicle. It was essentially, a startup business for the Fernandez's, triggered solely by the wind farm.

"Most of our guys stay with Brad the Limo man," Miller said, referring to Brad Semmens of Country Acres Motel and RV Park. "We've been filling up his motel and RV Park and he's been great to us." And Semmens is far from the only motel owner in the area to benefit from the influx of construction workers.

Kenny Buxton of Wallace Gas and Oil said the project has also created a temporary boom in fuel and related sales, offsetting what was otherwise very sluggish business due to the downturn in agriculture. Buxton has been running fuel delivery trucks to the site for weeks, providing fuel and lubricants for dozens of vehicles and pieces of heavy equipment at the site.

It sometimes requires two truckloads per day to meet demand, Buxton said, noting there are all sorts of excavating equipment and specialized machinery from cranes to forklifts to which he supplies fuel. Since it is impractical to move the machinery to a fuel station, the construction companies rely almost completely on bulk fuel delivery to the site.

Sales tax receipts in the city have been on the slide for something over a year, running at times ten percent or more behind receipts for the same month of the previous year. But the most recent month for which sales tax data are available, the same month construction moved into full swing on the wind farm, shows sales tax receipts are up over 13 percent from the same month a year ago. While it is impossible to determine how much of that is attributable to the wind farm, many think the boom in local sales can be linked largely to the project.

Once the project is complete and is producing power, the property tax benefits will roll on for at least three decades. Although figures are only preliminary guesstimates, County Assessor Andy Wyatt projects it will produce around \$764,000 per year in new revenue to the county, another \$917,000 to the Re-2 School District general fund, \$203,900 to the Re-2 bond fund, and some \$189,000 to Prowers Medical Center.

Exactly how that will shake out is uncertain for several reasons, said Wyatt. First, the local mill levy to fund Re-2 is governed largely at the state level because of an equalization program in state education funding. It will, at least to some extent, lower the local mill levy taxpayers pay to fund schools, but the amount of reduction hasn't been determined.

Some of the funds the county collects could be limited as well, Wyatt said, because

the county is subject to the Arveschoug-Bird Amendment which limits revenue increases to about 6 percent per year. But because much of the increase in the county's assessed valuation is from new construction, Wyatt said the county may have the option of keeping most of the money.

What the Prowers County Commissioners will decide to do with the approximately three-quarter of a million dollar annual tax windfall is not certain, but Wyatt said he thinks some of it should go to property tax relief by reducing of the mill levy for all taxpayers. He says that would help out businesses like Neoplan, making them more competitive. Since the wind farm is not located within Lamar City limits, however, the city will see little, if any direct benefit from property tax revenues.

What Wyatt calls the "windfarm windfall" won't take effect for another year, the beginning of 2005, but over the long haul, the \$760,000 per year in property taxes paid to the county alone would inject some \$22.9 million into the local economy over a 30-year period if the commissioners chose to collect all the new money and not reduce the property tax levy. Wyatt said property like the wind farm is assessed at the state level, and uses a formula which assures that renewable energy projects are taxed at the same rate of investment that would be spent on conventional power plants. Thus even though the wind farm sold for over \$200 million, the state formula means it will be assessed at an approximately \$100 million in actual value.

But that isn't the end of it. Construction is now under way on another major electrical power-related project about ten miles northeast of Lamar. Xcel Energy is installing an AC-DC power converter that will link electrical grids—a project estimated to be worth at least \$25 million.

Wyatt estimates the county will net another \$189,000 from the substation, while Re-2 will see tax revenue increases of \$226,000 to its general fund and \$50,000 to its bond repayment fund. PMC would net about \$47,000. All those figures are, of course based on present mill levies, but could vary.

An engineer at the substation project north of Lamar said yesterday that the project is being built by a consortium of two companies, Beta Engineering of Pineville, Louisiana, and Siemens Transmission and Distribution of Raleigh, North Carolina. He said the project is expected to continue for about a year, and when complete, will link two of the nation's major power grids, converting electrical power from alternating to direct current, then back to alternating again. In the process, the station will also convert power from 230,000 volts to 345,000 volts so the power can be routed into long-distance transmission lines.

The project was mobilized about a week ago, and a subcontractor on the job, Cajun Construction of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is already on the job beginning preliminary concrete work.

In addition to local job opportunities and increased sales by local businesses the projects have created and will continue to create, the two projects combined will provide an estimated \$79 million in property tax receipts over a 30-year period, according to Wyatt's figures.

The project also paved the way for Lamar Light and Power and the Arkansas River Power Authority to own wind farms of its own. G.E. does not ordinarily sell only a handful of its 1.5 megawatt turbines—the largest in the wind power business—because of complications and expense with maintenance and warranties of the equipment. But since the wind farm was only a few miles down the road, ARPA and Lamar were able to capitalize on the event, along with 40-year

lows in bond market interest, to install windfarms in Lamar and Springfield.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, May 6, 2004, the House had a vote on H. Res. 402, a resolution urging the Lao People's Democratic Republic to provide unrestricted access to Laos for international election monitors and humanitarian aid workers. On House rollcall vote #149, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING ROSE LAMBERT, CHIEF AIDE TO SUPERVISOR HYLAND

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rose Lambert for over 16 years of dedicated service to the Mount Vernon community.

Ms. Lambert has been a pivotal member of the Mount Vernon community for many years, both as an employee of the Mount Vernon District Supervisor and as an active citizen in her neighborhood. Until recently, Rose lived in the Mount Zephyr community where she was active in the Citizens' Association, acting as president a number of times.

In the Mount Vernon District Supervisor's Office, Ms. Lambert has played an important role in a number of high-profile issues, including the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Improvement Study, Richmond Highway Revitalization efforts, and recently, the campaign to save Mount Vernon Hospital.

Ms. Lambert is most well-known in the northern areas of the Mount Vernon District where she has worked tirelessly on many significant projects. She has been instrumental in the successful completion of many community improvement projects, including the Huntington, Mount Zephyr, Fairhaven, and New Alexandria communities. Ms. Lambert continues to push for projects that will improve the quality of life for Mount Vernon citizens.

As Hyland's Chief Aide, Ms. Lambert has been the lead point of contact for county staff, and has had the responsibility of attending the Board of Supervisors meeting in Fairfax. Furthermore, she has represented Supervisor Hyland at countless meetings and has played an active role in the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Lambert for 16 years of service to Mount Vernon District. Her contributions and efforts are much appreciated and will be greatly missed. Her service is an exemplary example of an ideal citizen and model employee. I wish her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BLAKE KLINSIEK ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Blake Klinksiek of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Blake's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy with the incoming cadet class of 2008. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Blake brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Perrysburg High School, Blake has attained a grade point average of 3.308, which ranks 121st out of the 334 students in his class. During his time at Perrysburg High School, Blake has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. During his first year, Blake was named to the Honor Roll and received High honors recognition due to his GPA of 3.9. His second year was again marked by his being named to the Honor Roll and receiving yet another Outstanding Academic Achievement Award. Blake was named a "Who's Who Among American High School Students" and maintained a high level of achievement throughout his tenure at Perrysburg High School.

Outside the classroom, Blake has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete and dedicated citizen of Perrysburg, Ohio. On the fields of friendly strife, Blake has participated in Varsity Track and Football. He was Captain of the football team as a sophomore and has lettered multiple times in track. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Blake is an active member in his community by participating in Young Life, was a Youth Football Camp and YMCA Youth Camp counselor, and was an English interpreter for a visiting Spanish student.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Blake Klinksiek. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Blake will do very well during his career at Air Force and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING SHIRLEY COPELAND

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a constituent of