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The children of Faith Lutheran Church in Harvey traded elementary school a block away this week for Vacation Bible School at Faith Lutheran, under the direction of Elissa Olschlager, who when it comes to water races in the grass is the wettest of all.

Fessenden set for 2 weeks of festivities

By Anne Ehni

Fessenden is preparing for two exciting weeks, packed with celebrations and community events as the All-School Reunion and the 2025 Wells County Fair are set to draw hundreds of visitors.

All-School Reunion June 13-15

The Fessenden All-School Reunion will take place June 13-15, with an estimated 400 people registered to attend. According to committee chairman Jason Pepple, the weekend will offer something for everyone.

"We have a lot planned for the weekend," Pepple said. "Classes are organizing get-togethers throughout the weekend, and everyone will enjoy the special events we have planned."

The public is invited to attend several open events:

- Friday, June 13 - Fireworks at the fairgrounds, 10:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 14 - Free-will breakfast hosted by the Fessenden Fire Department. Parade starting at 11 a.m., followed by a car show at the city park. Street dance beginning at 6:30 p.m. with live music.
- Sunday, June 15 - An all-denomination church service at 10:30 a.m.

FESSENDEN FESTIVITIES
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Wind turbines turning, moving forward with signed agreement

Flickertail project clears another hurdle

The New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation (NRABC) and Flickertail Wind, LLC announced this week the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to finalize a transformative Community Benefits Agreement for the Flickertail Wind Project.

The agreement marks a new chapter in community-driven, American energy production.

The Flickertail project and this week's signed agreement, shaped by a decade of dedicated work by the local Wells and Eddy Wind (WE-Wind) task force, is expected to deliver more than \$22 million in direct community investment, in addition to the significant economic, tax and job benefits already promised by the project.

It is a powerful testament to the leadership of local residents who, since 2009, have championed a

vision for sustainable growth and shared prosperity in their communities, according to the new release provided by PRC Wind on Wednesday.

The commitment reflected in the LOI is the result of close collaboration between NRABC, Flickertail Wind, Minnkota Power Cooperative and WE-Wind. This partnership highlights a shared dedication to ensuring the Flickertail Wind Project is not just a development but a genuine investment in the long-term health and vitality of Wells and Eddy counties.

"This project is about capturing the power of American energy to drive growth and opportunity for Wells and Eddy counties," said Flickertail Wind Representative Wells McGiffert. "At its core, the Flickertail Wind Project reflects



Wind turbines are a common sight on the North Dakota landscape.

the values of our landowners and community leaders, respecting private property rights and local control while delivering clean energy and enduring community benefits. This is how we build a stronger, more prosperous future for everyone."

The W-E Wind Board of Directors stated, "From the inception of the W-E Wind Board, the idea was always more than a wind farm. It is a community-led project that reflects our values and priorities. The support we have seen from across Wells

and Eddy Counties has been significant, and this agreement ensures those voices are heard and these benefits delivered."

The W-E Wind directors are convinced the benefits are not to be realized by just a few but rather by the entire community.

"This is something we will be proud of and will help sustain our community and ensure its existence well into the future."

Amanda Hegland, executive director of the NRABC led the effort.

"Throughout this project, I often heard people ask 'How is this going to benefit me, and why should I care?' said Hegland.

"Beyond the obvious tax benefits to the county and school

WIND PROJECT LOI
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Wind power has positives, history on its side

By Neil O. Nelson

Wind power, while proven to be clean and clear and a source of electrical power generation, the potential exists for higher costs than quoted due to hidden factors, limited production due to varying and unpredictable wind speeds, and the network of power transmission lines that reportedly degrade and destroy open spaces, according to a study by Alki Delichatsios Medium.

On the positive side, wind today is powering more of American, reportedly for less, alongside oil, gas and coal.

Taking advantage of the abundance of wind in the United States and North Dakota, especially, ready to be captured and put to work, there were more than 10,000 wind turbines in the country in 2006; 14 years later, in 2020, there were 65,000.

The cost per megawatt hour for wind is \$24 to \$75; solar \$24 to \$96; gas \$39 to \$101; coal \$68 to \$166; and nuclear \$141 to \$221.

Closer to home, specifically Eddy and Wells counties, where the Flickertail Wind Project has designs to construct 98 wind turbines, the positive factors are magnified - limited environmental impact, strong winds for energy development, significant local economic development, and ample land with limited community impacts.

Flickertail project developers promise their expansive wind farm will be an economic driver for Wells and Eddy counties, while supporting schools and youth programs, in addition to assisting the local governments in keeping abreast with rural road repair demands.

The projected annual tax benefit to Eddy and Wells is estimated to be \$1.8 to \$1.9 million. The project's lifespan (20-30 years) will result in \$54 million paid local governments.

Specifically, Eddy County will realize a 25% increase in tax levy monies, according to PRC Wind

WIND PROJECT
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Turbine noise, flickering sun cast shadow over wind farm

By Neil O. Nelson

Since news spread of a 15-wind turbine farm planned for northeast Wells County and much of neighboring Eddy County, proponents for the expansive project and the vocal opposition to the development designed to capitalize on the region's only renewable energy course have voiced their points of view and arguments in print and in person at public forums.

At the center of the rising controversy, the Flickertail Wind Farm, a proposed 370-megawatt (MW) wind project that will tower over the land with more than 90 wind turbines, each nearly 700 feet tall, along with a dedicated substation and accompanying transmission line, is scheduled for construction, starting in 2027.

WIND FARM IMPACT
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It can be a lonely vigil, fishing by boat on Goose Lake, just off Highway 3 north of Harvey.