

FORESTRY _____ Continued from page 6

Focus on tree care education

Along with changes to the giveaway format, the Forestry Board is expanding its educational efforts on proper tree planting and care.

The board is creating easy-to-follow guides covering correct planting techniques for bare-root trees, when staking is needed, proper mulching methods and effective watering during the first few years of growth. Instructions will be available both in printed form at sapling pickup events and online through the city's website.

Forestry Board member Phaidra Yunker said the goal is to help every tree planted in Washburn — whether through the school giveaway or community distribution — thrive for years to come.

"We want this to be memorable for kids, manageable for families and meaningful for the community," Yunker said, noting that growing a tree from seed creates a deeper connection than bringing home a pre-grown sapling.

She said the board looks forward to continuing the tradition in a way that helps Washburn "grow greener, one seed and one tree at a time."

Zoning hearing set for Rainbow Energy request

COMPILED BY
KELLI AMELING
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The McLean County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing 1:30 p.m., April 20, in the conference room on the ground floor of the McLean County Courthouse in Washburn.

The hearing will consider a zoning change request submitted by Rainbow Energy

Center, LLC, of Bismarck. The request involves approximately 60 acres of land located in Section 18, Township 145 North, Range 82 West.

According to the notice, the applicant is seeking a zoning change to allow for the continued use of power generation in McLean County. All interested parties will have an opportunity to provide testimony at the hearing.

Wing addresses utilities, approves propane contract

Council discusses lift station issues, bowling alley sale at December meeting

BY **KELLI AMELING**
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The Wing City Council addressed utility concerns, approved a propane contract and reviewed several ongoing projects during its regular meeting held Dec. 4 at the Wing Firehall.

According to the meeting minutes published in the April 9 edition of the Leader News, Council member Jesse Goehring called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Council members Goehring, Kevin Dearinger, Peggy Geloff, Stephanie Bryant and Eliza Frances were present. Julie Hein and Kobe Bryant were absent. No citizen comments were received.

Reports and updates

No financial report was available for December. Auditor updates included three utility shutoffs, two of which were resolved, with one remaining outstanding.

Kobe Bryant provided a water report addressing lift station issues. Pumps at the lift station had stopped working after foreign material became

lodged in them and tripped breakers. Bryant reported the issue had been corrected and Dakota Lift and Pump inspected the equipment, confirming the pumps are now operating as expected.

Water sampling for quality parameters was sent via FedEx, with results still pending.

The maintenance report noted that Christmas light installation will be completed once Julie Hein returns.

Standing committee reports for streets and parks, animal control, buildings and security, and water, sewer and garbage indicated no new issues.

New business and future planning

The council acknowledged the renewal of the city's AmeriCorps position.

Discussion was held regarding the potential purchase of the Wing bowling alley by Troy Howard. Howard indicated he would work with the city on future options. Council members agreed to table

Wing cont. on 16



Photo provided by Washburn Public School
Members of the Washburn Wilton speech team celebrate after earning the Region 7 team championship, highlighted by 36 of 38 events placing and numerous individual state qualifying performances. Check an upcoming edition of the Leader-News for full details!

CHAMPS!

McLean County approves Falkirk mining petition after public hearing

Commission authorizes limited surface mining activity near county roads following March 17 hearing

BY **KELLI AMELING**
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The McLean County Commission approved a petition from The Falkirk Mining Company following a public hearing held March 17 at the McLean County Courthouse in Washburn.

Chairperson Curt Olson opened the public hearing at 9 a.m. to consider Falkirk's request to conduct surface coal mining operations within 100 feet of public road right-of-way at several locations in the county. The petition was submitted pursuant to North Dakota Century Code and North Dakota Administrative Code governing surface mining operations near public roads.

The areas included in the petition are:

The east side of a section line road located north of U.S. Highway 83 near the section line between the northeast quarter of Section 17 and the northwest quarter of Section 16, Township 146 North, Range 82 West.

The east side of the section line between Section 30, Township 146 North, Range 82 West, and Section 25, Township 146 North, Range 83 West.

The east side of the section line between Section 31, Township 146 North, Range 82 West, and Section 36, Township 146 North, Range 83 West.

Commissioners noted the required notice of hearing had been properly served and published in accordance with state law. It was also determined that the commission has jurisdiction

over the petition and the affected public roads and right-of-way.

Falkirk Mining representative Adam Ourada told the commission that he had received no comments or concerns regarding the petition prior to the hearing. Following discussion, the commission found that the interests of both the public and affected landowners would be protected under the terms of the request.

The resolution approved by the commission allows Falkirk to conduct surface mining operations — ex-

cluding actual coal removal — within 100 feet of the specified road right-of-way.

Commissioner Steve Lee moved to approve the resolution as presented, with a second by Commissioner Steve Cottingham. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote, with Lee, Cottingham and Olson voting aye.

The approved resolution, along with the petition and affidavits of publication for the notice of hearing, will be filed with the McLean County Auditor.

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