



Our View — Humane society efforts successful

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— Thumbs up: To all the volunteers and organizers of the Blue Earth and Nicollet County Humane Society who have put together a capital campaign to build a new shelter.

Construction has started on the new facility, and some \$800,000 of the needed \$1.2 million for the shelter has been raised. The group also raised \$5,000 from a vote for the dog mayor contest that was an innovative and fun way for the community to get involved in this worthwhile effort.

Various groups and members of the community have developed fundraisers for the shelter. In June, organizers hosted a “Cats and Dogs Alley Party” of musical entertainment in Old Town that helped raise money. School children have also come up with ways to raise \$1,000 here and there. And the Humane Society continues to sell memorial bricks and pavers as part of the new shelter. The late Shirley O’Grady donated funds to buy the land for the project.

For years, the stray, lost and abused animals have been crowded into the small animal shelter in Mankato. The community effort to build a new shelter will go a long way to providing these animals a more comfortable place to stay until they are adopted.

Big wind farm planned

Thumbs up: To plans for the state’s largest wind farm near Albert Lea.

Harnessing power from the wind-rich areas of southern Minnesota is an important part of increasing energy independence.

Wisconsin Power & Light Co., a subsidiary of Madison-based Alliant Energy, is backing the \$500 million project that would put turbines on 32,500 acres. The turbines would generate about 200 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 50,000 homes.

The cost of the wind farm would be paid by added fees for some Wisconsin electric and natural gas customers.

The power generated would go toward meeting Wisconsin’s requirements that the state get 10 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2015.

While the turbines would provide power for Wisconsin, the construction, maintenance jobs and added taxes would be a boost for Minnesota. And, when it comes to increasing the amount of alternative power, state borders should make no difference — less dependence on coal and oil is a positive for everyone.

Hail to the country church

Thumbs up: To the members of the St. Henry Catholic Church in rural Le Center for their faithful and tireless efforts to keep the church alive and celebrate its success.

The church recently celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Old country churches are a classic part of the Minnesota countryside. Their presence and existence bring a little reminder of the land’s beauty as they sit among rows of corn, soybeans and groves of trees. They keep in place memories of those who rang the bells decades ago with their quaint cemeteries along country roads.

The Le Center church has maybe 40 to 50 families as members, but they still keep their faith going with one Sunday morning service a week from a visiting pastor.

These parishioners give new meaning to the idea of faith in God and country.

— *Free Press staff*

Community pulled together for Fourth

Thumbs up: Thank you to all the people that made the Fourth of July 2009 fireworks event possible.

There was a 5-year-old at the event who lost her father July 1 who described the evening as “the best night of my life.”

For that sentiment, we are all grateful and appreciative in that the Mankato community pulled together and was successful in making so many people happy.

Shari Kagermeier

Mankato

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