

Stroemer Foods listing
pages 14-15

NEWSMAKERS



Milestones

Pages 8-9



Buick Club

Page 20



Pig Day Awards

Page 21



Sports

Page 27

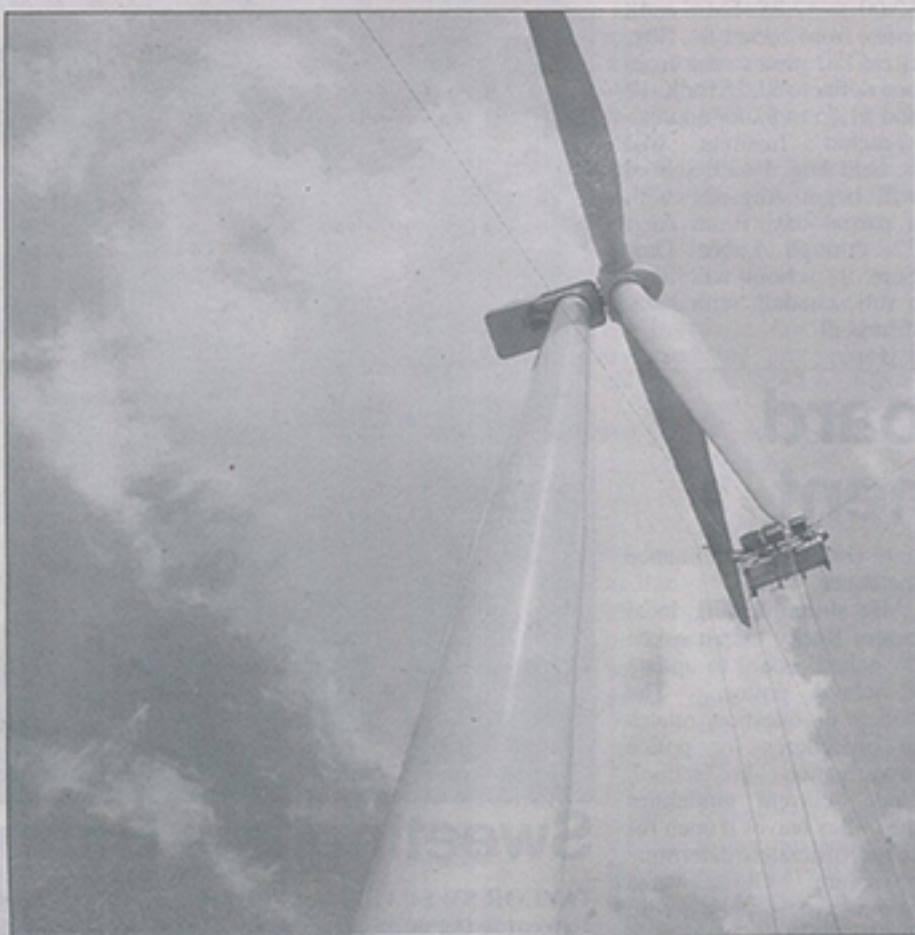


Carol McCartney

Page 3

PIKE COUNTY EXPRESS

At home everywhere in Pike County



THE WIND TURBINE is now up and running after it was struck by lightning July 3. Photos by Jenna Benz

Turbine repaired after getting struck by lightning

By Jenna Benz

The wind turbine just northwest of Pittsfield was struck by lightning July 3 and was down for two weeks. Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative (IREC) owns the wind turbine.

"This is the fourth time that we know of it has been struck by lightning," said Shawn Middleton of IREC. The equipment is designed to operate and ground itself when this happens.

"We chose to leave it down so it can be repaired." Vestas of Bloomington/Urbana and Enviro-Clean from Oklahoma were at the site doing repairs.

The wind turbine is 365 feet tall. Each blade is 130 feet long. It has a white fiberglass coating. "Because it is so big and tall and in such a remote location it has more of a chance to be hit by lightning," said Middleton.

City of Pittsfield saves big on health insurance

By Allison Lyon

The City of Pittsfield received good news about its new health insurance program at their board meeting Tuesday of last week.

The new program, which started about a year ago, saved Pittsfield \$103,868. Pittsfield mayor John Haydon responded to the report saying, "We enjoy this kind of news."

Working with the Einstein Group out of St. Louis, the City of Pittsfield was able to improve benefits for its 31 employees while simultaneously lowering insurance costs. Bill Schmaltz, a principal for the Einstein Group, said the city was able to save the money by spending only where it was necessary.

At the beginning of the program Schmaltz created an analysis of how money on health insurance was spent and then came up with a plan to maximize savings. Schmaltz said the analysis looks at what can be controlled and then take that information to use the insurance company to the insurance user's advantage.

The analysis found that about 90 percent of insurance costs go to "little stuff" costing \$200 or less. Under the new plan, the City bought insurance to cover costs exceeding \$2,500 while setting aside the money saved on previous premium costs to cover expenses less than \$2,500 or the

"little stuff." The Einstein Group also provides cost saving ideas such as generic or alternative lower-cost prescriptions.

Pittsfield city clerk Cindy Prentice said the "benefits are wonderful." Under the new plan the city was able to improve their medical, dental, and vision benefits. For instance, previously employees could get coverage for new eyeglass or contacts every other year, now they can get it every year if they desire. The improved benefits have very little out of pocket expenses for the employees. Prentice said the employees seem happy with the new health coverage and despite a few bugs in the beginning, everything is running smoothly.

After analysis Schmaltz said the city was expected to save between \$60,000 and \$70,000, although they do "try to underestimate so there are no surprises." Schmaltz believes that on an average year savings may be higher as there were a few major health issues last year.

The final stage of the new program will be to create a program for a healthy lifestyle. The hope is, with a wellness plan in place, the health of the group will improve and further reduce health costs. Prentice said the city is currently debating to cover a portion of a health club membership or something similar, but nothing has been decided yet.

Ketterman
Communications
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALL

dish NETWORK
2 Miles West of Pittsfield, Hwy 54
285-1699
Better TV for all.

Service with a smile



PIKE COUNTY CLERK, Donnie Apps worked in the kitchen at McDonald's.

By Jenna Benz
McDonald's in Pittsfield teamed up with the Pike County Chapter of the American Red Cross to raise money to replenish the disaster relief fund. McDonald's donated 20% of all Sunday sales to the Red Cross; giving a total of \$2,342.89.

During the three-week flood fight, the Red Cross took meals to the workers on the Sny levee. It took

over \$60,000 to feed all of the workers in Pike County. The fight took most of the disaster relief funds for mass care (food and drink).

The Red Cross and McDonald's had "Celeb Serve". Elected officials worked at the restaurant to help bring in people to donate. Officials working included county officials.

Continued on page 5

Perdun resigns from G-P High

By Jenna Benz

The Griggsville-Perry School Board accepted the resignation of faculty member Darin Perdun last Wednesday at its regular monthly meeting.

Perdun taught chemistry, physics and algebra for three years. He was also a coach for junior high girl's basketball and high school boy's baseball.

The board hired Nicole Forrester to teach these classes and coach the junior high girl's basketball team. School will begin Aug. 19.

The school day will end at 2:15. Early dismissal will be in effect until Labor Day, Sept. 1.

The board added a shop fee of \$15 for agriculture classes and raised lunch

prices a quarter. The lunch prices are now for K-4 from \$1.50 to \$1.75; grades 5-12 from \$1.75 to \$2.00 and adults from \$2.25 to \$2.50. Milk will stay the same at 30¢. Breakfast prices rose from one dollar to \$1.25.

In other action:

◆ The second reading of the board policies was approved.

◆ The student handbook was approved.

◆ The pay for substitute teachers was raised from \$70 to \$75 per day.

◆ The board approved Prairie Farms bid for milk, Lewis Bakery for bread and Kohl Wholesale for groceries.

◆ The student handbook was approved.