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COURTESY PHOTO
The Beethoven wind farm is about to see the light of day near Tripp. The wind farm, operated by BayWa AG, has been constructed on farm land in Bon Homme, Hutchinson and Charles Mix counties, and its 43 turbines can each generate 1.85 megawatts of wind energy.

Beethoven Wind Farm About To See The Light

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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A wind farm in south-eastern South Dakota could go on line in the coming days, according to one of the project's early developers.

Ronnie Hornstra of Avon, president of B&H Wind LLC, said the Beethoven wind farm is in the final stages of completion. The wind project is constructed on farm land surrounding the intersection of Bon Homme, Hutchinson and Charles Mix counties.

The project consists of 43 turbines each generating 1.85 megawatts of wind energy. General Electric is conducting final work on the turbines at the site, Hornstra said.

"They're doing test runs right now and will soon be generating power," he said. "I would say they'll be getting power off it around the first of the month."

BayWa AG, a Munich-based company, bought the 80-megawatt wind farm development from B&H Wind. BayWa will sell all of the generated power to NorthWestern Energy.

BayWa officials didn't respond to the Press & Dakotan's request for comment on this story.

When work is completed on the wind project, area residents and passersby will be able to see the towers from a distance, Hornstra said. The towers are currently using solar powered lights that eventually will be replaced by permanent lights with stronger power, he said.

The main transformer has been delivered and is in place. The Avon Clarion weekly newspaper reported the transformer was stripped down for the trip and still weighed 140,000 pounds. A special transport was used for the trip, the newspaper reported.

Two managers for the Beethoven project will work out a newly-constructed office in Avon, the Clarion reported.

The work site offices are located at the intersection of 406th Ave. and 292nd St., five miles north of SD Highway 46 on a county paved road, Hornstra said. "This is also the heart of the project," he said.

NorthWestern Energy officials are looking forward to receiving the wind power from the Beethoven project, according to NorthWestern area operations manager Craig Fergen.

"We're excited that it's becoming operational and we can get the energy generated from it," said Fergen, who works out of NorthWestern's office in Mitchell.

Some initial energy is already being generated, Fergen said. The wind energy will

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Neb. Lawmaker Seeks Higher Gas Tax

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A lawmaker known as a tax-cutting fiscal conservative is urging his colleagues to pass a fuel-tax increase to help repair Nebraska's aging roads and bridges.

Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion argued Friday that the phased-in, 6-cent-per-gallon increase would help maintain roads for farmers, truckers and businesses.

The proposal would raise Nebraska's gas tax to 31.6 cents per gallon. The full tax would generate an additional \$25 million annually for the state and \$51 million for cities and counties. Nebraska's gas tax fell behind Iowa's for the first time in decades on Sunday when Iowa's gas tax rose.

Some opponents argue that Nebraska should find construction money by running the Department of Roads more efficiently. Smith says that won't be enough to bridge the gap.

Sports



Bucks Beat Lynx
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Sports



**Crofton, Wynot
To Play For Titles**
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13 DAYS UNTIL
SPRING
#ThinkSpring

Joy On Ice



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Yankton's Colby Benson, right, is congratulated by goalie Remington Weiland after scoring a first period goal in the opening game of the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association's JV Boys' State Tournament on Friday at Alcoa Arena in Yankton. For more information, see page 11.

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Continuing Education Is Key To Life After Prison

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a series looking at programming offered at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield.

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Each inmate at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield has one common goal: to serve his time and return to life outside of the prison gates.

The potential success or failure of that return to normal life hinges on being able to become a productive member of society where they can support their families and not return to crime.

According to associate warden Rebecca Schiefel and deputy warden Jennifer Stanwick-Klimek, one key component to that success is education.

"For most of our population, that is not saying they are working on a college education. It's not a realistic goal," Stanwick-Klimek said. "Our obligation is to give them a set of skills to be successful. For the majority of our inmates, that means working toward their GED (general educational development diploma)."

She added that inmates come to the prison with every level of education, from those who can't read to advanced college degrees. The goal of the GED program at Mike Durfee is to give the inmates a working set of skills that will help them function after prison.

"They may get out of prison with \$20 in their pocket," she explained. "They need to be able to read and fill out a job application."

Stanwick-Klimek said that each inmate is assessed when he enters the prison — in Springfield, the average length of incarceration is 18 months — and the goal is to get those that do not have a high school diploma or the equivalent into

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Lana and Tony Frederick of Discovery Church are helping to put together the church's attempt at a coffee shop. The shop will run on a volunteer basis and provide coffee and baked goods to the public for a donation rather than a set cost.

Yankton Coffee Shop To Try New Concept

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Coffee shops have become synonymous as social gathering places across the country over the last couple of decades. They've also become synonymous with charging several dollars and over-complicating a simple drink that could be easily brewed at home for just pennies a day.

But the Discovery Church, currently located in the former Brunick's Furniture building in downtown Yankton, is seeking to

bring the coffee shop experience to Yankton without the cost. The church is adding a dedicated coffee shop to its building for the public.

Speaking before a meeting of 1 Million Cups on Wednesday, Pastor Jon Cooke said he'd like to provide a service that the community currently lacks.

"We don't really plan to be a business to make a profit," Cooke said. "We'd like to provide a community service opportunity in

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