

# Q125

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day that will bring a lot of people back to town."

The extra people will add to what will surely be a busy weekend. One of this year's must-have mementos is the addition of the "Q125 History Book" that details Wausa's history, as well as updates the previous version from Wausa's 100th anniversary.

"I have had people who said, 'I should not have picked up my history book because I'm so engrossed in reading that I can't get anything else done,'" said Vicky Mainquist, a member of the Q125 Wausa History Book Committee. "That they find it so interesting makes me happy."

Some new additions include details of a young Johnny Carson performing in Wausa's auditorium and updates on Wausa's local farm families, some of which have resided in their family homes for more than 100 years, as well as some Wausa trivia and articles on changes in agriculture.

The book also includes approximately 600 submissions of former and current members of Wausa's community detailing their past experiences in the town.

For more information on Wausa's Q125 and a list of the activities, visit [www.wausanebraska.com](http://www.wausanebraska.com) or [www.facebook.com/WausaQ125](http://www.facebook.com/WausaQ125).

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# Turbine

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which is greater, from the property line.

Some residents feel the proposed setbacks are too close of a distance for the wind turbines. Some advocated that setback distance be two miles from a residence and one-fourth mile from the property line.

"We think it is fair ... due to the fact that wind turbines devalue property up to three miles out," said Ed VanGerpen of Avon. "A few days ago, I was on the road going to Scotland. I noticed an airplane spraying a cornfield. That airplane certainly needs one-fourth mile from his neighbor's wind tower to come back down in to spray that field," he said.

The commission also heard from Prevailing Winds, LLC project manager Roland Jurgens, who addressed the setback issue.

"There was an extensive study in Minnesota when wind energy first took off," he said. "They came up with the general consensus around the world being between 1,000 and 1,500 feet from a residence."

The issue of noise was especially pertinent to residents who already have experience with wind turbines near their property.

According to the ordinance, there is a limit to the number of decibels

that is involved in constructing and operating wind turbines, including constructive interference at existing off-site residences, businesses and public buildings.

"Minnesota has a 50 decibels (dB) standard but Minnesota (Department of Health) recommends that the standard be down to 45 dB, which is exactly what Bon Homme's ordinances have adopted," Jurgens said.

To put that in perspective, whispers are approximately 30 dB and normal conversation is usually between 60-65 dB, according to online noise comparisons.

"This was a model PC ordinance from commission in 2008," said Bon Homme County Zoning Administrator Eric Elsberry. "We made two major changes – one was that the model ordinance had 55 decibels and we dropped it to 45 decibels. We also implemented the shadow flicker sensor, which wasn't a requirement."

A shadow flicker sensor is a repetitive variation of light intensity caused by the passing shadow of rotating blades, which can be an annoyance for residences. This predictive system calculates when shadow flicker is about to happen and stops the turbine rotation until the sun moves the shadows onto uninhabited land.

"Those are two points that went above and beyond what the ordinance was," Elsberry said. "We didn't do less than what the state

requires, we actually increased some of the standards – some were based on our suggestions to protect the county's interests."

The members voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance as written to the County Commission. Doug Brandt was the lone Planning Commission member to vote no.

"I have concerns on the setbacks and concerns everyone has had here," Brandt said. "Especially if person does not want them (the turbines near their property) at all, I'd like to see a greater setback."

Commissioner Robert Rothschild of Tyndall, who supported the ordinance, referenced section 1701, which states the intent.

"To assure a review of the environmental impacts and to protect the health, safety and welfare of county citizens' – that tells you that this is set up to help protect the people," he said. "I don't want to see too big of a setback to where it prohibits people from wanting to go through with it."

The Bon Homme County Commission will receive the recommendations and review the ordinance today (Tuesday). From there, commissioners will decide a date on a public hearing where county residents will be invited to once again discuss the outlines of the ordinance.

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# Regents

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panel in two months to finish the dashboard plan for the universities.

Rush in closing his formal presentation showed a photograph of his four granddaughters. "We simply cannot let them down," he said.

Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, told the committee that appropriations and GOAC members have been using performance indicators for years. He serves on both of those panels.

Tidemann said that in his time working at South Dakota State University that he taught the use of such metrics. He said he has asked the Legislative Research Council staff to develop performance indicators for the Legislature itself.

Rep. Jacqueline Sly, R-Rapid City, said the public needs dashboard-style information to quickly understand how government is spending money. "It's their tax dollars," she said.

## Out On The Town

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Meet authors Chris Browne and Pamela Smith Hill at the 13th annual South Dakota Festival of Books, Sept. 24-27 in Deadwood and the Black Hills area. The two will sign books alongside nearly 70 other authors at South Dakota's premier literary event. For schedule and author details, visit [sdbookfestival.com](http://sdbookfestival.com).

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