

# SUN COURIER

*Serving the communities of Gladbrook, Reinbeck and Garwin*

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PHOTO BY RUBY F. MCALLISTER

The entrance to the Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District's secondary building in Reinbeck pictured this past February. The building, part of a complex that is still utilized by students, was completed in 1921 and is swiftly deteriorating.

## G-R Facility Task Force presents recommendations to school board

### Proposal maintains general scope of 2024 proposal

GLADBROOK-REINBECK COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REINBECK — The Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District's Facility Task Force has officially presented its recommendations to the school board, following months of thoughtful collaboration and discussion. Comprised of more than 25 community members from both Gladbrook and Reinbeck, the Task Force met five times over the past several months to explore the current and future needs of the district, its students, and staff.

This renewed effort follows the unsuccessful bond referendum in Nov. 2024. Since then, the Task Force has worked to reassess priorities and identify the most effective path forward. The group's recommendation, presented at the June 3 School Board meeting, maintains the general scope of last year's proposal. They also encouraged the Board to make specific scope decisions with cost-efficiency and long-term quality in mind.

Superintendent Caleb Bonjour expressed appreciation for the group's commitment, saying, "We are incredibly grateful to the Facility Task Force for the time,

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## The problem of enforcement

Wind energy court case dominates discussion at recent Tama County Supervisors meetings

MICHAEL D. DAVIS | CORRESPONDENT

TOLEDO — As there was no Board of Supervisors story in last week's paper, there is a double whammy in this week's edition. Due to Memorial Day, last week's meeting was pushed back to the morning of Thursday, May 29. All supervisors were present including David Turner, who telecommuted via the Owl live streaming system due to his traveling abroad. It was like he was in the room only invisible and on a three-second delay.

The apex of the Thursday agenda regarded wind energy. Ideas were exchanged on the topic during public comment time among citizens. This included some snappish discourse between supervisor Curt Hilmer and former Supervisor Bill Faircloth.

Tama County citizens Richard Arp and Jon Winkelpleck, in tandem, asked the supervisors to enforce the stay for commercial wind energy conversion systems. Both citizens began with prepared statements on the subject, talking about discrepancies with permits and other documents that were brought forth at the May 27 court hearing, along with county ordinances and laws. "There was stricter laws in this county for putting in hog confinements then there was putting up wind energy towers," Winkelpleck said.

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## WEEKEND FORECAST:

**Saturday: CHANCE OF SHOWERS**  
High: 76 / Low: 58

**Sunday: CHANCE OF SHOWERS**  
High: 82 / Low: 61



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## Salt Creek files for emergency injunction from purported construction stay



PHOTO BY RUBY F. MCALLISTER

A hearing was held on Tuesday, May 27, in Tama County District Court in Toledo as part of the Feb. 5, 2025 petition filed by Salt Creek Wind LLC against the Tama County Board of Supervisors in connection to the Jan. 6, 2025 wind moratorium. Those pictured on May 27 include Board Chairman Mark Doland (far left); attorneys Michael R. Reck and Haley Hermanson for the County (third and fourth from left); Supervisor Heather Knebel (fifth from left); and attorneys Spencer Willems (back to the camera), Elizabeth R. Meyer (second from right), and Sarah K. Franklin (far right) for Salt Creek Wind.

## Hearing held May 27 in remaining wind case

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*Sun Courier Note: After this story went to press, Judge Cox denied Salt Creek Wind's May 30 application for an emergency injunction without prejudice, writing on May 31: "The Court denies without prejudice as these issues can be remedied by the Plaintiffs. The Court suggests the parties discuss the actions taken by the Board since the injunction hearing in an attempt to reach an agreement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, then the Court may be utilized as appropriate."*

TOLEDO — Following years of conflict in the court of public opinion, the future of commercial wind energy conversion systems (CWECS) development in Tama County appeared to finally be on the path to a concrete legal decision in Tama County District Court when a hearing was held on Tuesday, May 27, for the Feb. 5, 2025 petition



filed by Salt Creek Wind LLC (SCW) against the Board of Supervisors and the County. But all that was thrown into further chaos later in the week when the existence of a purported construction stay of the project by the Board was brought forward for enforcement. On Friday, May 30, Salt Creek in turn filed an emergency application for a temporary injunction against such enforcement, requesting expedited relief and a virtual hearing.

"This emergency appli-

cation is the result of Defendants' abuse of authority and blatant disregard for Plaintiff's rights and this Court's own authority and jurisdiction," SCW's emergency filing states. "This Application involves identical issues of fact and law as those heard by Judge [David M.] Cox at the parties' hearing on Plaintiff's Application for Temporary Injunction on May 27, 2025."

During the May 27 hearing in the case in which SCW – acquired in Nov. 2024 by NextEra Energy

Resources, LLC – seeks clarification that the Jan. 2025 moratorium on development and construction of CWECS does not apply to its central Tama County project, Dexter Liu, executive director at NextEra and assistant vice president for the SCW project, took his seat in the witness chair for much of the half-day hearing as the plaintiff's only witness; Tama County's counsel cross-examined Liu while never calling any witness of their own.

Attorney Sarah K. Franklin, SCW's counsel, began her questioning of Liu by taking him through the project's baseline and current status. During questioning, he described SCW as an approximately 170 MW wind project (1MW at peak output could power approximately 700 homes, Liu indicated) located southwest of Traer and consisting of approximately 60 wind turbines that had been in development "for a long time." When asked to

WIND | P7

## Gladbrook Panther Pavilion dedication set for June 14

SUN COURIER

GLADBROOK — While the school may be gone, the Panther legacy lives on.

During this year's Gladbrook Corn Carnival, the public is invited to celebrate the completion of the new Panther Pavilion which is currently being constructed in Gladbrook City Park in honor of the Gladbrook school and campus that stood for so many years just south of the park. The dedication will take place on Saturday, June 14, at 1 p.m. in the new Pavilion area.

While construction is still ongoing, volunteers have been working many hours to get most of it completed in time for the dedication. The community project has been in the works for almost two years including planning, fundraising, permits, ordering, weather delays, etc.

The retaining wall will feature a large number of engraved bricks purchased by Gladbrook school classes spanning the years of 1940



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers began laying engraved bricks last weekend on the new Panther Pavilion in Gladbrook City Park. The public is invited to a dedication ceremony for the Pavilion set for Saturday, June 14, during Corn Carnival.

through 1988, as well as one from the Class of 1920 and the first graduating class of 1885. Bricks also honor past graduates and school staff including teachers and administrators as well as businesses, community organizations, and community members.

A structure made from the original bricks of the

school, a granite etching of the school building, and a plaque honoring a tribute to education will all feature under the large gazebo. Two benches – one gold and one purple with plasma cuttings of the Gladbrook Panther – will also feature.

Finishing pieces that are still in the works include

lighting, moving of the school flag pole, landscaping, and some history of the school.

Please join the Gladbrook community in City Park during Corn Carnival on Saturday, June 14, beginning at 1 p.m. to honor and celebrate the Panther legacy and spirit.