



Sweetwater Reporter

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UT wind law students visit local wind farms



BY JORDAN SOLIS
Staff Writer

On Good Friday, 11 students travelled from Austin to Sweetwater to take a tour of the Sweetwater Wind Farm. Ken Becker, Executive Director of Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development, Inc. (SEED), met with the students and their professor to assist them with the tour.

The attending students were all Masters of Law (L.L.M.) students at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Center for Energy, Law, and Business, an interdisciplinary academic center created by the School of Law and the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. The mission of the KBH Energy Center is to provide the finest educational opportunities in the United States to students who wish to pursue careers in energy. Each of the 11 students obtained a law degree prior to enrolling in the Wind Law program at UT.

Some of the students travelled from as far as China and Africa to study Wind Law in Texas because Texas is the model for wind energy that is most often used by other states and countries. There are only two schools in the United States that offer courses on Wind Law, and both of them are in Texas: Texas Tech University and the University of Texas. Because Texas is the model for wind energy, the students can take what they learn here and apply it to wind energy businesses in their home countries.

Rod Wetsel, a native of Sweetwater, is the professor for the Wind Law Seminar Course at UT that these students are currently enrolled in. He has been a practicing lawyer in Sweetwater since 1978. When the commercial wind industry came to Sweetwater nearly 20 years ago, Wetsel represented landowners on wind leases and wrote some initial articles on preparation of those leases. In 2011, he co-authored a book entitled Texas Wind Law (now titled Wind Law) published by LexisNexis publishing company for use in law school instruction. In 2012, Wetsel became an adjunct professor at UT Law School and has taught there every year since on a part-time basis. He makes the lengthy commute to Austin one day a week to teach a writing seminar in wind energy. In the fall, he co-teaches a wind energy class with Ernest Smith, a foremost authority on energy law and who has been teaching at the law school for 52 years. Both of the classes cover all aspects of wind

Pictured here are the Wind Law students from the University of Texas that visited the Sweetwater Wind Farm on March 25: (from left) Anita Ikwuegbu (Nigeria), Maria Bianchi (Argentina), Paulina Odun Ayanbadejo, (Nigeria), Zhanna Makash (Russia), Allison Lowry (Houston), Mingtian Li (China), Carlos Estrada (Mexico), Andrés Ramon Rodriguez-Gomez (Columbia), Michael Sivore (Missouri), Ricardo Menendez (Argentina), Professor Rod Wetsel (Sweetwater) and Piero Scarafone (Peru).

Photos by Jordan Solis

Library Tag Day set for April 6



Pictured (from left) is Erica Caballero, Gayle Greer, Karan Bergstrom, Jimmie Bender, Dr. Jason Browning, Lita McEachern and Arthur Ramirez representing Big Boy's Bar-B-Que. The Woman's Forum has kicked off this year's Library Tag Day with donations from Dr. Browning and Big Boy's. Library Tag Day is scheduled for this coming Wednesday, April 6.

Submitted photo

Policy update approved by school board

BY BELINDA SERRANO
Staff Writer

Several policies were discussed at the Sweetwater ISD (Independent School District) Board of Trustees' meeting held on Monday evening.

Policy Update 104 was approved, which affected several local policies. Among the issues changed were instructional arrangements for homebound instruction; equal educational opportunity; admissions; attendance, notably attendance accounting; and student welfare in regard to freedom from discrimination, harassment and

• See SISD page 3

Registration for summer and fall semesters begins Monday at TSTC

REPORTED BY TATIANA TORRES
Managing Editor

The idea of registering for college can seem daunting for some students and their parents. Texas State Technical College has developed a registration checklist to make it easy.

New students can register beginning Monday, April 4.

Registration Checklist:

- Submit college admissions application online (www.

• See TSTC page 3



If you miss your Sweetwater Reporter, you should call evenings by 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and we will contact your carrier — 236-6677

Wind, continued from Page 1

energy law with Texas as the model state. This semester, Wetsel has 20 students in the class, and he is assisting three other students (one of which is an L.L.M. student) with directed research papers.

"As a source of renewable energy, wind is a comparably new field and is growing rapidly," stated Wetsel. "Many of my students are interested in exploring opportunities in this area either to work solely or in conjunction with oil and gas."

Maria Bianchi, a Wind Law student from Argentina, was one of Professor Wetsel's students that visited Sweetwater on March 25. This was Bianchi's first time to see a wind farm. She mentioned that Argentina has

just recently started developing wind farms. "The energy field is very important because energy is something we all need," said Bianchi on why she is studying Wind Law. She plans on going back to Argentina after she completes her schooling and working in the wind energy field there.

The students toured the operations building and a wind turbine at the Sweetwater Wind Farm. They also got to witness how the Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer system remotely monitors and controls the wind turbines. They then enjoyed a lunch catered by Big Boy's BBQ before returning to Austin.



Jesse Monroe (center right) briefs the students about the safety training they will complete in order to go inside of one of the wind turbines at the Sweetwater Wind Farm.

#ThrowbackThursday



The Pioneer Museum in Sweetwater is searching for any information on these photos. Anyone with information on who the people in the photo are or leads to other information or to people who may have more information may call Melonnie Hicks or Betty Turner at the museum at 325-235-8547. Any and all information is appreciated.



Send us your #ThrowbackThursday photo to see it print in our Thursday edition. E-mail photos to editor@sweetwaterreporter.com or message us on Facebook.

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Obituaries

JOSEPH TERRY KIEFER

Joe "JK" Kiefer, 61, of Edinburg, passed away from cancer on Sunday, March 20, 2016, in Abilene.

A memorial service to celebrate Joe's life will be held Friday, April 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., at the Elmdale Baptist Church, 233 Elmdale Road South, Abilene, Texas, with Pastor Ray Browning officiating.

Burial will take place later this spring (details to follow), at Palm Valley Memorial Gardens in Pharr, Texas.

Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

IRENE KRAL MADDEN

Irene Kral Madden of Sweetwater, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2016 at the age of 93.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2016 at Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Kary Fry officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home.

Family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2016.

Graveside rites and burial will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at Crown Hill Cemetery, Albany, Georgia, with Dr. Biff Coker officiating. Arrangements under the direction of Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Home of Albany, Georgia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 956, Sweetwater, Texas 79556.

J.H. "WILLIE" WILLIAMS

It is with deep and heavy sadness that we announce the death of J.H. "Willie" Williams, age 86, who passed away on March 18 in Arlington.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 2 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge #571 in Sweetwater with Jimmy Emmons and Lewis Williams officiating.

The family will be receiving friends after the service at the home of Patricia and Chuck Browning, 501 East 3rd, Sweetwater.

TSTC, continued from Page 1

tstc.edu/apply);

- Apply for financial aid (recommended - www.fafsa.ed.gov - school code 003634);

- Submit high school or college transcripts;
- Submit proof of bacterial meningitis vaccination (if applicable);

- Communicate with a Success Coach for advisement;
- Register for classes with an instructor or program advisor;

- Pay balance or set up payment plan with Student Accounting.

Additional testing may be required in some cases.

All new students are strongly encouraged to attend a new student orientation. To register for orientation go to tstc.edu/nso. New student orientations are scheduled for Summer 2016: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 6; Fall 2016: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26.

Veterans are encouraged to call 325-738-3347 to learn how TSTC can ease their transition into college. Staff can assist veterans and their dependents with admissions, financial aid, GI Bill and Hazelwood process along with outreach services, external and internal referrals.

SISD, continued from Page 1

retaliation.

Notable changes within the policy included the effects of the passage of the constitutional amendment that increased the homestead exemption from \$15,000 to \$25,000, the protocol of posting financial reports to the district website or linked to the state comptroller's website, the implementation of recording devices in special education classrooms beginning next school year, the rights and opportunities for students that are homeless or in foster care, and the wellness policy that is still being developed in the district, among others.

The meeting also included the approval of the instructional materials allotment and TEKS certification for the 2016-2017 school year, which would approve any textbooks or materials that might be adopted. While none are up for adoption this year, materials for any new classes would also fall into the category.

In addition, the consent agenda was approved, which included the minutes for the Feb. 10 special team training meeting, the Feb. 18 regular meeting, the financial statement for February 2016, the investment statement, and the delinquent tax lot bids that met the minimum bid requirement. There were two delinquent tax lot bids, however, that did not meet the minimum and were not accepted by the board.

And as part of the Superintendent's report, tax collections were reported at \$7,725,876, or 93%, for the M&O (maintenance and operations) and \$850,792, or 93%, for the I&S (interest and sinking). Enrollment numbers saw an increase, with 25 students added from last month for a total of 2,181 students as of March 1.

**Wild Horse Prairie
Car Show**
Haskell, Texas
April 2, 2016

For more information
contact Ben at
940-864-4555