

Wind Power Workshop held in Spearfish

By SARA KOCH
Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH — The first ever West River Wind Power Workshop was held Wednesday in hopes of informing the public on wind energy system plans that could eventually move across the state.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner Dusty Johnson was the keynote speaker for the event and South Dakota Wind Energy Association Executive Director Steve Wegman served as emcee.

The workshop was designed to provide a great opportunity for landowners and wind power groups to network with other wind power groups, as well as with transmission line builders. Approximately 70 people were in attendance for the event at the

Spearfish Holiday Inn and Convention Center.

An all-day agenda was the product of several items of discussion as well as a variety of speakers from across the state. Some primary topics included wind power developers, wind power groups, wind power education, progress and status of regional wind power groups, transmission line development and electric cooperatives.

On behalf of Basin Electric Power Company, Rob Rebenitsch spoke about electric cooperatives and wind power for a segment of the event. He addressed a proposed Big Bend wind energy transmission line that hopes to be in progress in 2014 and said that plans for the system began approximately two years ago.

“There are many things that need to be put in place before the system is approved,” Rebenitsch said. “Applications must be submitted, feasibility

See WIND POWER — Page 28

Rob Rebenitsch of the Basin Electric Power Company, speaks to a group of approximately 70 people during the West River Wind Power Workshop held Wednesday at the convention center in Spearfish. Rebenitsch spoke about electric cooperatives and wind power addressing the transmission process of a wind energy system and other guidelines to follow throughout the construction of the systems.

Pioneer photo by Sara Koch



Cast a fly, catch a student



■ **Father and daughter combo make fly-fishing classes available in schools**

By KEVIN NORTON
Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH — As everyone knows, fly-fishing requires a Ph.D in entomology, lots of expensive equipment, and dressing up in ridiculous clothing that would embarrass even golfers.

Fly-fishing instructor Dana Cole and daughter, Katie, are on a mission to change those misconceptions.

Nate Harstock, a teacher from Hulett, Wyo., practices tying a surgeon's knot during a class for the National Fly-fishing in Schools Program. Teachers who are taught the course will be able to teach their students using an all-inclusive and indoor program. *Pioneer photo by Kevin Norton*

“The goal is to give kids an outlet to the outdoors,” said Katie. “It's a lifelong skill and an opportunity that they might not otherwise have.”

Although a line and sinker might catch a fish, she said that fly-fishing is a more skills-oriented sport.

“It ties in a lot with learning about insects and aquatic species, and even an art in the way of tying flies.”

But that doesn't make it hard to learn.

Katie estimated that it takes about one full day of instruction before a person can head down to the water and cast for trout successfully.

See FISHING — Page 26

News & Notes

Firefighters on staff for Wild Bill Days

DEADWOOD — Deadwood city commissioners gave permission to pay volunteer firefighters a total of \$1,076.32 to staff the fire hall during Wild Bill Days on June 18 and 19. The money covers four firefighters for each night, for seven hours at a time. “That's something we've done the last couple of years,” said City Commissioner Lenny Schroeder.

—Kevin Norton

Historic Engine House up for sale

DEADWOOD — Located near the start of the Mickelson trail in Deadwood, the Engine House will be offered for sale July 8 at 1:30 p.m. to the highest bidder. City Finance Officer Mary Jo Nelson said that the building was appraised for \$100,000 in November of last year. The auction will take place 1:30 p.m. inside the commission chamber at city hall, 102 Sherman St.

—Kevin Norton

Family Creek Fair set for June 20

SPEARFISH — In conjunction with the Father's Day Brunch at the Spearfish D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery on June 20, the annual Family Creek Fair is sure to be a fun family event for all. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free and open to people of all ages. The event will feature fun games and activities for the whole family, free fish food, lawn fishing, balloons and free ice cream.

—Sara Koch