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LOW
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Bakken Pipeline Approved



Mike Mendenhall/Daily News

Members of the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition protest Thursday after the Iowa Utilities Board approve a construction permit for the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline in a 3-0 vote. The Sierra Club and other intervenors intend to appeal the decision in district court. Construction on DAPL could begin this spring.

IUB grants Dakota Access permit, ‘minimum’ eminent domain rights

By Mike Mendenhall
Newton Daily News

DES MOINES — The Iowa Utilities Board approved a construction permit for the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline with a unanimous 3-0 vote on Thursday, one of the \$3.7 billion, 1,168-mile project’s last major regulatory hurdles in the state.

The three-member, governor appointed panel only returned to open session for seven minutes Thursday to deliver its ruling and explain the order. This followed five days of open deliberations in February and at least one day

of closed-door discussion Wednesday at the board’s hearing room near the state capitol in Des Moines. The board has granted Dakota Access, LLC’s pipeline construction permit allowing it to travel through 18 Iowa counties and will require landowners to enter into eminent domain negotiations with the private Texas-based company. This is a defeat for environmentalists and landowners who fought voluntary easements and were against the use of eminent domain for the pipeline’s construction.

PIPELINE | 9A

Opponents intend to appeal pipeline in court

By Mike Mendenhall
Newton Daily News

DES MOINES — It did not take long for the Iowa Utilities Board to issue its ruling Thursday granting a construction permit and the right of eminent domain to Dakota Access, LLC to lay nearly 343 miles of Bakken crude oil pipeline through 18 Iowa counties. And it took protesters even less time to react.

About 25 members from the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition — in a meeting room filled with media and roughly 60 people — began to yell, one-by-one, “I’m an Iowan, and I vote no!” The turnout and energy, however, was a far cry from December and January hearings at the Boone County Fairgrounds where more than 100 dissenters testified and even more attended to protest the development



Mike Mendenhall/Daily News

Carolyn Raffensperger from the Science and Environmental Health Network wears an armband which reads “Pipeline Fighter” Thursday during a press conference following the Iowa Utilities Board’s 3-0 approval of the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline. Roughly 25 protesters gathered at the hearing while labor union representatives celebrated what they see as the approval of a job creating project. Dakota Access, LLC anticipates 2,000 to 4,000 construction jobs created by the pipeline.

of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Directly following the IUB’s 3-0 ruling Thursday, members of the Coalition held a press conference where the land

rights activists and environmentalists fighting the pipeline outlined their next steps.

OPPOSITION | 3A

Asthon Kutcher’s donation helps NHS

Newton at-risk teacher thanks Iowa native

By Jason W. Brooks
Newton Daily News

Newton High School will be among the Iowa schools benefiting from a donation announced Thursday by actor and Cedar Rapids native Ashton Kutcher.

According to the Associated Press, Kutcher and other well-known entertainers and other celebrities made donations this week to hundreds of school programs as part of a coordinated “#bestschool day” effort to fund specific school programs. Kutcher made a YouTube video to announce



Kutcher

he’s funding 132 school programs in Iowa, and expressed his gratitude to teachers for their role in his development.

One of the beneficiaries of Kutcher’s donation is the Up Standing Classroom Project in Newton. Kutcher donated more than \$2,300 to help purchase eight “standing” desks.

Laura Sherratt, a Newton High School at-risk teacher who works with the program, was excited to share her gratitude that well-known

KUTCHER | 3A

Emerson Hough remodel to be discussed at NCSD meeting

Board to discuss, possibly approve 2016-17 calendar

By Jason W. Brooks
Newton Daily News

Remodeling of the Emerson Hough building and the 2016-17 district calendar are two of the major items on the agenda for Monday’s Newton Community School District Board of Education meeting.

The meeting is slated for 6:30 p.m.

Bids for the Emerson Hough Elementary Remodel Project — which

will return the district’s oldest building to being a regular elementary school — will be viewed publicly, and a bidding contractor will likely be chosen. The bulk of the estimated \$800,000 worth of work on the building will be to replace the HVAC system, but there will also be classroom adjustments made and lockers installed to configure the building for grades K-4.

A pre-bid conference was set for Feb. 23, with

bids due March 3, and consideration and/or award of bids is slated for Monday’s meeting.

Discussion and possible approval of the 2016-17 district calendar is on Monday’s agenda.

Per a widely followed and discussed law passed last year, the school start date can be as early as the week of Aug. 23.

Also at Monday’s meeting, Newton High School Activities and Athletics Director Scott Garvis will recognize state qualifiers in bowling, wrestling and robotics.

SCHOOL | 3A

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Newton schools sends 90 to compete / 2A

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