

# Cavalier County getting funding

## School reaps benefit of \$900K property taxes on wind farm

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Grand Forks Herald

LANGDON, N.D. - A high school track meet hasn't been held here for almost 25 years. That changes this spring.

A new running track is just one benefit of Cavalier County's own stimulus pack-  
age.

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The stimulus is \$900,000 in property taxes paid by the Langdon Wind Energy Center, a 133-turbine wind farm that has been operating for a

year. The wind farm supplied 11 percent of the \$8.5 million in property taxes collected this year in the county.

The biggest beneficiary is Langdon Area School, which has received \$465,000. About \$200,000 of it went for a six-lane, all-weather track.

"We couldn't even practice on the old one because it was a hazard," said Dennis Dinius, the boys track coach. "But we couldn't afford a new one before."

Upgrades included \$80,000 for the heating-cooling system, \$30,000 for the gym and \$12,000 for the family consumer science classroom. The system's 35 teachers each received a \$2,700 annual raise for a total of \$94,500. When the school board learned the tax dollars were more than expected, it upped the raise from \$1,900 to \$2,700.

"We have been able to offer teachers reasonable increases over the past several years, but this year, the board felt it had the money and the teachers were deserving of more," Superintendent Rich Rogers said.

Next year is the staff members' turn for a bigger salary hike than usual.

Even with that spending, the district is able to add \$180,000 to its interim fund balance, boosting it to \$1.5 million.

Like other rural districts, the Langdon Area has suffered a decline in enrollment and per-student state aid. But it hasn't had the budget stresses felt elsewhere because it added taxable land

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