

EDGE Reports Falls City Industries Continue to Hire

(KLZA)-- The quarterly report from EDGE was presented to the Falls City Council and Richardson County Commissioners this week by EDGE Executive Director Beckie Cromer.

During the report Cromer said local industries hired another 17 employees during the fourth quarter of 2014 pushing the total up to 36 for the past six months. She noted that means an added three-quarters of a million dollars in wages to employees.

As previously reported Gold Star Sausage, a company based in Colorado is working to begin operating a facility in Falls City in 2015 creating 40 jobs. EDGE has offered the company \$100,000 as incentive to open the facility in Falls City. The funding would eventually go to the City Council for approval.

Cromer also noted that Excel Development will submit an application for funding to build Phase II of Wilderness Falls housing. Plans call for building four 2-bedroom units, eight 3-bedroom units and two to four bedroom units for families.

In 2014 the application came up just short of receiving funding.

During the Commissioners meeting the Board agreed to enter into an agreement with EDGE to provide \$20,000 funding between August 1, 2014 and July 30, 2015.

In another note of interest Cromer said EDGE Executive Board members had each received an anonymous letter about taking Hiawatha's \$1.7-million movie theater idea that was voted down by citizens and implement it in Falls City.

Falls City does not have the same sales tax option available for funding such a project. The Board agreed this was not a project EDGE would pursue, as Hiawatha's movie theater is still open and moving in a new direction, plus the future of film is changing. Internet viewing of new releases has already been tested and could further hinder theater operations revenue in the future.

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