



The Serving Tray

Rotary Club of Kirksville -- Charter 371 -- District 6040

www.kvrotary.org



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EXCHANGE STUDENT: Annette Sweet is actively seeking host families for a girl from Thailand who will arrive in August. If you can help with this, contact Annette <acsweet12@gmail.com> or John Dungan <johndungan@sbcglobal.net>.

TRIVIA: President Melissa said the seventh goal of our RI President this year was protecting the environment, which she thought was appropriate in view of today's program.



IVAN HUHTALA ON MORRIS SOLAR FARM PROJECT

Matt Eichor (right) introduced today's speaker, Senior Construction Manager Ivan Huhtala, a North Carolina native, who is working with the Morris Solar Farm project in our area. Ivan has had over 23 years experience installing a wide variety of solar projects. Since 2021 he has been involved in installing over 3.6 gigawatts of Solar systems (a gigawatt is a watt followed by nine zeros). Ivan joined the Applied Energy Services Clean Energy Team in 2022 and the Morris Solar project in February of this year. (See cover email for more biographical information on him.)

Ivan said construction of the 250 MW Morris Solar Project began in the Fall of 2023 and is projected to end in the Spring of 2025, when operations will begin. The project, which will connect to the Zachary 345 kV Substation, is located in Adair County south of Kirksville and east of State Highway 3. It was anticipated that the project will cover approximately 1,100 acres. Ivan has been working with county officials regarding roads and also cooperating with neighboring land owners. The project will bring revenues to Adair County, including from the initial 400 workers who will be visiting local restaurants and seeking other services. Once construction is completed, there will be three full-time positions for local individuals for the next 30 years. Sheep will be used to control vegetation in the area. Ivan said, although no end of life data is available, the degradation rate of 1% per year would mean panels will still be in use for over 20 years.

50-50 Drawing: Pete Detweiler did not pull the ace of spades; pot now up to \$777.

Happy Bucks collected: \$68

Guests:

Nate Giessmann (guest of Annette Sweet)

Ivan Huhtala (speaker)

Upcoming Programs:

April 3: Ron Gaber, et al/RKDS Award

April 10: Ramey Weichelt/Community Proj./BDay Boxes

April 17: Lynn Buchen/Exchange Student from Germany

April 24: Carolyn Chrisman/Inspire Hope Campaign

May 1: Debbie Blessing/NEMO Area Agency on Aging

May 8: Ramey Wichelt/Community Project/Book bags

May 15: John Dungan/Red Cross