

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

A free holiday concert next month in Hayes Center is the first of what is hoped to be an annual holiday event in the area sponsored by Southwest Public Power District (SWPPD).

The event, "Give Thanks—Holiday Concert" will be held Saturday, Nov. 28, at the Hayes Center High School gym.

The concert that evening will feature Nebraska Brass, a five-piece group well known in the state and this area. The musicians all hail from the Lincoln and Omaha areas.

Nebraska Brass has performed in southwest Nebraska in the past, including an Imperial performance as part of a recent Chase County Area Arts Council season.

The Nebraska Brass holiday concert will start at 7:30 p.m. CT, but the day's festivities begin at 4 p.m. CT when businesses from the area are invited to set up a booth display in the gymnasium.

Gus Lieske of Hayes Center, who is coordinating the Nov. 28 events, noted businesses from throughout the area are invited to set up a booth from 4 to 6 p.m. CT to show appreciation to their customers, and promote their goods and services, as well.

There is no charge for the businesses to set up a customer appreciation booth.

During the 4 to 6 p.m. period, the Nebraska Brass will also entertain with holiday music.

From 6 p.m. CT until the start of the concert, there will be food furnished by local businesses and the Hayes Center school music department. There is no charge, but attendees can make a free will donation that will support the music programs at Hayes Center Schools.

Strolling student musicians will provide music during the meal.

The 7:30 p.m. concert will include a repertoire of holiday music from Nebraska Brass, and is the kickoff concert for the group's holiday season tour.

According to SWPPD's Don Suda, "This (event) provides Southwest an opportunity to show our appreciation to our many customers and to provide an enjoyable time for everyone in all of the areas we serve."

While SWPPD is the prime sponsor for the "Give Thanks—Holiday Concert," major funding is also coming from the Nebraska Arts Council. The Hayes Center Chamber of Commerce is also assisting with the event.