



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Engineers Callin Ledall and Cody Cochran of Chase County Schools had high hopes for their electric car at competition in Hastings last Saturday, but their battery ran out halfway through their race.

“The objective of the competition is to get the most laps or greatest distance in 60 minutes,” science teacher Kim Wilson observed, “so speed isn’t really important. In fact, we went too fast and used too much energy, so we didn’t have the endurance to finish. Lesson learned.”

The boys built the car from a kit with help from school bus mechanic Del Rehn. Local businesses, individuals and organizations contributed money or parts for the project.

The track at the Hastings competition was about a mile long with some turns in it, Wilson said. The team plans to compete in Grand Island at the State Patrol training center. That competition includes maneuvering and braking, as well as the endurance portion.

Cochran and Ledall competed in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Electric Light Vehicle (ELV) rally several weeks ago. They drove a car another team had made several years ago, as their own car wasn’t completed.

They placed third out of about seven cars in the exhibition class.

The competition is sponsored by Nebraska Public Power District and Omaha Public Power District.