



Mock emergency disaster drill at 80 meters

A Wind Technician becomes unconscious while working 80 meters up-tower, at approximately 4:00 p.m. last Wednesday at one of the Oak Tree Energy Wind Farm turbine sites.

That was the scenario handed down by RENEW Energy Maintenance Safety Coordinator Steve Tolrud for the mock exercise to test the emergency plans of Clark County, should a real crisis occur.

This event focused on emergency response plans, capabilities, communication and procedures pertaining to on-site safety.

The accident training simulation involved: Clark County Emergency Management, the Clark Fire Department, Clark Ambulance, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Clark Police Department, Bradley and Raymond Emergency Services, Willow Lake Wheat Growers Technical Rescue Team, Avera St. Lukes CareFlight and RENEW Energy Maintenance.

The dramatization was to be as real as possible so the drill could be a good learning tool and Tolrud said it was a very successful and effective exercise. "An emergency situation within a Wind Farm environment is something new for Clark County. The training will prepare us if called upon to respond in a real emergency," said Pam Grensberg, Clark County Ambulance Administrator.

The goal of the exercise was to

provide realistic training for emergency management personnel, increase operational effectiveness and ensure the best outcome in case of a real emergency.

As the ambulance, EMT's and fire trucks arrived on the scene, the

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victim was unconscious and lowered to safety. "The safety of our technicians and responding units is paramount. We conduct these simulated drills to increase safety awareness and better prepare responses in the event of a real emergency," said Tolrud.

The victim was loaded into the waiting ambulance and taken to where the helicopter from Aberdeen had landed. The helicopter pilot talked safety around the helicopter and how to set up needed landing zones.

The EMT's and all technicians then visited about what had transpired and continued with practices involving loading volunteer victims into the helicopter.



The unconscious victim had been lowered down the side of the 80 meter tower to the waiting rescue workers and was then loaded onto the ambulance cart for transfer. Rescue workers from left to right are Pam

Grensberg, Randy Angermeier, Jeff Seefeldt, Tony Schlagel, Tyler Lamb, Justin Bowers and Coral Berg.

Clark's wastewater treatment plant is located on the southeast corner of town

Approximately four years ago it was brought to the city of Clark's attention by the South Dakota Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) that a change needed to be made to the current wastewater system.

The wastewater system's current outfall line discharges into a stream that eventually runs into Antelope Lake and Indian Springs Lake. These lakes have been reclassified as fishable lakes. State rules do not allow wastewater discharges that reach lakes that are classified as fishable.

Since that time, Clark Mayor Larry Dreher, finance officer Jackie Luttrell and the city council have been working diligently to bring about a replacement for the 30-year-old wastewater system with a total retention system that does not discharge. The estimated cost of this project four years ago was \$5,000,000.

Since 2010 many funding roadblocks and bureaucratic red tape situations have caused the city to



This time of year is a very busy time for city employee Darin Altfillisch. The water/sewer superintendent will be hauling sludge from now until freeze up. Sludge is stored in the big blue tank and pumped to the sludge truck. It then is placed on area fields.

take two steps forward and three backward, but the city is doing everything in their power to bring about a new retention pond system, but with so many state and federal agencies involved there still is a ways to go, with the end in sight, but still a ways to go.

This story isn't about the new system, because so many questions without answers exist on this on-going project, but rather what the city does have currently, located in the southeast corner of the city.

Wastewater plant

Darin Altfillisch has been the wastewater/water superintendent in Clark for 22 and a half years. He is in charge of the water plant, the wastewater plant and the swimming pool.

Usually when a reporter visits with Altfillisch it is about the antiquated infrastructure of the city's sewer system or the 50-year-old over-sized swimming pool, but this time we talked about how the sewer plant works and what all is entailed to removing waste from residences,

to the wastewater plant and eventually on to area fields.

Four things really stood out in the Altfillisch interview: 1) The city of Clark has four years remaining on their current permit. So within four years Clark has to construct this new retention pond; 2) Animal waste and human waste must be kept separate; 3) The Clark wastewater plant is not on a computer system; and 4) A direct analogy can be drawn from the wastewater plant to the human body's digestive process.

"We have four years left on our current permit," said Altfillisch and he then implied that the city will need all of that time to get funding and have the various agencies working together to bring about the new retention pond.

"It's kind of ironic that of the three things I'm in charge of, this is the newest facility, but by far under the most scrutiny because of EPA and other policies." Altfillisch not-

Wastewater plant
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'Reading Plus' is a big help!



Seniors, left to right, Dylan Wicks, Megan Schuelke and Jake Schmidt are shown with their laptops as they check out their new Reading Plus web based reading program. Guided by English teacher Jamie Fryslie,

The Willow Lake School District has committed to a three year contract with the Reading Plus, web based program. This program helps students develop the skills needed to be proficient readers, independent learners and to read faster with better comprehension.

And it speaks to students as it is set up like a video game say the teachers.

Julayne Thoreson, who is the head of the curriculum committee on the Willow Lake School strategic plan for 2014-2019, found this fun and innovative program. "As a former English teacher and a present school board member, I have

made a commitment to move forward with programs that help our students' success," said Thoreson. "After being introduced to this program at a school board convention and after researching it more thoroughly I've found a lot of positive responses and results from schools across the state who have used this program. The goal of the program is to improve one's silent reading skills." The Reading Plus program will be used in grades 3-12.

Jamie Fryslie who teaches English in the high school grades 9-12 has made it a part of her class curriculum for the year.

"Reading Plus helps the students

read faster, recognize new words and comprehend what they read," said Fryslie. "The students first take an InSight assessment to customize it just for them individually. In the 'SeeReader' reading practice, they are able to choose stories and articles that are interesting to them."

The students earn 'powers' that improve their scores. And by completing a 'Combo' which is so many lessons in a row, they also move up to another level. By earning combos and powers, they move up a level which will unlock more stories to continue.

Reading Plus (continued on page 12)

| WEATHER | | | |
|--|--------|----|-----|
| Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer | | | |
| | HI | LO | PR |
| Sept. 23 | 59 | 54 | .32 |
| Sept. 24 | 73 | 55 | 0 |
| Sept. 25 | 79 | 55 | 0 |
| Sept. 26 | 80 | 58 | 0 |
| Sept. 27 | 78 | 58 | 0 |
| Sept. 28 | 78 | 51 | 0 |
| Sept. 29 | 63 | 48 | 0 |
| 2014 precipitation to date | 14.64" | | |
| 2013 precipitation to date | 20.30" | | |



As windows are cleaned, Homecoming must be over

A picture is always better when the subject doesn't know you're taking it. Such was the case last Wednesday afternoon when Cyclone cheerleader Bailey Miles was cleaning the Courier window. Annually, the cheerleaders decorate the downtown

area with 'window painting,' writing colorful signs and slogans for Homecoming. What goes up, must come down, and the Clark-Willow Lake cheerleaders cleaned all windows last week.