

33rd annual Pro Pheasants banquet is Friday, April 6

The Clark County Pro Pheasants 33rd annual banquet is Friday, April 6 at the Clark American Legion Hall.

Clark County Pro Pheasants Club president Robert Steffen said that the organization is committed to working with their members to increase the pheasant population in Clark County.

In 2017 the organization enrolled 389.5 acres in the food plot program in Clark County. "These acres are up from 2016," said Steffen.

The club also helped members in releasing over 2,500 fertile hens in Clark County in the spring of 2017. Steffen said, "We have secured hens

for the spring 2018 release. We also have a live trap program we subsidize. We have a limited number of traps available to members on a first come, first serve basis. Any programs offered by our organization are available to Clark County Pro Pheasants members only. There will be an opportunity to sign up at the banquet for anyone interested in participating in any or all programs."

Clark County residents make up a good portion of the Pro Pheasants' membership, but members also come from surrounding counties and from Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio.

Four appeals heard at city equalization meeting

The City of Clark equalization meeting was held Monday night, with four appeals to be heard.

Mayor John Pollock began the meeting explaining how the appeal process works, with this being the first step, prior to the county making their decision on the respective appeals. Robert Steffen is the Clark School Board member on the city equalization board.

Two lot appeals were heard. Wayne 'Buster' Altfillisch recently paid \$17,500 for the adjoining lot south of his residence. It was valued at \$24,800. The equalization board approved the \$17,500 valuation.

Larry Dreher appealed the spare lot just to the east of his residence. The 80' x 100' lot was valued at \$13,500. The equalization board approved a new value of \$6,500.

Kyle and Mallory McIntire's house was given the value of \$94,518. When purchased in recent years, the bank's appraisal was \$50,000 and it was purchased for less than it was appraised. The board approved a \$70,000 valuation.

tion.

Corey Hallstrom and Janice Husman were approved by the equalization board to go back to last year's valuation of \$190,678 for their property, rather than the present \$227,408.

It should be noted that valuations in 2018 will be changing. Beginning in April and ending in November, Vanguard Appraisals, an Iowa firm, has been hired by the county to put new valuations on all property, except bare ag land.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Mar. 13.....	35	14	0
Mar. 14.....	43	21	0
Mar. 15.....	35	21	0
Mar. 16.....	33	21	0
Mar. 17.....	39	27	0
Mar. 18.....	34	29	0
2018 precipitation to date			0.53
2017 precipitation to date			0.88

Cyclones are State B runners-up; finish fantastic season at 20-6



What a weekend! With three games in three days the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones put on quite a show for one and all, finishing runners-up in the 2018 South Dakota Class B Boys High School Basketball Tournament.

Clark-Willow Lake defeated Canistota 57-47 in the opening round on Thursday; defeated Bridgewater-Emery 67-62 in the semifinals, on Friday and lost a heartbreaker, 58-55 to Sully Buttes in the championship game on Saturday.

The atmosphere in the Barnett Center in Aberdeen was electric, something that will stick with the players and fans alike for some time!

Junior guard Jacob Prouty, pictured, along with senior forward Ntai Stevens, were named to the All-Tournament team. Prouty drew a crowd almost every time he attacked the basket and here, three Bridgewater-Emery Huskies try to change his path to the basket.

A great post season run sees the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones finishing the 2018 South Dakota State B Boys Basketball Tournament with Runners-up honors!

Sully Buttes used a dominating fourth quarter performance to erase a 48-38 deficit after three periods to down the Cyclones 58-55 and claim the 2018 Class B title.

"We had a great post season run," said Clark-Willow Lake head coach Jerome Nesheim. "The last six games were the best basketball that we had played all year. We were by far the most exciting and entertaining team to watch on the floor. Our kids bring a lot of energy and emotion to the game and that really makes the game a lot of fun to watch and be a part of. Very few teams bring as much emotion to the game as our players and the game needs to be played with emotion. It is ok to be excited."

Cyclone seniors include Bradyn Rusher, Ntai Stevens and Mekel Sanchez. Stevens, along with junior Jacob Prouty, were the two Clark-Willow Lake players named to the All-Tournament team.

The Cyclones end the 2017-18 season at 20-6.

In the 'Welcome Home' event, Clark athletic director Jerry Hartley gave some heart-felt remarks: "When I think of this team and these athletes, words like 'respectful', 'unselfish' and 'all-in' come to mind. These guys were on the same pages with their coaches! They are a very disciplined team. And the bottom line - THEY WERE VERY FUN TO WATCH. Don't let one game define you. You had a great year and we are truly blessed with very good kids. That Friday night win over Bridgewater-Emery was the most fun game I've ever been a

State B

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After a lifetime of entertaining, Buck Crouse states,

"Parades just aren't the same without the clown car"



Without their clown makeup and colorful clothes, these clowns - alias, Dennis Tilly, Buck Crouse and Tim Crouse (L-R) are shown by the Veteran's Memorial in Flat Iron Park in Clark.

Clark County is where they hope to find the parts to remake another clown car for the D. Crouse and Crew. The former car was lost along with its owner Don Crouse in November of 2016 in a tragic house fire. Crouse assembled the car with parts from the county and the next generation hopes/plans to do the same.

"It's just like Uncle Don to go and take all of his toys with him," stated the late Don Crouse's niece Cindy Larson.

In part, what she was referring to was the tragic fire on November 19, 2016 in which Don lost his life in the house/garage fire along with all of his belongings.

Clown car included. "We're looking to remake the old clown car like Dad did - with parts donated and used from Clark County," stated Dan "Buck" Crouse, Don's youngest son who's been an active clown with the group and the car for as long as he can remember.

The car made its debut on June 8, 1958 at the Willow Lake 75th Jubilee parade with Don and Norm Denman as the original clowns. Don and his wife Dorothy (Ulyot) Crouse, (both 1944 CHS graduates) moved to Willow Lake in 1952 and owned/operated Crouse Drug and Jewelry for the next 10 years. Making an entry for their drug store for

Crouse

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Solar Oven Project does mission work in the Dominican Republic

The old bank/Legion building in Raymond known in recent years as Bethke's Lodge now has a new name and mission.

Solar Oven Partners (SOP) Board of Directors president Gene Bethke and his wife Wanda have stepped up to offer space in their building to officially become the SOP workshop - south.

At this location which also remains Bethke's Lodge adding volunteers to their clientele in offering a place to stay over for the night, volunteers will cut 'J' channel pieces, wood frames and hard foam insulation among other duties. Packing up for shipment is also done at this location. "We have something to do for all abilities of our volunteers," noted Wanda Bethke. "There are many ways to help here with the solar oven project."

"Our first group is coming April 3," stated G. Bethke who organiz-



Wanda Bethke and Pastor Joy Tracy on the right, stand in assembly line fashion as they put together solar ovens in the Dominican Republic.

A group of eight from N.D., S.D. and Minnesota returned just before Christmas as volunteers in Mission for the Solar Oven Project. Gene Bethke also joined them on the trip. To the left of Bethke is Harris Bai-

es his volunteer days in advance. "Just give me a call, I'm in the phone book. We're flexible and are appreciative of any help that comes our way."

The Bethke's have been with the SOP organization for about 12 years and for many years have

Solar Oven

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Crocker Wind Farm environmental assessment released by U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), working with Crocker Wind Farm, LLC (Crocker), a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Energy, LLC (Geronimo), released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Crocker Wind Farm in Clark County, South Dakota. The Crocker Wind Farm project (Project) proposal would place 14 turbines, associated infrastructure, and 14 transmission poles on Service grassland easements in South Dakota. This report was released last week, a 120-page detailed summation of the proposed 120 wind tower project of the Geronimo Energy Wind Farm, including the 14 federal easements.

Grassland easements are voluntary agreements made with landowners that protect grassland habitats for waterfowl, migratory birds, and other wildlife. South Dakota is home to some of the last native grassland habitats in the Prairie Pothole Region. This area also provides potential for expansion of energy, including wind energy. To balance the needs of wildlife and people, the Service first works with wind energy companies to avoid impacts to Service easement interests. Where that is not practicable, the Service coordinates with wind energy companies to minimize impacts to protected resources and trust species and may consider a land ex-

change. That means the project would provide about 30 acres to the government afterward.

The minimum federal standard for land swaps is one-to-one.

The project would generate up to 400 megawatts of electricity.

It would connect to a transmission network that carries power for North Dakota-based Basin Electric. The cooperative wants to buy electricity generated at the Crocker project.

"Based on the surveys conducted to date, there were no species identified by Crocker as high concern, meaning that the project would not pose a significant risk to any re-

sources that could not otherwise be avoided, minimized, or mitigated," the assessment said.

The state Public Utilities Commission set the project application aside last year because the turbine sties at that time weren't in definite locations. South Dakota has a six-month limit on the time the commission can spend on a wind application.

Crocker has been meeting with the Service to minimize project impacts to lands protected by these easements. The Project may permanently impact up to 15.1 grassland easement acres and temporarily impact up to 270 acres during project development. The draft EA is

proposing to enter into a land exchange for the affected parcels.

The Service has provisions to allow temporary impacts if stipulations of permits require restoration. The Service also has provisions and regulations governing exchanges for permanent impacts to easement interests. A land exchange can be a valuable tool that allows the Service to exchange easement lands impacted by a project for lands elsewhere that have equal or greater conservation value. These newly exchanged lands would be protected by a conservation easement in perpetuity.

The project would have 43.6 miles of access roads including

5.3 miles on grassland easements. There would be a 5.2 mile overhead transmission line that connects to Basin's transmission line between Groton and Watertown.

There would be 260.5 acres of federal grassland easements temporarily affected and 15.1 acres permanently affected, according to the report. Another 13.4 acres of wetland basins would be temporarily affected but none would be permanently.

Non-easement acres temporarily affected would total 1,560.6. Permanent effects would occur on 142 acres.

Crocker Wind Farm (continued on page 3)