

## Clark Community Oil talks new convenience store at city hall

### ▲ City authorizes purchase of real estate for retention pond wastewater plant

The retail business climate in Clark is showing growth. Dollar General has the shell up to the store and zoning variances show that Casey's General (Convenience) Store will be building to the east of this new building.

At Monday's March meeting of the Clark City Council, Clark Community Oil General Manager Troy Grensberg used the public input portion of the meeting to visit with the council about a new convenience store which will be located in the former Greenfield's Short Stop location.

"The plan is to break ground as soon as possible this spring with the target completion date for late fall," said Grensberg, and he told those at the meeting that he wanted city water and sewer lines.

This property currently is not lo-

cated within city limits and therefore city water and sewer lines would have to be under construction. Grensberg said he'd like to see this done sooner rather than later.

The city of Clark has requested an annexation survey, probably to be completed by late summer. Grensberg told the council that he, on behalf of Community Oil, is not requesting annexation but he is under the assumption they would be annexed into the city. Clark Veterinary Service, located just to the west of this aforementioned property, also is not in the city limits.

This annexation connection at this time has more questions than answers but the council is meeting again in two weeks and continues to bring about a solution to this situation. Said city attorney Chad Fjelland, "We will attack this question

starting tomorrow and will have answers on March 21 (the next council meeting). City finance officer Jackie Luttrell said by Tuesday of this week she will know more 'stuff' and by the next meeting some answers and annexation directives could be available. "Let's keep communication lines open," said Mayor Larry Dreher to Grensberg at the end of the public input conversation.

#### Summer Rec

"We are in a pretty serious situation right now with no employees signed up for the swimming pool," said finance officer Luttrell. "To start with, we have no pool manager and no lifeguards. Life guard training classes are held at the end of this month. If the pool is to open, we need to fill these positions." Luttrell noted that the city is still look-

ing to fill a coach pitch position and there is no Teener baseball coach at this time.

#### In other business:

▲ City employee Roger Collins asked the council, because of the nice weather, if the city dump could be open each Saturday in March, with the dump opening for the season on April 4. He said Ronnie Schorg is again willing to work at the dump, with hours and rates remaining the same as in 2015.

▲ In his police report, Jeremy Wellnitz reported that the new police patrol vehicle will be here by the end of the month. He stated miles traveled in February were 1,284. There were 51 calls for service with the largest being traffic stops. Four warnings were issued and six citations were given for the

month of February.

▲ Resolution #822, authorizing the purchase of real estate by the city of Clark for a retention pond wastewater plant was approved. Prior to this motion, a brief closed session was held, requested by city attorney Fjelland.

It is the east half (E 1/2) of Section Seventeen (17), Township One Hundred Sixteen (116) North, Range Fifty-Seven (57) West of the 5th P. M., Clark County, South Dakota; consisting of 320 acres, for a price of Two Million One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$2,144,000.00) Dollars.

▲ Heather's Bistro was granted a wine on/off sale license. The operating agreement is that a straight 10 percent of sales will go to the city.

▲ Rod Gruenwald is approved to sell fireworks on the Fourth of July in the back door of the former Playhouse Family Restaurant.

▲ The council approved surplusing the Cell-Dyn 1800 hematology system to Sanford to dispose of. The new machine is coming later this month.

▲ The equalization meeting, to be held Monday, March 21, will have a fairly lengthy agenda, speculated Luttrell.

▲ All council members were present, including: Louann Streff, Andrew Zemlicka, Belinda Hanson, Kerry Kline, Vicki Orris and Dennis Larson, via speaker phone. Also present were Mayor Dreher, finance officer Luttrell and city attorney Fjelland.

## Clark County Board of Commissioners hosts Thursday, March 3 meeting

### ▲ Crocker Wind Farm is 'newsiest' item of meeting

Normally, the Clark County Board of Commissioners meet on Tuesday, twice a month, but during the month of March, they met on Thursday, March 3 and will meet again Monday, March 14, senior Government Day, hosted by the Clark County American Legion posts.

Because of the Thursday meeting, the *Courier* was able to be in attendance and many newsworthy matters were discussed and acted upon, if necessary.

The first portion of the meeting dealt with highway supervisor Ryan Eggleston followed by weed supervisor Eric Mehlberg, handling routine items.

Eggleston did talk load limits on all county roads, which went in effect on Wednesday, March 2. "It's March, it's time," he said and then he talked of roads in the southern end of the county. "Common sense is really needed here," as Eggleston was specifically speaking of a road south of Willow Lake, where heavy semi trailers are common. "We will start with a seven ton limit and see how it goes. If it becomes an issue we may have to lower it."

Seven surplus county items, including five trucks, a motor grader and a CAT were sold at auction, gaining the county \$105,300.

There are 18 bridges in Clark County. Annual inspection is required by law and in 2017, three bridges will be fixed, with 80 percent state and 20 percent county funding.

\$500,000 to the highway fund was approved as an operating transfer after a very brief closed session for personnel discussion. Eggleston then told the commissioners that

four, long-time county highway employees have either retired, or will be retiring and the commissioners agreed for an event later on this spring/summer for all retirees.

Eggleston closed, "Crack sealing has started, near Vienna and we are doing the 'most driven' roads first."

Weed supervisor Mehlberg was looking at two things, a full-time employee, shared with the highway department and a different vehicle. The commissioners approved the advertising for a full-time employee.

Regarding the used pickup purchase, it was not an agenda item, so it will be on the March 14 agenda.

Jessica Michalski and Kim McGraw, representing the 4-H Leaders, shared with the commissioners the plan of replacing the beef barn at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

The 4-H Leaders have formed a building committee and association president Michalski told the commissioners that this month the topic would be brought up and next month she will be back with more information and details, including if any grants are available and how much funding will be needed.

States Attorney Chad Fjelland held a brief executive session concerning pending litigation. No motion followed the closed session.

#### Crocker Wind Farm

The 'newsiest' story of the meeting came when Jay Hesse of Geronimo Energy and Crocker farmer/rancher Fred Obermeier approached the commission about the proposed Crocker Wind Farm.

In preliminary stages, Hesse shared with the board of commissioners an introduction conversa-

tion to the 200 megawatt Crocker Wind Farm.

This proposed wind farm will be in the northwest part of the county, south of SD Highway 20, in Ash, Warren, Woodland and Spring Valley townships, on roughly 20,000 acres. The 75-125 turbine wind farm would be in the \$350,000,000 investment range.

Hesse noted that the permitting process for this project will take place later this year and at this time there is no contract in place for power, as that also will happen down the road. Speaking of roads, Hesse stated that one of the huge improvements that comes about with projects such as these, is the improvement to infrastructure, especially roads. When asked about a time frame, Hesse said that a preferred schedule would be to get started this fall and then next spring get started with bringing in the turbines. Hesse said this project will provide for 15 full-time jobs.

Fred Obermeier, who lives in Ash Township, said he started

#### Commissioners (continued on page 3)

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Mar. 1.....	16	4	0
Mar. 2.....	29	11	0
Mar. 3.....	30	22	0
Mar. 4.....	49	25	0
Mar. 5.....	44	22	0
Mar. 6.....	62	37	0
Mar. 7.....	63	35	0
2016 precipitation to date	1.32		
2015 precipitation to date	.56		



## Think this technician goes ice fishing when he gets off work?

Five blocks of the downtown area of Clark's water and sewer lines were re-lined last week.

It's really a pretty slick system, said Clark water and sewer superintendent Darin Altfillisch. He explained that plastic linings are steamed in and with chemicals become hard plastic.

"Then robots go in and cut individual service lines.

We have three sections of town left, so we could be done in about three years," Altfillisch told the city council at Monday's meeting.

As the truck shows, A-1 Sewer and Drain out of Rapid City is doing the work. A-1 is contracted for \$49,900 annually.

## Jim Moritz named to South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame

Jim Moritz will follow his father and grandfather into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame. The former publisher of the *Faulkton County Record* and 1967 Clark High School graduate is one of four to be inducted, in April.

Jim Moritz published the *Faulkton County Record* at Faulkton from 1977 until last year when he and his wife Jody sold the newspaper to a longtime employee. Moritz has been an avid promoter of the Faulkton community and Faulk County. He was president of SDNA in 1994-95.

Jim's dad Bert was inducted into the S. D. Newspaper Hall of Fame in 1989. His grandfather, B. W. (Jeff) Condit was a 1970 S. D. Hall of Fame Honoree.

Three more South Dakotans with distinguished newspaper careers will be inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in April.



Jim Moritz

They are: Kathy Nelson of the *Timber Lake Topic*, Timothy Walt-

ner of the *Freeman Courier*, and the late Kenneth B. Way of the *Watertown Public Opinion*.

The four newspaper people will be honored during the South Dakota Newspaper Association convention April 29 in Mitchell.

Plaques honoring members of the Newspaper Hall of Fame are on display at the Anson & Ada May Yeager Hall at South Dakota State University. The SDSU Department of Journalism and Mass Communications has been home to the Newspaper Hall of Fame ever since the Hall of Fame was established in 1934.

"We are humbled to honor those who have made huge contributions to the newspaper industry in our state," said SDNA President Bill Krikac, publisher of the *Clark County Courier*, Clark. "These four

#### Moritz (continued on page 3)

## Fifty years ago this week, epic blizzard shuts down the region

It was 50 years ago in early March when the blizzard of 1966 happened. It was widely considered to be one of the most severe the state of South Dakota has ever documented.

It started on a Wednesday, March 2 and continued through Saturday, March 5, 1966.

When all was said and done, the total death count was 16 with six in South Dakota, five in North Dakota and five in Minnesota in the large winter storm system.

Livestock losses were heavy including 50,000 cattle, 46,000 sheep and 1,800 hogs; with highest losses taking place in the central and north central part of the state.

After the event, Governor Nils Boe declared South Dakota as a 'major disaster area'.

Over a foot of snow was recorded over much of the Dakotas and Minnesota. Bowdle reported 39 inches, Aberdeen had 18.5 inches, Mellette

measured 15 inches and Webster recorded 14 inches.

Clark was in the eight to 12 inch range and Clark County was fortunate in that they reported no losses in human life or livestock during this storm, but counties to the west weren't as fortunate.

#### Stuck after regional tournament

In the March 10, 1966 issue of the *Clark County Courier*, 'Tong', an AFS student at Clark stated that "never have I known such wind, I was frightened".

Tong and his friends Frank Seater and Stan Logan of Clark were among many who were stranded in Huron following a regional basketball tournament. Staying in a motel on the top floor in Huron, Tong stated "I thought sure that the building would tip over due to the strong winds". Snow was so deep at their motel in Huron, a tunnel had

to be dug from the front door to the street.

A number of residents from the county were stranded in the Huron area after that tournament. A large group of basketball fans made it north to the Pheasant City Service Station 18 miles north of Huron. Approximately 80 people had to stay at the station from 11:00 p.m. Thursday night to the next Saturday morning. Mrs. Marvin DesLauriers reported that the cooperation was wonderful, even on the part of the babies and food was not a problem with all of the rolls, coffee, cookies, chips and candy, etc... at the station.

Lillian Woodfork recalled her group in several cars who had attended the regional tournament as well as another fan bus from Doland, had tried to go on after the

#### Blizzard (continued on page 3)