



Stephan Tjaden is the Oak Tree Energy Wind Farm Site Operations Manager. Employed by Juhl Energy, Tjaden has an office at 119 N. Commercial Street, in Clark. Married to the former Michelle Wookey, they have two children, Cooper and Kylie.

Tjaden is wind farm manager

It has been approximately four months since Consolidated Edison Development, a New York State-based developer and operator of large-scale renewable energy projects announced that they had acquired and signed an agreement to operate Oak Tree Energy Wind Farm.

According to George Germano, Director of Engineering and Asset Management of ConEdison Development, space has been rented at 119 N. Commercial St., in Clark, as a center for this wind farm facility. This location is just north of Daco-

tah Bank - Clark.

At this Commercial St. location are two wind farm technicians. One, a temporary General Electric maintenance operator and Stephan Tjaden, Juhl Energy Site Operations Manager. Juhl Energy, of Pipestone, Minn. is the provider of development support services, as local representation.

"We're in charge of all the operations, overseeing maintenance and repair, interfacing regularly

Tjaden
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April 20-24 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Dakota

South Dakotans are being encouraged this week to start making preparations for severe weather that may occur this spring and summer.

This week, April 20-24, has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Dakota and Clark County Emergency Management Director Michael Graving asks one and all to take a minute to make sure they are prepared for a disaster. It is the annual week where citizens are urged to start preparing for the eventual severe weather that happens in the summer.

"We know severe weather, such as thunderstorms, tornadoes and even floods can occur," said Department of Public Safety Secretary Trevor Jones. "The key is knowing what to do when it happens. Families especially should talk about what to do in times of severe weather."

Several counties throughout the week are holding severe weather preparedness meetings for their spotters and the public. The Storm

Spotter training in Clark was held on April 9.

"This third week of April is a good week to emphasize just how important it is to get ready for weather emergencies and to realize that disasters can strike quickly and without warning," said Graving.

A statewide tornado drill will be held on Wednesday, (today), April 22. The test watch is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. CDT (9 a.m. MDT) with the warning issued at 10:15 a.m. CDT (9:15 a.m. MDT). A statement announcing that the test is over will be issued at 10:30 a.m. CDT (9:30 a.m. MDT).

In most communities on Wednesday, severe weather sirens will be sounded. People are reminded that it is only a test unless otherwise announced.

Graving is in constant communication with regional supervisors and the National Weather Service. In his position, he explained that it is important to be proactive as well as reactive and he urges all residents to be safe, be informed and be prepared.

Frequency of Tornadoes

Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year. Months of peak tornado occurrence in South Dakota are from May to July. In some states, a secondary tornado maximum occurs in the fall. Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. but have been known to occur at all hours of the day or night. The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction. The average forward

Severe weather
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"Drought impacts starting to mount"

▲ Weekend moisture brought some relief

Dry conditions are likely to stay with us in the near term. Some hope exists in the long-term outlook released by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center April 16, 2015 which shows potential improvement this summer.

"The new U.S. Drought Monitor map released April 16 reflected the continuing issues across the state with moderate drought (D1) areas expanding across northern, western and far eastern South Dakota. Nearly 66 percent of the state is now covered by moderate drought conditions," said Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist and SDSU Extension Climate Specialist.

Todey explained that in addition to looking at moisture levels, the drought monitor also looks to see if there are impacts from drought showing up in crops and streamflows. The current monitor shows that the continued lack of statewide precipitation has impacted both our state's winter wheat crop and streamflows. Statewide, Todey said January 2015 through March 2015 has been the driest on record. The month of March was the second driest on record.

"Drought impacts in South Dakota are still not huge, but starting to mount," Todey said. "Streamflows in many places in the state are falling below average for this time of year. Although there are multiple factors which cause fires, certainly the current very dry conditions statewide have exacerbated the situation with a few large and numerous smaller fires across the state."

Winter wheat impacted by dry conditions

Todey said winter wheat has been the largest crop impacted by the dry conditions. "Some crop losses in winter wheat are already being reported due to combinations of the dryness and winterkill caused by extreme cold with lack of snow cover this winter," Todey said.

He added that other crops and rangeland have not been seriously



It is that time of year when moisture is needed. With less than an inch of rain falling in the county from the first of the year through April 15, 2015 has been an extremely dry year up to this point.

A nice shower moved through the region Saturday night, into Sunday, with most areas reporting, .50" - 1.00" of rain.

impacted, but will need precipitation soon.

Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist said the dry conditions have allowed soils to warm and allowed for earlier than usual access to fields, giving farmers a head start on spring field work. With the current fire issues, Edwards added that some producers are waiting until the evening to plant corn because of higher relative humidity and lighter winds, two factors which reduce fire risks in the field.

"Soil temperatures (at 4 inches) in the state continue to hover in the upper 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit - a level where corn planting is appropriate. The dry conditions and overall warm temperatures

have helped push soil temperatures warmer statewide," Edwards said.

Current soil temperature data can be found at the South Dakota Soil Temperature Maps website.

Todey said the longer range outlooks from NOAA for May and the summer are somewhat more optimistic, with May showing equal chances for below or above average over most of the state. "The 90-day outlook and outlooks into the summer even bring above average chances for precipitation in the western part of the state," said Todey.

Current forecast

Planting could be slowed by cooler conditions statewide next week. Cooler temperatures could reduce some of the potential fire issues and

The forecast for this week is dry and windy, with the highs stuck in the 50's and the lows right at the freezing mark.

Pastures, ponds and sloughs are all in dire need of moisture and hopefully the next 30 days will have some moisture patterns moving through the upper plains states.

Drought (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

| | HI | LO | PR |
|----------------------------|-------|----|-----|
| Apr. 14..... | 75 | 36 | 0 |
| Apr. 15..... | 68 | 44 | 0 |
| Apr. 16..... | 69 | 44 | 0 |
| Apr. 17..... | 68 | 40 | 0 |
| Apr. 18..... | 68 | 45 | .72 |
| Apr. 19..... | 52 | 36 | 0 |
| Apr. 20..... | 46 | 26 | 0 |
| 2015 precipitation to date | 1.49" | | |
| 2014 precipitation to date | 1.12" | | |



Saturday was Prom Night with "The Roaring 20's" as the theme

High school Proms are the social event of the spring calendar and Saturday night Clark High School hosted Prom 2015 with "The Roaring 20's" as the theme.

With a beautifully decorated auditorium, the banquet was held followed by the Grand March. Prior to the banquet, Prom goers went to the Furness Funeral Home for Pre-Prom activities and following the

dance the After Prom event was held in Watertown playing laser tag.

It is a Courier tradition to picture the presidents and their dates. Allyson Monson is the junior class president and her date is Joseph Streff. Jill Warkentien is the student council president and her date is Rawson Yost and Maddie Schaack is the senior class president and her date is Gus Carlson.

Zemlicka wins Ward III seat

▲ Regnier wins in Vienna

Municipal elections were held last Tuesday in Clark, for a three-year city council seat for Ward III and in Vienna for a three-year trusteeship position.

The Clark results were: Andrew Zemlicka - 41; Niki Smidt - 31; Lon Reidburn - 7.

The results in Vienna are: Lue Regnier - 8; Elmer Anderson - 7.