



Hilltop Aerial is now under new ownership

It's pretty exciting news when one can sell the business they have worked very hard to build and then stay on as the general manager of the company.

Doug Hansen announced last week that he has sold Hilltop Aerial to Paul and Jarrod Lindemann of Valley City, N.D. As aforementioned, Hansen will stay on as general manager. The Lindemann brothers are fourth generation crop sprayers/pilots and Hansen is very pleased and proud of what the Lindemann's bring to the Clark County Airport.

"We are keeping the Hilltop Aerial name, although we will be moving from Incorporated status, to L.L.C. We will remain in Clark, Webster and Madison," said Hansen and all addresses and emails will remain the same."

Paul and Jarrod Lindemann own North Valley Aircraft in Valley City, N.D., and flying is their life as well as their livelihood. They fly in Air Shows on a regular basis. Their business specializes in custom aerial application, aircraft maintenance and everything dealing with selling and rebuilding aircraft.

"The Lindemanns seem to be a younger version of Doug," said Tina Hansen and she feels this is a great opportunity for the younger generation. Doug and Tina have two sons, Jed who graduates May 9 from Lake Area Technical Institute with a degree in aviation mechanics and Caleb who is a junior at Clark High School. Both boys are very interested in the family business, their

folks agreed.

The Clark, Webster and Madison Hilltop Aerial crews will stay as is and could grow by a couple of pilots. The office staff at Clark is Bobbie Jo Schmidt and Jill Stern; at Webster it is Shonda Holscher and at Madison it is Christy Oberg. Steven Hennigs is the mechanic.

Technology

What Hansen is excited about is that the Lindemann's are bringing a "cool, high-tech, cutting edge to every aspect of aviation and the crop spraying business," said Hansen.

The spray system will be electrostatic with fungicides, insecticides and micronutrients. "This new technology will integrate nicely on both the spraying side and agronomy side," said Hansen.

This new imagery agronomy will be with camera systems, in airplanes, with capabilities of going from bare dirt to full crop production, telling exactly the weed species, disease and insects, where they are at, covering the entire field. Also, everything about the plant in 3-D imagery, will be known. "It is so cutting edge, that the imagery will also tell you, based on elevations, how many gallons of water are in a given slough," said the Hilltop Aerial (soon to be) manager.

Hansen continued that this technology is so advanced that people will be able to watch on line, the field being sprayed. "We are put-

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One does not have to tell a pilot that the wind blows in South Dakota and Friday morning when this picture was taken, there was a 25-30 mph 'breeze'.

Paul and Jarrod Lindemann, left, of Valley City, N.D. have purchased

Hilltop Aerial from Doug and Tina Hansen, right.

The Lindemann's take over full responsibility on May 1, 2014, and Doug Hansen will stay on as the general manager.



With less mud to deal with this spring, the Clark County crews have been busy 'pulling up the shoulders' on 70 miles of road. Shown above, three road graders with the help of a tractor and 12 foot offset disc, go along and pull over the gravel that has

worked its way to the sides of the road. Removing the berm that forms on the side of the road also helps in letting water run off the road. This photo was taken approximately nine miles south and seven miles west of Clark.

A little moisture will help with road repair

"A little bit of rain now would do wonders in helping to get the frost out of the ground and help the dry gravel roads. A nice warm rain would help, even a half inch would speed up the process of frost coming out of the ground and help the farmers, too," said Clark County Highway Superintendent Ryan Eggleston.

With a very cold winter, the frost goes down deeper and it takes longer to come back out. When it does come up, it tends to heave up, es-

pecially around culvert areas and one will notice a dip in the roads, even on the blacktop roads. "The bridge just south of Clark near the feedlot was pretty bad this year we noticed," continued Eggleston.

"When the frost comes out of the ground completely, those dips should level off a bit."

Cracks in gravel roads are also evident this year when the frost comes out of the ground. West of Raymond, where there is more alkaline in the soil, the cracks are

white on the roads. The frost brings up the alkaline. One will really notice it out in the fields, where large areas will be white.

The gravel roads' cracks will take care of themselves eventually. Cracks in the blacktop roads are filled with a rubberized crack sealer by the county starting around the first of March until the first of April. "We get them when they are the widest then," stated Eggleston.

Road repair
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Visibility conditions the cause of fatal accident

A Henry man died Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in a two vehicle crash approximately 9 miles east of Clark.

According to the South Dakota Highway Patrol, Gilbert Lewis Kittelson, 84, of Henry was driving a 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer eastbound on U.S. Highway 212. The visibility conditions were reduced and the roadway was snow covered. Kittel-

son was driving on the wrong side (westbound lane) of the road when he approached a westbound snow plow, swerved to miss a head-on collision and lost control of his vehicle. As the vehicle was sliding sideways in the westbound lane, it was struck by a 2004 Ford F-150 pickup truck driven west by Leo James Werdel, 62, of Clark. Werdel and his passenger, Jeanne Werdel, 61, of Clark,

both sustained serious, but non-life threatening injuries. They were both wearing seatbelts. Kittelson received fatal injuries in the crash. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating. Clark County Sheriff's Office, Clark Ambulance, Clark Fire Department and Henry Fire Department assisted.

April 21-25 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in SD

This week, April 21-25, is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in South Dakota and Clark County Emergency Management Director Michael Gravning asks one and all to take a minute to make sure one is prepared for a disaster.

Severe Weather Weeks are a time to refocus one's attention from the cold and snow of winter, to the heat and severe weather experienced during the spring and summer. Now is the time to review severe weather plans and see if any changes need to be made. For example, if your family gets separated during an emergency or disaster, has a "check in" point of contact been established, preferably out of state?

NOAA's National Weather Service, in partnership with state and local emergency management agencies, will hold drills during the

awareness week. For South Dakota, the practice tornado watch will be issued at 10:00 a.m. CDT/9:00 a.m. MDT for all of South Dakota on Wednesday April 23. The test tornado warning will be issued at 10:15 am CDT/9:15 am MDT with the warning canceled at 10:30 a.m. CDT/9:30 a.m. MDT. It is usually during these test warnings that some towns will test their tornado sirens with schools and businesses and practicing their tornado drill procedures.

"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 Gravning.

You could be anywhere - at work, at school, or in a car. What would you do if basic services - water, gas,

electricity or telephones were cut off? Families can cope with disasters by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Knowing what to do is your best defense against the burden of a disaster. Being prepared and understanding what to do can reduce fear, anxiety and losses that accompany disasters. You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur in your area.

Gravning 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.



'Wild Pink' is this weekend at Clark High School

Clark students are now practicing for the upcoming school play 'Wild Pink' which will be performed on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. both evenings.

The story line is about what measures would one go through to get rich. A hog farmer Jebediah, played by Maxx Obermeier has three intelligent sons played by Matt Loomis, Rory Forest and Cooper Hartley. They all try to figure out a way to try to charm their rich, snooty, old maiden aunt Millie, played by Jos Hurlbert to leave her fortune to them. They find out someone is embezzling money and lots of it from their aunt. A trap is set to catch not

only the thief but some others in the surprise ending.

In this scene at the end, accusations are made but is Olivia (Lauren Fjelland) really the culprit? From left to right are Gus Carlson, Fjelland, John Zachary, Emily Binger, Matt Loomis, Jos Hurlbert, Ally Monson, Cooper Hartley and Noah Huber.

Also in the cast are ShyAnn Springer, Marcie Foster, Justus Reidburn, Anthony Bethke, Maddie Schaack, Jasmine Foster, Jen Hurlbert, Jocce Nelson, Braxton Hartley, Annabell Ryan, Hannah Gruenwald, Chelsi Gehrke, Clay Wellman, Corey Janisch, Elizabeth Schmahl and Chantell Wren.