

For 132 years,
The Voice of Clark County

Clark County Courier

Wednesday,
May 15, 2013

Hometown Newspaper
of
Martin Kloster,
Brookings, SD

\$1.00 Includes Tax
Clark, South Dakota 57225



Vol. 132, No. 46

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

Clark, South Dakota 57225

PUC votes in favor of Oak Tree Energy ▲ Clark County to boast new business

There will be a wind farm in Clark County! Oak Tree Energy has been negotiating with NorthWestern Energy, through the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, and late last Tuesday the PUC handed down its decision.

Oak Tree Energy is owned by the Makens family: Bill and sons Michael, Pat and James. The family also owns Oak Tree Lodge, six miles northeast of Clark. This process of wind developing has been a 10-year process, the last four years dealing with the Public Utilities Commission consideration, in contractual dealings with NorthWestern Energy.

This is very preliminary in the planning and building stage for the Clark Wind Farm. Those decisions will be forthcoming, said Bill Makens, but it is a little premature at this point to be very detailed.

The Tuesday PUC hearing was long with many issues needing to be tackled and ironed-out, but the PUC voted in favor of the Clark Wind Farm.

PUC decisions were made with split votes among the three commissioners, Gary Hanson, Kristie Fiegen and Chris Nelson.

Commissioners Hanson and Fiegen favored recommendations made by staff member Brian Rounds rather than new recommendations offered by commissioner Chris Nelson.

A key point of difference was whether NorthWestern customers should pay more up front and less in later years over the 20-year life of the deal. Nelson preferred a more-level basis.

"I think that's wrong," Nelson said. "I'm concerned with what electrical bills are today."

Hanson responded that he didn't want to force an injustice on Oak Tree by limiting the company's ability to get financing for the project.

NorthWestern Energy could appeal the matter to state court but there's been no indication the utility will take that route.

"It was a lengthy docket because it was an important one and sets precedent to some extent," Hanson said as the discussions concluded Tuesday.

The Oak Tree case was the first PURPA-based negotiation in many years for the PUC.

Oak Tree Energy filed a Large Generator Agreement (LGIA) appli-

cation with NorthWestern Energy on May 11, 2009.

Oak Tree Energy attempted to negotiate with NorthWestern to buy the power. And, according to Bill Makens, NorthWestern refused to negotiate.

Oak Tree Energy petitioned the South Dakota Public Utility Commission under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.

What is PURPA?

The PURPA law was passed by the United States House of Representatives on a voice vote July 18, 1977 and the United States Senate passed the bill on October 6, 1977 by an 86-7 vote. President Jimmy Carter signed the bill into law on November 9, 1978.

The Public Utility Regulatory Act was passed as part of the National Energy Act. It is meant to promote greater use of domestic renewable energy.

Said Makens, "The law forced regulated, natural monopoly electric utilities to buy power from more efficient producers if that cost was less than the utilities' own "avoided

Oak Tree Energy (continued on page 8)

Class of '13 to say farewell at Saturday commencement



Jamie Finstad



Colin LaBrie



Janelle Paulson



Laura Schmit

Twenty-three seniors will bid adieu to Clark High School on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. during the commencement exercises in the school auditorium.

The members of the Clark High School Class of 2013 chose Jamie Finstad and Janelle Paulson to give the graduation address and superintendent Brian Heupel will introduce them. Giving the Invocation and Benediction will be Father John Short.

Lola Bartels will direct the Clark High School band as they play the processional and recessional. Special music will be presented by Laura Alexander and Jamie Finstad, singing *Wherever I Go* and *Whenever You Remember*.

Scholarship advisor, Mrs. Tamie Paulson will recognize the four honor students. Junior pilots Nicholas Young and Matthew Loomis will lead the processional.

The graduates will receive their diplomas from school board member Robert Steffen. High school principal Jerry Hartley will present the Clark High School Class of 2013.

The members of the CHS Class

of 2013 are Laura Alexander, Shelby Altfillisch, Rafael Anthamatten, Cortney Binger, Brandon Clausen, Jamie Finstad, Skyler Flatten, Rhett Florey, Conner Hallstrom, Tanner Helkenn, Seth Hemmingson, Torrey Kolden, Colin LaBrie, Samantha Luttrell, Ulises Orozco, Janelle Paulson, Jessica Petersen, Maria Ryan, Laura Schmit, Hannah Steffen, Chynna Stevens, Jeffry Wassom and Cody Wookey.

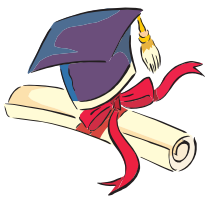
Honor students are Jamie Finstad, Colin LaBrie, Janelle Paulson

CHS graduates (continued on page 8)

Fourteen Henry High School seniors will graduate May 18



Loni Redinger



Niki Riley

The 2013 Henry High School Graduation exercises are slated for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the Henry High School gym.

Steve Zirbel, Henry School Superintendent will present the Class of 2013. Henry Board of Education president Neil Jensen will present the diplomas to the graduates.

The valedictorian for the class of 2013 is Loni Redinger and the salutatorian is Niki Riley. Salutatorian Niki Riley and valedictorian Loni Redinger will give the senior addresses. There will also be a senior video presentation. The speaker will be former Henry English teacher, Mrs. Chelsea Larson.

The Henry High School concert

choir will provide a special music selection. The band will be playing the processional and recessional.

Henry High School class of 2013 members are: Samantha Blum, Victor di Colla Buchalla, Alexis Burbach, Morgan Kramer, Dominika Mariskova, Zachary Miller, Jody Neitzel, Alexia O'Neill, Joshua O'Neill, Katie Owen, Casey Pike, Matthew Purintun, Loni Redinger and Niki Riley.

Senior Class motto is "Sometimes you will never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory." The Class of 2013 has chosen an Easter Lily as their class flower and their class colors are royal blue, black and silver.

Track field makeover will become a reality!!

If you are a supporter of Clark High School athletics and blessed with deep pockets, now would be a great time to leave a legacy.

At the May meeting of the Clark School Board, the school board approved going forward with matching funds from capital outlay to help with a sports complex project.

For years, Clark athletic supporter Bob Bjerke has been a strong advocate to restore and renovate the Clark High School track, located just west of the high school.

Bjerke's vision is to put an eight-lane rubberized track, with lights, bleachers and concession stand, to go along with upgraded field event areas, making this one of the finest track and field arenas in the area.

Bjerke, as committee spokesperson said the emphasis has been track but the natural progression of the football field will follow, as there is ample room and with parking, fencing and shower capabilities it will be an excellent site for high school football as well.

This is a preliminary stage of this project, but a very important step.

Bjerke and his committee, estimate this facility's price tag will be between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

Bjerke said he'd love to see a Glenn Ullyot type or Clinton Clark type step forward. "At this point we're starting from scratch, but the key phrase here is we're starting," Bjerke interjected. After the meeting Bjerke said that someone donated \$10,000 to help get the ball rolling.

The present Clark High School opened in 1968 and the track facility has been there, but never in a completed mode, able to hold conference and region track meets. "We're going to complete this and do it right," said Bjerke.

Fund raising plans will get started in earnest and Bjerke feels confident that the community will help make the school facility even better, with a quality sports complex connected to the high school.

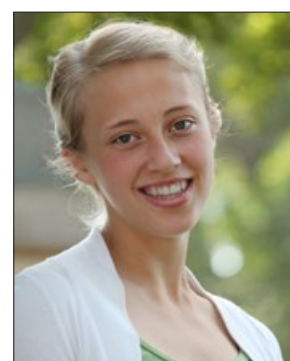
The school board agreed unanimously to \$250,000 from capital outlay over the next three years to

Track field (continued on page 8)

19 Willow Lake graduates bid farewell on May 19



Lezlie Pommer



Allison Wicks



Megan Warkenthien

Valedictorian Lezlie Pommer and Salutatorian Allison Wicks will lead the Willow Lake High School seniors through the 101st graduation exercises, Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Willow Lake Auditorium. Nineteen Willow Lake seniors will turn their tassels on Sunday.

Senior Alix Katz will welcome the graduates and guests. The valedictorian and salutatorian addresses will be given. Pastor Fawn Lamb will give the Invocation and Benediction. Senior class president Logan Tonak will present the spade to junior class president Sioux Schuelke. This spade is a symbol of the knowledge that each student has

acquired. It is given to the junior class in hopes they will keep digging for the knowledge they need in the future.

Honor students who will be recognized are Lezlie Pommer, Allison Wicks and Megan Warkenthien.

Presentation of the Class of 2013 diplomas will be by Hector Serna. The speaker for the day will be District 2 Representative Brock Greenfield.

Willow Lake seniors are Nick Efraimson, Leif Ek, Lacey Hanson, Lane Hovde, Savannah Hovde, Michaela Johnson, Kenneth Kadinger,

WLHS graduates (continued on page 8)

Willow Lake to host a school board election

▲ No election needed at Clark

Three individuals will be running for two spots in the upcoming Willow Lake School Board election. This election will be held Tuesday, June 18. Election booths will be set up in the Willow Lake School.

Two, three-year spots are open with Paula Warkenthien, Cory Bratland and Julayne Thoreson all returning petitions. Warkenthien and Marshall Edleman are the incumbents. Melissa Burke is the Willow Lake School business manager.

At Clark, no school board election will be necessary. Incumbent Robert Steffen is the only candidate who filed.

Facebook brings about an 'organized' success story

"I never expected it to grow this big," said Marilyn Foster of her Marilyn's Way Facebook group. Having fans of her Facebook site in 16 different countries, she has really enjoyed what it has brought into her life as well as how it is helping others feel better about themselves and their homes.

"Flylady is who inspired me. She is Marla Cilley who wrote the book *Sink Reflections*," said Foster. "The book's name is reflective of starting with the basics - such as shining your sink. Getting dressed and doing your hair and makeup was another step in her daily to do list. This was my downfall. Being on disability I had gotten into a rut of wearing my pajamas all day and feeling very overwhelmed. I had moved from a large house to a small house and was overwhelmed with where everything should go and where to start in organizing."

On March 1, 2010 Foster began the Flylady challenge of getting 'dressed to the shoes' for 436 consecutive days and even took a picture of herself, as was suggested. "I wrote on Flylady's Facebook page everyday and noticed after a while I had about 500 people following me. I started writing 'the Flylady way'



Marilyn Foster is 'paying it forward' through her Facebook site Marilyn's Way. She's helping others in being organized in their daily routines of taking care of their homes, themselves and their gardens. Building on the habits and routines she learned from the Flylady, becoming a success story has inspired her to do the same for others.

which later was switched to Marilyn's Way."

Both websites are about taking care of one's home and building on good habits and routines. Marla was a former fly fishing instructor so that is where her nickname came from. "Her motto is Finally Loving Yourself - (F. L. Y.) First love your-

self is what I'd like my F. L. Y. to represent in becoming a 'Flylady'. First love yourself then others come next."

Foster feels that you owe it to yourself to get dressed and 'show up for the day'. This helps you to

Foster (continued on page 8)



George M.C. (Maurice Charles) Thompson enjoys his computer and what it has to offer. It keeps him in touch with national events as well as with his family in New York. Holding off even buying a cell phone years back, a cell phone and a computer are now a part of his busy life in Garden City.

"I enjoy the computer and everything it has to offer"

▲ George Thompson of Garden City uses the computer often, in retirement

With all the opportunities the Internet and email offer, Garden City resident George M.C. Thompson, a.k.a. 'Cowboy' comments... "There is absolutely nothing you can not find on the Internet."

"You can find the source for any saying, origins and family. Great sites for looking up family is how I found out more about a great grandfather who was a marksman/

sharpshooter and survived Gettysburg serving in the Union Army in the Civil War."

Having only used one briefly at former jobs, Thompson ordered a home computer about eight years ago. "It was delivered at noon and by 4:00 p.m. I'd read the instruc-

Thompson (continued on page 8)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
May 7	74	42	0
May 8	59	45	.11
May 9	65	40	0
May 10	69	35	0
May 11	51	36	0
May 12	60	30	0
May 13	86	51	0
2013 precipitation to date		4.43"	
2012 precipitation to date		7.19"	