



Crocker Wind Farm is a very active project

On the Clark County Commissioners meeting agenda Tuesday morning were representatives from Geronimo Energy and the Crocker Wind Farm to discuss project progress.

At the last commissioner's meeting there was some concern of truck drivers not stopping at stop signs and speeding on roadways.

Geronimo Energy construction manager Ricky Parker was first to speak and he said that one and all are on top of that, pushing all drivers to slow down and make sure full stops are made at all stop signs. Three drivers have been let go because of driving infractions Parker noted.

Silas Harris, the Wanzek Construction manager, stated that there are three managers overseeing the driving safety portion of this project and he explained the enormity of the Crocker Wind Farm project and then talked numbers, responsibility and coordinating the erection of 77 wind towers by late 2019.

As far as trucking load numbers: 2,100 gravel; 300 re-bar; 2,700 con-

crete and 1,100 electrical.

"It basically is 6,000 semi truck loads in and we're doing the best we can," stated Harris. "I own up to our drivers and look at the numbers, 6,000 semi's in and 6,000 semi's out. Our percentage of compliments is greater than our percentage of complaints. We stay in communication with the sheriff and we have eight foundations left to pour," Harris said.

Parker added that Geronimo takes full responsibility for all issues, contracted or not. "We're not going to be perfect," said Parker, "but we are trying our best."

Harris said that the heavy, heavy gravel placement should be done by the 4th of July and then more gravel road improvements will take place. The majority of graveling and concreting will be wrapped up by then, he said.

Of the 77 wind turbines, 35 turbine rotor blades will be coming from Aberdeen, through Webster. The 42 remaining will be coming from the south, as Kansas and Florida were mentioned.

Clark County highway superin-

tendent Ryan Eggleston mentioned that stopping at stop signs is key to the project for semi truck drivers. "If you're there, they'll stop. If not, they won't."

Parker added that safety, safety, safety is paramount. "If there is an issue, call Ryan and I will get right on it."

The commissioners echoed the safety component and asked about how the roads are holding up, when the job will be completed and

Crocker Wind Farm (continued on page 12)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 11.....	75	49	0
June 12.....	72	50	.18
June 13.....	67	50	0
June 14.....	78	52	0
June 15.....	85	52	0
June 16.....	80	57	.25
June 17.....	78	57	0
2019 precipitation to date	12.50		
2018 precipitation to date	5.91		



Sewer lines are descaled and lined at C.H.S.

Jake Kasperek and Curt Hlavacek from Pipe Masters in Watertown were working last week at the Clark High School. They are working on a lining process called C.I.P.P. or cured in place pipe. Using a camera to televise the lines, they can see what they're doing as they rehabilitate the sewer lines without having to dig them up. "A lot of buildings this age have sewer lines that need attention. The lines plug up with a calcification of mineral deposits and rust and then you have problems," state Hlavacek. "It will be a two to three week project here doing all of the sewer lines in the building."

The final step in the process as they are working in the home ec room at the high school, is to coat

the inside of the newly cleaned out pipes with a high pressured solid epoxy that will add a ceramic coat to the insides. "This will help prevent a buildup in the future," ended Hlavacek.

The largest industrial vac truck they make in the United States they call 'Guzzler' accompanies the crew to vacuum out the lines after the rust and buildup is loosened. The Pipe masters started work two weeks ago at the school.

The 'before' and 'after' pictures of a sewer line were shared with the Courier by Hlavacek. In the above insets, one will notice the difference and the extra added smoothness of the re-lined pipes after treatment with the epoxy.



Former Clark resident and fourth Governor of South Dakota, Samuel Elrod, was a lawyer, first and foremost along with being the state's highest elected executive officer.

As his cover was pulled off during the Trail of Governor's ceremony last Friday in the Rotunda of the

Capitol Building, in Pierre, great grandson Scott Elrod, left and lead donors middle and right, do the honors.

Elrod's statue will stand at the corner of Capitol and Euclid Avenues.

Gov. Samuel Elrod's bronze statue is unveiled

Clark's own Gov. Samuel Elrod (Republican, 1905-1907) was one of three statues of former South Dakota Governors unveiled at the Capitol Rotunda, in Pierre, Friday morning.

The other two statues were those of Gov. Archie Gubbrud (Republican, 1961-1965) and Gov. Dennis Daugaard (Republican, 2011-2019). These bronze statues are part of the Trail of Governors, which line selected streets of the state's capital.

Former Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels, Yankton, was the Master of Ceremonies.

Keynote speaker, Gov. Kristi Noem honored the distinguished services of all three honored past governors. "We are honoring their

service to our state," she began. "Just as importantly we are also honoring them for who they are as our fellow South Dakotans - our friends, neighbors, husbands and fathers."

The first of three statues to be unveiled, that of Gov. Elrod, brought a comment by Gov. Noem, on how many Clark residents were in attendance. The Clark County Historical Society lined up a bus through Duenwald Transportation, bringing about 40 people from the area.

As Elrod's sculptor, James Van Nuys took the podium, he spoke about what direction, as far as a portrayal of the fourth governor of South Dakota should go.

"The most significant part of

Samuel Elrod's life was law, as he was an established lawyer and a good friend of South Dakota's first governor, Arthur C. Mellette, prior to being elected to the state's highest executive office," said Van Nuys.

His statue shows his small frame, 5'4", next to a pile of law books. Elrod initiated construction of the state capitol building in Pierre, acquired the state fairgrounds in Huron, reformed the state's prison system and implemented more aggressive regulations of railroads.

Elrod's great grandson Scott Elrod helped Van Nuys and the two leading donors of this sculpture in its unveiling.

Gov. Gubbrud's sculpture, by Lee

Gov. Elrod
(continued on page 12)

Senior Feature

"Try your hardest and do your best. You'll never regret it."

▲ Lucille Burkholtz has been a great southern Clark County leader

"I could change the brake bands with the best of them on the Farmall 'B' stated the farm girl later turned farm wife - Lucille Birkholtz of Willow Lake. Born Lucille Mae Olson near Hot Springs with the rural address of Oral, SD - she learned how to drive a tractor before moving on to pickups and cars.

Lucille was born on January 5, 1942 to Arthur and Edna (Petty) Olson. She had an older brother Marvin and a younger sister Lois Ann. There were five years difference in ages with all the siblings.

Lucille was fortunate to have grown up with both sets of grandparents living within five miles of them. She got to be especially close with Martha (Arley) Petty. "Grandma Petty always had a nice yard with a lot of flowers and a big garden. I'd go pick mulberries at her house. They lived on a farm about three miles away. Both of her grandmothers had chickens - Petty had enclosed yard chickens and Grandma Olson had free range chickens. Grandparents Arthur and Hilma Olson lived about five miles away. Grandpa Olson was a carpenter and took local jobs. Grandma Olson was also a big gardener. Grandma Petty was bedridden after the blizzard of 1949 that hit west river. She had had a heart attack during the blizzard and it took two plows and a bulldozer to get to her. She was bedridden after that and Lucille would often go and take care of her when her son, who she lived with by then, could get away. She did get better in time and later moved to Hot Springs.

Blizzard of 49

The blizzard of 1949 in west river, South Dakota was a long drawn out event that lasted from Lucille's birthday when in the second grade (January 5), to Valentines Day. She came home from school that day - being



Lucille (Olson) and Owen Birkholtz are the third generation of the Birkholtz family to live on the family farm. They followed the original 1883 homesteaders Julius and Minnie and then Clyde and Ruby Birkholtz. Lucille and Owen have been married 57 years, have four children, eight grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Their son Steven and his wife Michele Birkholtz are the fourth generation to farm the Birkholtz land.

driven by her brother and didn't go back for six weeks. Fifty inches of snow fell. "It blew and snowed and blew and snowed. We had milk cows too back then and a bulldozer coming across the county fields versus the county roads was needed in advance of the milk truck and fuel trucks."

School years

School was attended in Smithwick for her first and second grade years. A two room country school had one room for the younger kids and another for the older grades. From third grade to sixth grade when her brother was in high school and continued to drive as there were no buses at most west river schools due to long distances being driven, they attended school in Hot Springs. After Marvin graduated, Lucille went back to Smithwick for seventh and eighth grade and then on to Hot Springs for high school.

Skunk in the henhouse

Chicken chores and gathering eggs were Lucille's duties. One dark evening she'll never forget is the time when she reached in a nest and felt fur rather than feathers. A skunk was in the nest eating the eggs. She didn't get sprayed - probably because of her hasty retreat. "I got out of there fast," she laughed.

She helped milk cows at night - they had about 25 Holsteins that would be strapped with tank milkers hanging underneath. Mowing in the fields was another duty she did. "I'd always stop if I saw a pheasant nest and get off the tractor and chase them away," she recalls.

Birkholtz
(continued on page 7)