

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880



Happy New Year

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The hometown newspaper of Marcia (Keyes) Hamner, Graceville, MN

Clark Wind Farm is now generating energy

Editor's note: This press release from ConEdison Development of New York announces that the Oak Tree Energy Wind Farm is/has begun. It is official, the Clark Wind Farm is now generating energy!

A parcel of land in Clark County, South Dakota – owned by a respected family with roots in the state dating back to 1901 – will soon serve as a wind farm providing enough electricity to power approximately 5,000 homes in the region for a year.

Fulfilling the vision and through the effort and personal commitment of owner Leonard ("Bill") Makens, a portion of the more than 7,000-acre Oak Tree Lodge family farm and hunting lodge is now home to a soon-to-open wind power instal-

lation comprised of eleven General Electric 1.85-87 wind turbines with a combined capacity of 19.5 megawatts.

Clark Wind Farm
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WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 23	31	23	0
Dec. 24	25	21	.04
Dec. 25	29	21	.05
Dec. 26	21	9	0
Dec. 27	13	3	0
Dec. 28	16	0	0
Dec. 29	1	-12	0
2014 precipitation to date	16.17"		
2013 precipitation to date	25.81"		

City council finishes financials for 2014

The Clark City Council met in special session Monday night, specifically to finalize 2014 financials.

The meeting began with the council approving a \$6,686 contingency transfer.

Finance officer Jackie Luttrell then spoke of potential South Dakota proposed 2015 legislation that would be beneficial to cities and supported by the S.D. Municipal League. This proposed legislation would be an additional 1¢ sales tax for cities, specific for infrastructure.

This bill was introduced in 2010 and will be attempted in 2015, said Luttrell. If passed by the state legislature, each respective municipality would have to have the voters in that respective community approve the project. The City of Clark coun-

cil gave this additional 1¢ sales tax a unanimous vote of support.

The ordinance regarding the removal and towing of parked cars after it snowed, for snow removal purposes, was approved by the city council.

The council then met as a Board of Adjustment and approved for the Pheasant Apartments, formerly the Pheasant Motel, a conditional use permit, needed for apartments in property zoned as highway commercial, which this property is, on the east edge of Clark. Lonnie Phipps, of Watertown and Terry Binger were in attendance during this action. Phipps, it was noted, is buying this property from Binger.

The next council meeting will be Jan. 5, 2015.

Kim Kaufman rewarded for great 2014

It's pretty cool that when one lives in a small town, one knows everyone and when an individual leaves the small town and does so well on a global playing field, it's pretty special. It's also pretty special to be able to watch that same young golfer turn into a very charismatic young lady.

Earlier this month, Clark's own Kim Kaufman was named the 2014 South Dakota Independent Female of the Year, by the S. D. Sportswriters Association. She also won this coveted award in 2012.

The 2009 C. H. S. graduate made her presence felt as a rookie on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour this summer and fall, playing in 19 tour events, finishing 59th on the money list.

Kaufman has earned her LPGA tour card for 2015 and what is so exciting for this young golfer is that she will be able to concentrate for an entire year, solely on LPGA events.

When she graduated from Texas Tech in 2013, she immediately went to the Symetra Tour, half way through the season, to help gain her LPGA card. As 2014 started, she was on the Symetra Tour and her accomplishments opened the door for the LPGA tour and Kaufman has opened that door wide and 2015 should be an exciting year for her on the tour.

"I'm looking at playing probably about 25 events this year," the 6', 23-year-old said in an interview this week. She has been spending the holidays with her family in Clark. Terry and Teresa Kaufman are her parents and Ashley is her older sister.

The goals that come with playing in 25 tour events Kaufman stated are - 1) being in contention for a tour victory; and 2) ultimately playing well enough to be a contender
Kaufman
(continued on page 2)



Kim Kaufman had a great year golfing in 2014, first on the Symetra Tour and then on the LPGA tour. The Clark High School grad and Texas Tech graduate was named the 2014 Independent Female of the year by the South Dakota Sportswriters Association. Above, she is shown at the Evian Championship, on the LPGA tour, in France.

Brutally cold winter followed by a late spring - 2014 in Review

This 2014 Year in Review is not all-inclusive, but rather a look back at some of the Clark County highlights. Next week we will feature the second half of 2014.

Here's hoping you and yours have a safe and prosperous 2015!

January

Francis Hass is elected chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners for 2014. Richard Reints was elected vice chairman.

In an interview with Jerry Hartley, principal of Clark High School, he talks how the computer age has changed education, a mixture of old school and technology. "Everything is interactive," says Hartley with a



Clark Elementary students unveiled this banner, reading "Clark Elementary School Named Exemplary School by the South Dakota Department of Education".

teacher being more of a facilitator and students taking more responsibility for their own learning.

Local Chris Paschen is a key member in Dakota State University's cyber team that places top in the nation at a National Cyber Leagues (NCL) fall post season national championship standings.

Winter Ball (second annual) is held in Willow Lake for Clark and Willow Lake students.

The Clark School Board decides to go with a modified four day schedule for the 2014-15 school year.

Water rates in Clark go up 25¢ per 1,000 gallons and Tyler Silkman is the new city maintenance worker.

Construction numbers are in for 2013 with \$6,644,889 on the books for construction in the county. Grain bins totaled \$4.3 million and city of Clark construction was \$273,600.

Henry School has First Lego League team. The First Lego League is a program that uses Lego minstorms sets to create programmable robots to perform task. Chasity Foster, Chris Grode, Socrates Foster, Madison Yonker and Hunter Block are being coached by advisor Matt Lenssen.

Mayfield Truss LLC is featured and has grown to 56 employees since its beginning in 2003. General manager Kent Namken presents their new wood runner lumber retrieval system, which is the second one

in the nation of its kind at the plant that makes high quality roof and floor trusses.

Slippery roads with no visibility made for a one day postponement for the Clark County Farm and Home Show from Saturday to Sunday, January 19. Turnout was still excellent stated 4-H program advisor Kim McGraw.

The Clark Med Van is going on its 14th year in Clark transporting local residents to medical appointments only, basically used for the elderly and handicapped. The city has three vehicles in the med van fleet.

Statistics from 2013 state 94 accidents in the county with the most being in November, 18 out of 22 involving animals, mostly deer. There were three fatalities in the county in 2013, one each in August, September and October.

Sherray Hurlbert presents a program on the digital device Kindle Fire at the Farm and Home Show. "It's much easier than a computer lap top and very transportable," said Hurlbert who uses her Kindle Fire all of the time.

'Ethanol 101' was discussed by Glacial Lakes Ethanol LCC director Terry Mudgett of Clark and other representatives at the Farm and Home Show. Board president Mark Schmidt dissected in depth the past, present and future of the ethanol industry.

Gathering for coffee in the mornings continues even with the closing of the local cafe in Raymond. Local residents now gather in the former Legion building



How beautiful is the land of the free and the home of the brave. Under pleasant conditions on Memorial Day, members of the Cagley-Smith American Legion Post #60 arrive in a US Army jeep to the St. Boniface Cemetery for the wreath laying ceremony.

which is now owned by Gene and Wanda Bethke who purchased the building in March of 2013 and have done many renovations. Local history is shared on the many clubs and businesses that have been in and used the



It was a great weekend weather-wise for the 2014 Clark County 4-H Rodeo. Ideal, but windy conditions made for competitive scoring as 4-Hers used this rodeo as a means to qualify for the State 4-H Rodeo.

building, since its beginning in 1911.

'The Cyclone Elementary News' monthly newsletter project is taken on by the Willow Lake fifth graders and their teacher Lori Hovde. Information from the Willow Lake preschool through fifth grade is gathered for the newsletter content.

Clark High School principal Jerry Hartley has been named Region 1 Principal of the Year by the South Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals. Region 1 is the northeast region.

Ally Monson wins spot as the 2014-2015 District 1 chairperson at the District FCCLA meeting held in Webster. Emily Binger was appointed District 1 secretary. Thirteen from Clark qualify for State FCCLA event at recent District 1 meeting.

Author Jane Green of Henry presents *Grandma's Apron Strings*, stories from pioneering grandmothers in Pierre at the Cultural Heritage Center, through the South Dakota Humanities Council.

District FFA officers, Jennifer Tonak and Mikayla Prouty of Willow Lake and Haley Meier of Clark spend two days in Pierre at the FFA Leadership Conference.

February

Raymond Mosaic Lodge #175 disbands after 99 years. It was the last Masonic Lodge remaining in Clark County. Roger Hurlbert, a third generation Mason states the lodge will continue with scholarships yearly until the fund is used up.

City of Clark proposes a Clubhouse/Community Center project at the February meeting. A meeting is

set up to get public input and to talk about community needs.

Willow Lake fifth and sixth graders finish a 10 week D.A.R.E. program with graduation including skits performed for those in attendance. Officer Mike Graving was the instructor for the program.

Clark School Board accepts Superintendent Brian Heupel's resignation effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. The board unanimously voted to not rehire Heupel in February and rescinded this action as Heupel's resignation has been accepted.

The South Dakota Department of Education awards a banner to Clark Elementary School for being named an exemplary school for 2011-12 and 2012-13. This means in the school performance index, they scored in the top five percent in the state.

Michael Bethke, a junior at Clark High School is featured as the Project Skills paid work experience recipient who has a great sense of humor and a big heart. Working at Ken's Food Fair, he greets everyone with a big smile and a friendly hello and is well liked by all who meet him.

Year in Review
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Top Clark County Courier 2014 News Stories

1. Oak Tree Energy, creates and brings reality to the Clark Wind Farm.
2. Kimmy Kaufman is named S.D. Independent Female Athlete of the Year.
3. Row crops were bin busters in 2014.
4. The new Clark Rural Water treatment plant hosts open house of new facility.
5. Clark Golden LivingCenter celebrates 50 years.
6. The city takes over the Clark Municipal Golf Course.
7. ProBuild leaves the community.
8. Deep frost leaves lasting impact as does the brutal cold winter of 2013-14.
9. Clark Community Oil Co. purchases Wegman Oil Co.
10. No chickens in the City of Clark.

Honorable Mention

Track is re-surfaced. Incumbents Wicks and Reints win commissioner seats.