

Clark County Courier

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Clark Rural Water System Open House

is this Friday.

Check out the contractor's page:
2nd Section, pages 2 and 3



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The hometown newspaper of Julie (Guest) Medema, Sioux Falls, SD

If the wind blows...Farm it!

(Editor's Note: Oak Tree Energy, LLC is constructing an 11 turbine Clark Wind Farm north of Clark. The stories of this construction project will be in a series, probably monthly, as there is just too much information for one newspaper story.)

The Clark Wind Farm project, even at this infant stage of construction is pretty exciting. If one has traveled straight north of Clark three miles north to six miles north, one will find 11 wind turbine pads.

A month from now, in July, a national TV crew from MSNBC will be in Clark County to film action of wind farm turbines being erected.

"The reason that this project is able to become reality is because of transmission line availability," said Bill Makens, Oak Tree Energy CEO.

Over a million dollars worth of underground cable will hook up all 11 Clark Wind Farm turbines to the south corner of the intersection one mile north of Clark. It is at this intersection where the 11 turbines interconnect 19.5 megawatts of electricity and is then fed into this grid.

Once energy is in the grid, it can be used all throughout the United States. As this electric power goes through meters and gets metered it can be shipped and sold outside of South Dakota and will hold enough power to light up 5,500 homes.

"The beauty of wind energy is

that it leaves no carbon footprint, no water is used and no fossil fuels are used," said Makens. "Wind energy is renewable and no other resources are needed."

Makens then spoke of why this location and lay out are optimal. South Dakota is the 'Land of Infinite Variety', including a great landscape of wind energy. All towers in the Clark Wind Farm are 400' tall, on top of land 1,800' above sea

"One of the beauties of the Clark Wind Farm is the aesthetic lay out. These 400' tall towers are well spaced, almost a mile apart. It is aesthetic to the landscape."

Bill Makens
Oak Tree Energy

level. "That equals a very proficient wind regime," said Makens and he compared the Clark Wind Farm to those elsewhere on the Buffalo Ridge of eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota and noted that all the others are approximately 300' lower in elevation. At 1,800 feet or higher, there is a higher capacity for wind with a better consistency of wind and power. "This wind regime is one of the best in the country," he said.

Secondly, Makens said he purposely put the turbines approxi-

mately one mile apart. "They are well spaced," he said. "The turbines will be aesthetic to the landscape, with a complimentary aesthetic look." Four of the turbines are on Roger/Robert Nordhus land and seven are on Makens land.

Diversified Energy Solutions (DES) out of Sioux Falls is the General Contractor of the project and Jay Gislason of DES shared some details of each turbine pad. Each of the 11 pads contain 380 yards of concrete and 60,000 lbs. of steel. The turbines are 400' high with blades 43 meters long and the diameter of the rotor is 87 meters.

Many local construction workers and firms are involved in the Clark Wind Farm, including Forest Excavation and Clausen Construction. Currently much dirt work is going on and wire/cable guys will be seen for at least another month.

A unique feature of the Clark Wind Farm is a portable batch plant where concrete is being made. "To make the best quality concrete we brought in sand and gravel from out of state," said Makens. "There is a lack of quality aggregate (without shale) in South Dakota."

Makens started in the construction business in 1973 and 40 years later he is very thankful of a supportive community.

"From the beginning, county and city leaders have been very, very supportive of the Clark Wind



This is turbine pad #11 and #s 11 and 12 are getting ready to be poured this week. The roads to all the turbines were started last November and that's important meaning that the Clark Wind Farm started in 2013.

This turbine base will soon be underground and the 20 tons of steel in the base and 40 cement mixer loads (400 yards) of concrete. The base will be formed up,

Farm," said Makens. "There has been a supportive, 'let's go for this'

the concrete will be poured, the column sections will be poured and then the turbines will be hooked up. The General Electric turbines will be coming from a Florida plant, the blades are coming from North Dakota and the steel tower sections are coming from Brandon.

attitude. The county and city leaders 'get it'. It's exciting to get this project to this point."

Klaser Tile is refinishing Crucifix at St. Michael's



If one drives on N. Idaho Street, in Clark, one can't help but notice that there is work being done to the exterior Crucifix at St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Bill Klaser and Klaser Tile of southern California are installing Dakota Mahogany Granite exterior veneer to the cross.

Bill Klaser is on the left, Scott Paswaters in the middle and Greg Griswold on the right.

In rural South Dakota we take pride in how small the world is, as well as getting things done and done right, and that is what is happening at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Clark.

The Crucifix on the front of the church is getting a new veneer plating. The 1951 limestone will be replaced with Dakota Mahogany Granite.

Bill Klaser and Klaser Tile of Chula Vista, Calif. is the 'installing' contractor. Klaser Tile has quite a resume and fine reputation in southern California and what brought Klaser Tile to Clark was 'it's a small world factor'.

Klaser's college roommate at the University of Southern California, in 1967, was no other than Bill Makens, who owns Oak Tree Lodge northeast of Clark and is a member of St. Michael's.

Makens and Klaser have kept in contact over the years and Makens said he was thrilled when Klaser Tile agreed to do this project.

In 1993, Klaser Tile started specializing in exterior veneers, to include dome tiled roofs largely done in Venetian Glass Mosaics. Since the mid-1990's, Klaser Tile has installed over 3 million square feet of exterior veneers, including San Diego's new PETCO Ballpark, where they installed 160,000 s.f. of Indian Sandstone. Installing exterior veneers and particularly tiled domes is a very complex job and it is critical that they are done correctly, thus there are only a few installers capable of doing this type of work,

Klaser Tile
(continued on page 3)

WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
June 17	76	58	0	
June 18	81	63	.82	
June 19	74	52	0	
June 20	81	51	0	
June 21	84	59	.80	
June 22	76	58	0	
June 23	75	57	0	
2014 precipitation to date	10.10"			
2013 precipitation to date	12.41"			

Transition to city has been smooth at Clark Golf Course

As the year 2014 began, so did the transition of the Clark Golf Club to the Clark Municipal Golf Course.

This transition was arguably out of necessity and both clubhouse manager Nichole Sandve and head groundskeeper Michael Johnson feel that in the change the positives far outweigh the negatives.

"Change is hard, but I really like the way people are adjusting this summer," said Sandve. "There is something going on all the time. That is one point of emphasis, to always try to have something going on."

In July, the two big tournaments at the golf course are the Calcutta, on July 10-12 and Maggie and Jiggs, Saturday, July 26. These tournaments are changed somewhat, as the date is bumped up one day for both tournaments. The Calcutta will end on Saturday and Maggie and Jiggs will be held on Saturday.

"I feel things are snowballing in a positive direction," Sandve continued, "and the numbers prove that. We are hearing good things."

Course looking good
"Things are good," said groundskeeper of the golf course, Johnson. "Last year we were on such a tight budget. It's nice this year to have a little more flexibility with financials."

Johnson said that it's nice this year that breakdowns aren't quite the dire situations they were a year ago. "The greens were pretty good coming off winter and are looking pretty nice right now. The greens mower is getting paid for now and it was a much-needed expense. The greens are staying healthy."

The irrigation system is working well, one less thing Johnson has to worry about. "Last year we replaced our (irrigation well) pump. That helped. Our emphasis now is replacing equipment and re-seeding fairways. We need to stress the building up of our fairways."

Two new women's tee boxes are being created, on holes four and six. They should be ready by 2015, Johnson thought. Next year, the women's tee box on hole number two will be created.

Looking forward

The city taking over the golf course was a win-win situation from a golfer's standpoint. With golfing numbers dwindling and mainte-



Nichole Sandve, left, is the clubhouse manager and Michael Johnson, right, is the head groundskeeper at the Clark Municipal Golf Course. Abundant moisture and increased activities have made the golf course the place to be thus far this summer.

nance costs increasing, city fathers (that's an authoritative term) came to the rescue of the golf course and all who have been contacted about this transition, feel very positive about the new move to city governance.

"My dream is to see a crowd every weekend and I really would like to see the clubhouse building project move forward," said Sandve. For the short term, she would like to see the golf course break even within three years.

A week ago Saturday was the Clark Area Foundation three-person scramble tourney, with proceeds going to the betterment of the Clark Golf Course. "It was just a great tourney, with a good turnout and great sponsorship," said Sandve. "It makes for a lot of fun around here."

A new tournament committee is attempting to make the tournaments bigger with greater involvement, said Sandve. "Plus, we've

added Dueling Pianos, in September after the City Tournament."

Clark Golf Course
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Clark County Rainfall 6/17 - 6/23	*Bradley 2.35"
*Crocker 4.05"	
*Raymond 2.15"	*Garden City 2.10"
	*Henry 1.52"
	*Vienna 1.90"
*Carpenter 1.25"	*Willow Lake 2.50"