

Clark School superintendent Luanne Warren submits retirement resignation

▲ FACS room gets flood for Christmas present

Clark School superintendent Luanne Warren submitted her retirement resignation at the January meeting of the Clark School Board. Warren, who has been associated with Clark School for 37 years, over five decades, has been the Clark School superintendent the past seven years.

In her resignation letter to the board of education, Warren cited health reasons for the decision at this time. Warren, who had COVID-19 earlier this fall, felt that this was the time for this decision.

The superintendent stated that her position will open immediately to be filled for the coming school year. She will finish the 2020-21 school term.

Univent flood #4

Two representatives from Allied Climate Professional were first on the school board agenda.

On Christmas morning, between 2:00-3:00 a.m., for the fourth time in recent memory, there was a flood in the Family and Consumer Science (FACS) room(s) on the west side of the high school.

High winds are the blame as the right condition hampered the damper, causing coils to freeze, setting off a chain reaction.

This 80 minute discussion had board president Robert Steffen asking Allied Climate spokesmen many questions, including why the lost flow in the univents caused this problem and what needs to be done so it never happens again.

(A univent is the housing mecha-

nism for the coil, valves, activator, damper, filter, etc. that heats and cools the building/room.)

Allied Climate representatives explained that it isn't a control is-

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WEATHER				
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
Jan. 5.....	36	16	0	
Jan. 6.....	37	21	.02	
Jan. 7.....	35	25	.03	
Jan. 8.....	36	27	0	
Jan. 9.....	32	27	.01	
Jan. 10.....	33	27	0	
Jan. 11.....	33	24	0	
2021 precipitation to date			0.06	
2020 precipitation to date			0.18	

Nonagenarian Louie Brush survives COVID-19

"Don't get it." That's the advice one will get from Louie Brush of Clark regarding the COVID-19 virus.

"I've had several different surgeries in my lifetime with hospital stays and none of them compare to this virus," continued Brush.

"It makes you so weak. This affects your whole body - everything aches - your legs ache and are very weak. If I got down on my knees for something, I could not get back up again without help."

His daughter Dawn Brush of Aberdeen has been with him in the house since his diagnosis and has made it possible for him to remain in his home during his recuperation.

Close friends and family members have also assisted as well as home health care professionals. Unable to drive due to vision impairment, Dawn has very much appreciated the help of family, friends and professionals during her father's recuperation.

"We couldn't have had him at home through this without their help," stated Dawn of Sally Waterfall, Lynda Stern and David Paulson specifically. "Louann at the clinic has been great, too. Living in a smaller community, we've been fortunate to have so many call, text and email to see how we are doing and if we need anything. It makes me wonder what people do in big cities where they don't know anyone."

COVID after effects/long haulers'

Novel coronavirus symptoms can last weeks or months for some peo-

Brush (continued on page 4)



Louie Brush turned 91 years old on September 27 of last year. On October 23, 2020, what he thought was just a sinus infection resulted in a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

Feeling pretty good at the beginning turned into a week later feeling not so good, a trip to the clinic and then to the hospital with an oxygen level below 90%. He doesn't think he would have made it without the help of his number one nurse - his daughter Dawn, shown above, standing behind her father.



Weird January weather is 'doable'

To this point, January weather has not been normal. January is the month when the temperature drops way below zero and bitter cold sets in and sticks around.

January, 2021, has seen the average high above freezing and the average low approximately 18'. Unheard of. Plus, the near future is to remain the same.

The snow depth has been as high as seven inches this month, allowing sleds and snowboards to be seen on the 'sledding hill' north of 8th Ave. NE and west of Smith St., in Clark. Last week Ben Hansen and Delilah Yexley were snowboarding after school.

Some moisture, either light snow or light rain, along with cloudy, foggy conditions has also been the norm this new year.

Approximately 104 accidents in county in 2020

▲ One fatality and many deer hits

Statistics from the Clark County Sheriff's office show 104 accidents occurred in 2020 in Clark County. Every year deer accidents account for at least two-thirds of the accidents and that proved true again in 2020.

Some key statistics

□ Approximately 104 accidents occurred in the county. This is right at the 10-year average which is between 100 and 105. A year ago there were 102 accidents in the county.

□ The amount of damage caused by 2020 motor vehicle accidents in

Clark County Accidents (By month)

January.....	5
February.....	2
March.....	8
April.....	0
May.....	11
June.....	10
July.....	8
August.....	9
September.....	5
October.....	10
November.....	21
December.....	14

Clark County was estimated at \$1.3 million.

□ Three-quarters of all accidents were deer related.

□ Fourteen of the accidents involved injury to an individual.

□ The last three months, October, November and December, was the quarter with the most accidents, 45.

□ Ten accidents were two-car accidents. Fourteen were one-car accidents.

□ There was one fatal accident in 2020.

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Cyclone assistant Mark Prouty's basketball coaching journey kicked off 40 years ago

By Roger Merriam
Public Opinion Sports Editor

Nowadays, the coaching profession doesn't necessarily lend itself to the staying power experienced by veteran high school basketball coach Mark Prouty.

The 1977 Hamlin High School graduate has fashioned a lengthy career as a boys and girls basketball coach in northeastern South Dakota that actually began 40 winters ago when he served as a student teacher and coach at Clark during the 1980-81 school year.

"I have a lot of passion for the game of basketball and I love to teach kids the right way to do things," said Prouty in explaining why he's yet to walk away from his court-side seat.

Prouty's travels haven't really taken him that far from the family farm near Vienna where he began to develop the love of the game that he's cherished throughout his lifetime.

He spent his sophomore and junior years playing for Hamlin teams coached by Richard "Dick" Baysinger and his senior year under head coach Dave Wagner. The Chargers were rated No. 1 in both of his final two seasons and advanced to the state Class B tournament — under the old two-class system — before suffering first-round losses each year to teams they had beaten during the regular season.

The disappointments didn't derail his association with the game that included two years as

a benchwarmer and one year as a part-time starter under South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame coach Gordon Fosness at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, numerous years of amateur basketball and a coaching career that has officially entered its fifth decade.

"His knowledge of the game is incredible," said Clark-Willow Lake head boys basketball coach Jerome Nesheim, who's had Prouty as his right-hand man the past 11 winters. "And he never forgets anything, whether it's the stuff he learned in 1981 or the stuff he learns today. He may be still old school, but he's never behind the times and he's always looking for something new to get better."

Let's follow the trail of Prouty's coaching career:

Getting Started

The career, as mentioned above, actually kicked off with his student teaching and coaching stint at Clark that helped him complete his requirements to graduate from DWU in 1981.

Prouty served as the Comets' C team coach under head coach Larry Warren and assistant Tom Jastram. The varsity squad featured some notable talents and ended up recording a third-place finish in the State B tournament.

The budding coach introduced the Man-to-Man Defensive Shell Drill to the Comets and also recommended that the team employ a 2-2-1 zone press in order to overcome a deficit in the region tournament.

After graduating from DWU, Prouty didn't immediately start his teaching and coaching career.

After a nine-month trip to Australia, he returned home and settled back to help run the family farm in Vienna.

Prouty got back into coaching when he spent two years as an assistant girls coach under Larry Goebel at Hamlin in the fall of 1984 and the fall of 1985.

Off and Running

The late Gene Furness, a Clark native, was the principal and the late Dennis Nelson, father of legendary Yankton High School standout Chad Nelson and also later Waubay standout Coy Nelson, the superintendent who helped convince Prouty to take over the Waubay High School girls basketball program in 1986.

The Dragons' success — following a path that was similar to just about every place Prouty has coached — went from 1-18 to 7-12 to 10-11.

Many of the young girls he helped introduce the game to went on to become members of Waubay's 1993 State B consolation championship team — one of only two state-tourney teams in school history.

Prouty then spent the 1989-90 season as Waubay's head boys basketball coach, going 5-16. The Dragons, however, battled eventual Region 1B champion Summit to the wire in the semifinals of the District

Prouty (continued on page 2)



If you've ever learned to spin a basketball on your middle finger, you know it's not an easy task. It probably doesn't make you a better basketball player either, but if you have the wherewithal to master this trick, you also have the ability to master other basketball skills that come with having a ball in your hand night and day.

Jacob Prouty and his dad Mark Prouty are pumping up the fans at a Cyclone boys basketball pepfest, prior to winning the South Dakota Class B Tournament. Jacob Prouty led the Cyclones to the title and was named to the All-Tournament team. Mark Prouty was an assistant Cyclone coach and now has coached 40 years. Congratulations Mark!