

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Coming our way for the weekend—snow and colder temperatures



Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Vol. 140, No. 30

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Rod Kluess, Groton, SD

## Winter storm shuts down the area late last week

A winter storm shut down the Clark County area last Thursday and Friday. It was the second blizzard of the season in what has been a wildly mild winter to this point. The other blizzard occurred during Christmas week.

This latest blizzard lacked a significant snow amount, making getting around treacherous because of very icy conditions, but not the

'whiteout' or inability to see in front of your nose that most winter blizzards build up to.

Most businesses remained open both Thursday and Friday, but schools closed just prior to noon on Thursday and remained closed on Friday. No school extracurricular activities were held Thursday or

**Winter storm**  
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## Four have died from COVID-19 in Clark County

Regarding the coronavirus pandemic, since the onset there have been 324 recognized cases in Clark County, four currently active, with 316 recovered and four deaths.

It was announced last week by the South Dakota Department of Health that Group 1D would begin vaccinations.

The first prioritized population in 1D, will be those over the age of 80 as well as those with a high health risk. The problem is getting

vaccines and it is hoped that Operation Warp Speed will speed up the availability of COVID-19 vaccines. Currently 47,950 South Dakotans have been vaccinated as the state has been receiving 11,000 doses a week.

Early in January 2021, South Dakota surpassed 100,000 total cases of COVID-19. The virus has

**Covid-19**  
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## Municipal filings can begin January 29, 2021

▲ Also for Henry School Board

The municipal elections this year fall on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Throughout the *Clark County Courier* this week and next, one will see 'Notice of Vacancy' for these respective municipal/Henry School positions.

2021 Municipal and Henry School Board openings include Clark, Willow Lake, Raymond, Vienna and Henry School Board.

Petitions for any of these boards may be obtained from the town finance officer or in the case of the Henry School, from the business manager at the school office.

Petitions may be circulated beginning Friday, January 29 and need to be filed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021.

Position openings include:

**Henry School:** Henry School District #14-2 holds their election the same time as city elections. Two three-year terms are open with the incumbents being Paul Johnson and James Owen. There is also one open position for a two year term. Gail Thompson is the business manager at Henry School. Clark and Willow Lake schools hold their school board elections in June.

**Willow Lake:** Three positions will become vacant in Willow Lake. The present terms of office for a council member that will expire are: Ward I - a two-year term held by Marie Zantow and Ward II - a two-year term held by James O'Hara. Ward I - a one-year term held by Matthew Kadinger. Heidi Madsen is the finance officer for Willow Lake.

**Raymond:** One three-year

term position currently held by incumbent Scott Drexler will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. Carrie Reis is the finance officer in Raymond.

**Vienna:** One council position will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. Lue Regnier is the incumbent for this three-year council position. Nancy Roberts is the finance officer for Vienna.

**Clark:** Five council positions will become vacant in Clark. Vacancies in Clark are: Ward I, three-year term currently held by Brandon Kottke; Ward II, a two-year term held by Shane Hagstrom and a three-year term held by Derrick Dohmann and in Ward III, a two-year term held by Dennis Larson and a three-year term held by Andrew Zemlicka. Alaina Wellnitz is the finance officer in Clark.

**Garden City:** One council position will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. David Waples is the incumbent for this three-year council position. Andrea Helkenn is the finance officer for Garden City.

**Bradley:** One three-year term position presently held by Chad Altfillisch will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. The finance officer for Bradley is Jeanette Warkenthien.

**Naples:** One three-year term presently held by Lee Redinger and one one-year term held by Leon Redinger will become vacant due to the expiration of the present terms. The secretary-treasurer for Naples is Hana Redinger.



## Christmas band concert presented in January

Tuesday, January 12 was the date for the Clark School Christmas band concert, for grades 5-12. Originally scheduled for middle December with the chorus department, band and choir were split, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Pictured is a portion of the sixth grade band, playing 'Frosty the

Snowman'. Left to right are: Kooper Rahm, Taylor McGraw (partially hidden), Caitlyn Mudgett, Marlee Bowers, Charlie Luvaas, Logan Foster and Talen Huber.

Tabitha Schmidt is the Clark School instrumental teacher.

## Lawmakers hesitant on legal weed

Nick Lowrey,  
*South Dakota News Watch*

Entrepreneurs across South Dakota are already taking steps to claim a share of the state's soon-to-be-legal marijuana market, but legislators and regulators are off to a slow start in crafting laws and rules to govern the controversial new industry.

The sale, possession and use of recreational and medicinal marijuana are set to become legal in South Dakota for the first time on July 1. But when the 2021 South Dakota legislative session started on Jan. 12, only one bill regarding marijuana had been filed.

A group of 15 Republican lawmakers have formed what they call a "Cannabis Caucus" to address marijuana issues this session. But leaders in both the Republican and Democratic parties say discussions on preparing for legalization and regulation of the business of marijuana sales, possession and use — one of the top matters facing the 2021 Legislature — have barely begun.

One high-ranking Senate leader said enacting a regulatory framework for legal marijuana will probably require more than one session of work and will likely spill into the 2022 session or require a special session to complete.

"Not everything will be done at the end of this session," said Senate Majority Leader Gary Cammack, R-Union Center. "I know there has been talk about the need for a special session."

Marijuana entrepreneurs, however, are not waiting for the Legis-

**Lawmakers**  
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## LeRoy Boender is new Prairie Star Lutheran pastor

Less of a suit and tie type of clergy, Pastor LeRoy Boender is more at home in blue jeans and cowboy boots, he stated.

Interim Pastor Boender joined Synodically Authorized Minister (S.A.M.) Colin Beveridge on January 1 at the Prairie Star Lutheran Parish.

The PSLP consists of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant, Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Lake, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna and Good Hope Lutheran Church, southeast of Clark.

"With Colin and I, we have worked really well together so far. We run in the same vein," added Pastor Boender.

### Family

LeRoy Boender is originally from Sheldon, Iowa, the second to the youngest of six children.

Married to wife Rhea, originally from Michigan, the couple has two children, Shaelee and Brett and one granddaughter, Hope.

Rhea works for the State of South Dakota. Brett works for HyVee Foods in Sioux Falls. Shaelee is an administrative assistant in a Lutheran church in Michigan.

Shaelee's husband Adam VanDer Stoep is currently the pastor of the Hamilton Reformed Church in Hamilton, Michigan. This is the same exact church that her father LeRoy served 32 years ago. It was his first church after seminary. Shaelee and Adam met when both attending and graduating from seminary school.

### Farming after college

After graduating from Sheldon High School and Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, LeRoy took a break from school and farmed along with his dad and his brother John.

It was during this time that the call to be a minister became stron-



Pastor LeRoy Boender will be joining Pastor Colin Beveridge in serving the Prairie Star Lutheran Parish. Shown with his wife Rhea, Pastor Boender will be interim pastor along with S.A.M. minister Beveridge for the four churches within the parish. Pastor Boender began duties officially on January first of this year.

ger and harder to ignore.

"The call had always been there, I believe. It's hard to explain," continued Pastor Boender. "I fought it at first, but then when I was out farming, the call kept getting stronger and I knew I had to go back to school - seminary this time."

He then went on to attend the Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich.

Pastor Boender grew up in the Reformed Church in Iowa and is ordained in the Reformed Church of America. Pastor Boender is an interim pastor with Prairie Star Lutheran Parish.

"You can call me anything, just don't call me late," kidded Boender.

His name is pronounced 'Boone-der'. Like Daniel "Boone" then a 'der' after it, he explained.

Hearing about the Clark area from a niece through marriage

peaked their interest when hearing of a call from the PSLP.

Most recently, Pastor Boender was at the Roseland Reformed Church in Blomkest, Minn. Previously he did interim work for Grace Lutheran Church in Sisseton and served at various Reformed churches in: Wishek, N.D.; Chancellor, S.D.; Hudsonville, Mich.; Brandon, Wis.; Leota, Minn. and his first parish at Hamilton, Mich. where his son-in-law is pastor now.

For a year and a half, he also took his message on the road being a truck driver all over the US, working for a company out of Sioux Falls. After that, he served in three more churches before coming to PSLP.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and visiting with them in the near future," ended Pastor Boender.

## New construction netted almost \$40,000,000 in 2020 in Clark County building projects

Clark County tallied \$39,012,191 in estimated building projects costs in 2020. This figure includes 70 permits total, 39 in county, 21 within the city of Clark and 10 in Willow Lake.

This compares to 67 permits in 2019 with 48 in the county, 16 in the city of Clark and three in Willow Lake.

The largest project in the county is the Riverview LLP dairy farm with a price tag of \$33,000,000. Two new houses along with it totaled \$550,000.

Three hog barns in the county came to a total of \$2,300,000. Taylon LaMont is building one with Marshall Edleman constructing two in the southern end of the county.

At the Collins Hutterite Colony,

the Colony added a large warehouse and at Silverlake Hutterite Colony a new church was constructed, totaling \$1,000,000 in costs for the two additions.

New houses in the county totaled \$956,000. Two homes were built for Riverside Dairy as well as new houses for Thomas Wheeler, Evan Fletcher and Rod Nylund.

Upgrades to an existing tower belonging to Velocity/ATT were done in 2020 at a cost of \$9,500. Northern Natural Gas built a storage building which cost \$68,000. KL Inc. and Kent Warkenthien added storage to their property for \$102,000 added for storage in total in the county.

Sheds totaling \$173,000 were added to the farms of Jason Nelson, Dan Nelson and John Lindblad.

Shops totaling \$125,000 were

built by Taylon LaMont, Sheldon Homola and Matt Ortberg.

Garages totaled \$105,000 for Kevin Neal, Sheldon Homola, Garrett Schmidt and Roger Springer.

Grain bins totaled \$577,000 for Russ Hurlbert, Gjerde Farms, John Arthur, Randy Nelson, JJ Burke and Andy Wookey. Calving barns were built by Marshall Edleman and Nordean Froke totaling \$125,000.

Blair Arne added a lean-to, Dan Nelson - an awning, Dan Gehrke - an addition, Burton Raymer now has a gazebo and John Arthur added a swimming pool to his property. These all totaled \$125,000 in construction.

### City of Clark

Five storage buildings in the city

of Clark had the biggest totals for the year with \$54,191 being spent on their construction. Those adding storage buildings to their properties were Bruce Brekke, Alejandro Chavez, Terry Kaufman, Shane Jordan and Maxine Anderson.

Those updating or adding garages to their lots were, Steve Nohava, Jonathan Livermore and Forest Excavating.

Terry Binger added a new 24x60 addition for lodging and also built a cover/bldg for a water meter near his trailers along U.S Highway 212.

A dog shed building was added to the Jim Zeck property. Lola Bartels added a patio to their property. Three fences totaling \$300 were added to the John Boyko, Jr. Home, the Brenda Beynon home and at the residence of Martin Rodriguez.

Four decks being moved in or built totaled \$3,700 at the homes of Bobbi Jo Bohnet, Kyle and Malory McIntire, Justin Bowers and Dean Palmer.

In total, 21 permits in the city of Clark totaled \$142,391 in construction.

### City of Willow Lake

Ten permits totaling \$317,800 were taken out for building in the town of Willow Lake.

One new house was built in town by Luke Zelinski on second street and Stan McDaniels and Michael Guerdet did some kitchen and bedroom additions and remodels and Barb and Del Bratland are doing a garage remodel.

Clifton Bratland added a deck and Arlin Waldow a patio and drive-

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 12.....	35	21	0
Jan. 13.....	40	27	0
Jan. 14.....	44	34	.15
Jan. 15.....	34	25	.07
Jan. 16.....	26	19	0
Jan. 17.....	30	21	0
Jan. 18.....	33	17	0
2021 precipitation to date			0.28
2020 precipitation to date			0.48