

County, city, school elections nearing

County, city and school board elections are on the horizon and there are a number of terms expiring at every level.

The terms of County Commissioners Bob Bjerke in the Fourth District and Doug Loomis, Second District, expire this year, as do the terms of County Treasurer Kay Mahlen, County Coroner Louann Streff, States Attorney Chad Fjelland and Register of Deeds Andrea Helkenn. Nominating petitions are currently available from the county auditor's office.

All county office terms are for four years. Helkenn was appointed, so she will have a two-year term and if she seeks re-election as Register of Deeds must run again in 2018.

Each nominating petition needs a certain number of signatures before that petitioner becomes a candidate. To become a County Commissioner candidate, the petitioner needs signatures from one percent of those voters, in the petitioner's party and in his district, who cast their votes for that party's candidate for governor in the last general election.

To become a candidate for a county office, signatures can be obtained from one percent of the voters in the party and in the county, who voted for that party's gubernatorial candidate in the last general election.

The final day for filing nominating petitions for county office is March 29 and the Primary Election Day is June 7. Petitions can

be filed with the County Auditor and further information on circulating a nominating petition can be had from that office. Chris Tarbox is the Clark County Auditor.

The last date for filing nominating petitions for a seat on the Clark School Board is May 13, according to Business Manager Mary Nelson. The one opening on the board can be filed by an at-large candidate, she said.

The term of Robert Steffen will expire this year on the Clark School Board. Petitions for the three-year term should be signed by at least 20 qualified voters and filed with Nelson at the business office at the high school between April 12 and May 13 before 5:00 p.m. Election Day is June 21, 2016, Nelson said.

2016 Municipal Elections

2016 Municipal and Henry School Board openings include: Raymond, Garden City, Bradley, Willow Lake and Henry School. The city of Clark has no openings this year.

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 this Friday, Jan. 29 and need to be filed by 5:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. at the Henry School) on Friday, Feb. 26, 2016.

Henry School: Henry School District #14-2 holds their election the same time as city elections. One three-year term is open with

the incumbent being Nicole Watson. Gail Thompson is the business manager at Henry School. Clark and Willow Lake schools hold their school board elections in June.

Raymond: One three-year term currently held by incumbent Gale Filipek will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term. Carrie Reis is the finance officer in Raymond.

Garden City: Two council positions will become vacant due to the expiration of the present terms. One three-year term currently held by David Waples and one two-year term currently held by Erica Benson are open. Jeannette Warkenthien is the finance officer for Garden City.

Bradley: One three-year term position presently held by Chad Altfillisch and a one-year term presently held by Eric Caulfield will become vacant due to the expiration of the present terms. The finance officer for Bradley is Jeannette Warkenthien.

Willow Lake: Four positions will become vacant in Willow Lake. The present terms of office for council members that will expire are: Ward II - a one-year term held by Luke Zelinski, in Ward I - a two-year term held by Lane Wirtjes and in Ward II, a two-year term held by Duane Seefeldt. The two-year term of mayor currently held by Delwin Bratland will also become vacant. Heidi Madsen is the finance officer for Willow Lake.

Korean War Veterans awarded Ambassador Peace Medals

South Dakota honored Korean War Veterans with an "Ambassador for Peace" medal ceremony, Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in Pierre.

The "Ambassador for Peace" medal was bestowed on all Korean War veterans in an expression of appreciation from the people of the Republic of Korea for those who served in Korea's land, air and sea from June 25, 1950 through October 25, 1954.

"It has been an honor to work side by side with the MVPAs on this ceremony," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "They recognize what these heroes have given and as a token of their sincerest appreciation they will present them with an Ambassador for Peace Medal which symbolizes their adoration and appreciation for their service and sacrifice."

Ambassador Peace Medals were presented to two Clark County veterans; Gene Helkenn received his



Korean War Veteran Gene Helkenn, right, is shown wearing the Ambassador for Peace medal. Helkenn was awarded this medal on Jan. 12 in Watertown. Statewide coordinated ceremonies were held on that day and Bradley resident, Curtis Boyd, received his medal in Pierre (not pictured). Alongside Helkenn is Clark County Veterans Service Officer Larry Jones.

Korean War (continued on page 3)



Chad Helkenn, to the left, machinist at P4 Manufacturing explains the workings of their newest computer numerical control (CNC) lathe to Todd Jenkins' computer aided drafting students.

From left to right, Jordyn Temple, Justus Reidburn, Joe Streff, Layne Stromsness and Ryder Hallstrom

currently work with manual lathes, but will eventually move on to working with this computer controlled lathe. The large lathe is a new addition to P4 Manufacturing owned by Paul Streff who is the machine tool technology instructor for CHS.

P4 machines used by C.H.S. class

Shortly before Christmas, P4 Manufacturing added five new machines to their business, one of which will be utilized by the Clark High School Machine Tool Technology and C.A.D. - Computer Aided Drafting classes.

Within the next couple of weeks, they will be introduced to the newest CNC or computer numerical control lathe.

"It will give them another option

and another way to do things," explained Chad Helkenn, machinist at P4, regarding the new machine.

"Right now they are working on lathes that are manual. Using a hand crank for the part itself and dials to tell them what's going on, it's best for the students to start on a manual machine, then be introduced to a computer controlled lathe.

"With this newer technology -

they will get used to programming a part, making a blueprint and then the machine will do the rest."

Helkenn explained the difference between a cutting lathe and a mill. "With a lathe, the part you are working on turns and the cutter stays in one place. With a cutting mill, the cutter is the part that moves and the work piece stays in

P4 machines (continued on page 3)

Abnormally warm Pacific Ocean temperatures affect our winter weather

The northern states - warmer than average - that's the winter outlook in part due to the effects of this year's El Niño.

What is El Niño? - It's a part of a naturally occurring cycle of temperature fluctuations in the Pacific Ocean. It happens every two to seven years it's estimated. El Niño is when the ocean water is warmer than average and La Niña occurs when the water is cooler than average.

These phenomena were first noticed by South American fishermen in the 1600s. Since it tended to happen around Christmas, they named it El Niño, a Spanish reference to the Christ Child.

Moisture put into the atmosphere

by the abnormally warm ocean changes the path of the jet stream.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this year's El Niño is forecast to be one of the strongest on record, impacting the position of the Pacific jet stream.

In our region, this means we will probably have a warmer and a drier winter season going from December through the end of February. Three inches of snow with wind caused school shutting down at 10:00 a.m. on Monday. A January thaw is predicted for this weekend.

NOAA predictions for this winter remaining indicate throughout the United States that: the south will be cooler than average and the

north warmer; the south will be wetter than average; El Niño isn't the only player, (the Arctic Oscillation)

Winter weather (continued on page 3)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 19	20	2	0
Jan. 20	25	19	0
Jan. 21	20	7	.11
Jan. 22	16	2	0
Jan. 23	27	16	0
Jan. 24	28	19	.29
Jan. 25	24	17	0
2016 precipitation to date			.40
2015 precipitation to date			.32



C.H.S. one-act play qualifies for State!

Clark High School's one-act play performers presenting "Thirteen Reasons to Stop Being a Pirate" earned second place honors at the Region II B contest in Watertown last Wednesday.

This placing enables the performers to advance to state competition which will be held February 4-6 at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls.

Cast members Allyson Monson, Jen Hurlbert and Jos Hurlbert all earned Region II Outstanding Actor awards for their performances.

Cast members pictured in the front row with their

trophy are Justus Reidburn, Ally Monson, Jos Hurlbert, Mason Nelson, Jen Hurlbert and Keith Myrvoid. Missing was Tavie Guzman.

Crew members behind the scenes enabling the play to go smoothly are in the second row, Alex Thomas, Cheyenne Jones, Karli Paulson, Nicole Luttrell and missing were Savannah Fisher and Hannah Gruenwald.

The crew will be performing their play for the public on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the CHS gym.

Economic development is vital to thriving and surviving

In the Clark County Courier, thirty years ago to the week, the lead story was on economic development.

Titled "LaBrie Leads Push for New Industry", the article outlined how Tom LaBrie, then president of the Clark Industrial Development Corporation was spearheading a drive to raise \$100,000 to lure an industry to Clark and Clark County. It was the beginning of the Clark Industrial Development Corporation.

Said LaBrie in the January 29, 1986 article of the \$100,000 needed by the development improvement group to make Clark more tempting to businesses looking to relocate, "We can't just say to an industry or

to state development, 'We have an option on some land. Please come to our town', and expect something to come of it. That doesn't do a thing for them. Competition is very fierce between small towns when it comes to attracting industry and without our development, we just aren't very competitive."

Many things have changed in the last 30 years, but what LaBrie stated then is very evident and true today.

LaBrie, who is in his forty-first year with Dacotah Bank - Clark, sat down with the Courier editor last week to talk economic development of Clark County - past, present and future.

"Back then, as I remember," said

LaBrie of the Clark Industrial Development Corporation, "we invited interested business people to a breakfast - to see what we could do (to promote industrial and economic development in the community). This was an interest we all shared, so at early morning breakfast, we kicked around ideas.

"Our vision was one of growth, very cognizant of competition between communities. We had a vision. We didn't have land set aside, or a spec building or organization. We just needed to put the puzzle pieces together."

The seed was planted. The Clark Industrial Development Corpora-

Economic development (continued on page 10)