

## Clark City Council begins 2021 year

It's a new year and the City Council of Clark started 2021 with a relatively light agenda for the first meeting of the year.

Annual approvals were given, with no updates to the operations manual; Dacotah Bank was chosen as depositor; the Clark County Courier is the official newspaper and the Clark Fire Department is chosen for perpetual Workman's Compensation Coverage.

At the December meeting of the city council, all bids were declined

for the water tower paint project. As the bids came in, some under \$100,000, a bid does not have to be put out. McGuire Iron of Sioux Falls will do the paint project, approved by the board, for approximately \$80,000.

Clark Mayor Kerry Kline commented that the reason all bids were declined in December was because the bids were not complete, in itemized form and the city wasn't sure if it would be going with Helms Engineering.

McGuire Iron will begin the project, when temperatures allow, in the spring.

Ward I councilman Terry Schlagel resigned his council position. It was approved by the council to appoint Brandon Kottke to this position to fill out Schlagel's term, lasting through April. He will be sworn in at the February meeting.

The municipal election, if necessary, will be held in April. Council

**City council**  
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## Officials take courthouse oath of office

▲ Sass re-elected Chairman of Board of Commissioners

The oath of office for newly elected Clark County Constitutional elected officers was given Tuesday morning by Clark County Auditor Chris Tarbox.

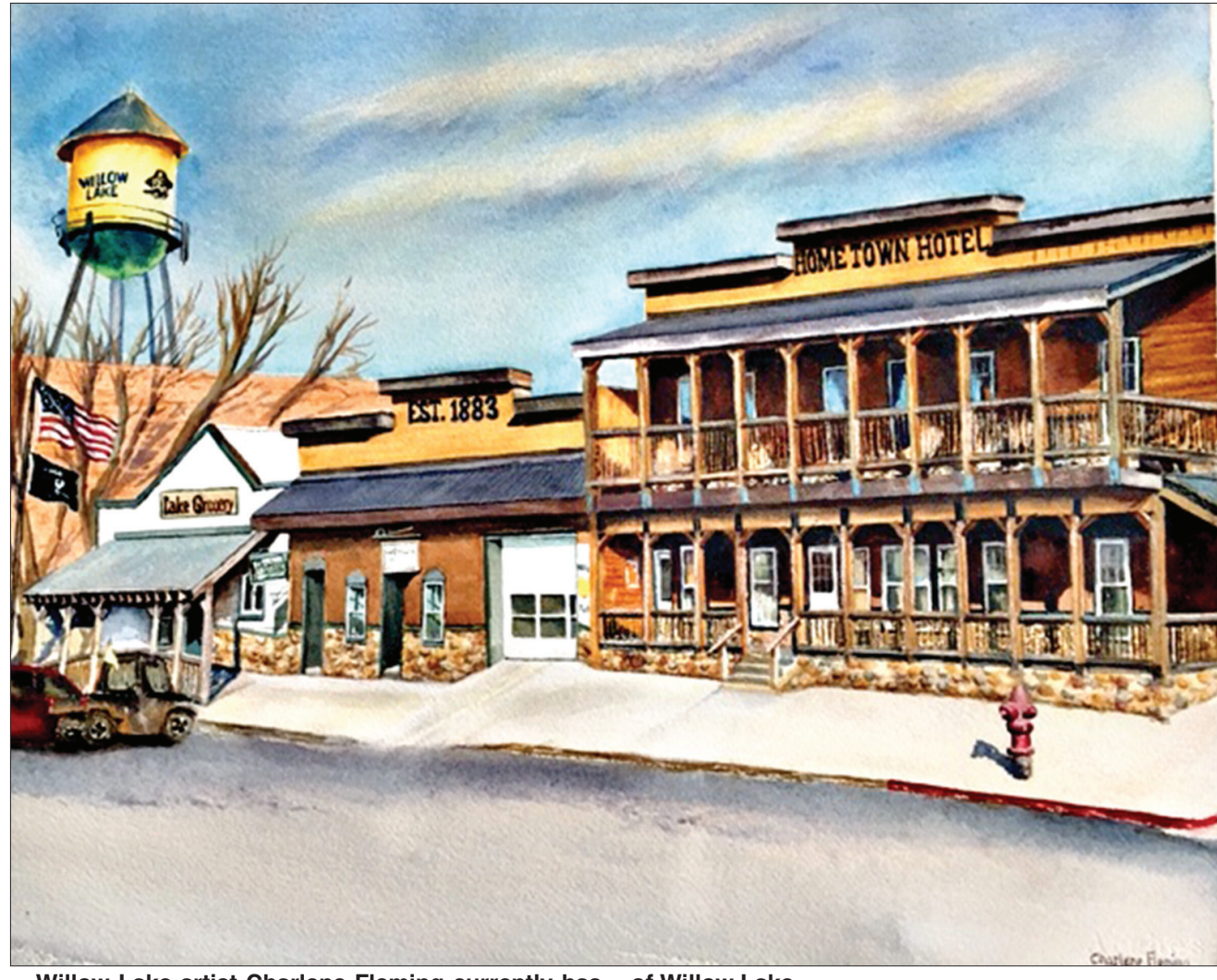
The picture is a little different than in year's past, as the commissioners are meeting in the courthouse basement.

Pictured left to right are: Clark County Auditor Tarbox; Chris Sass, Clark County Commissioner, District 2; Chad Fjelland, Clark County States Attorney; Louann Streff, Clark County Coroner; Terry Schlagel, Clark County Commissioner, District 4

and Kay Mahlen, Clark County Treasurer.

Chris Sass was re-elected chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners at their meeting Tuesday. Wallace Knock was re-elected Vice Chairman.

Commissioner committee assignments for 2021 were made and these include: Mental Health - Sass; Extension - Richard Reints; Weed and Pest - Knock; Airport - Schlagel, Francis Hass and Sass; ICAP - Hass; First District - Reints; Glacial Lakes - Schlagel and Legislative Contact - Knock.



Willow Lake artist Charlene Fleming currently has two paintings on the gallery wall at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport. A retired art teacher after 34 years with the last 21 years being with the Watertown School District, Charlene (Rick Peterson) lives west

of Willow Lake.

The above watercolor painting is of the east side business district along Garfield Avenue in Willow Lake, complete with the water tower.

## Artist Charlene Fleming's work is on display at Sioux Falls Airport

Since mid December of this year, when one is walking in the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, they may notice a very nice watercolor painting of Willow Lake's Garfield Ave. More specifically - the block of the Home Town Hotel ending at the post office flags and including the familiar town water tower, complete with a pirates head.

Next to the Willow Lake watercolor painting is another mixed media/batik painting of Dry Lake #2 near Willow Lake.

Both were done by artist Charlene Fleming who lives west of Willow Lake with her husband Rick Peterson.

Charlene's artwork is under her maiden name - Fleming and her business card states that watercolors and pastels (chalks) are her specialties. In recent years, she's added batik paintings to her collection.

Peterson has been painting since the 1970s and has always had a life-long interest in art, even drawing cartoons when younger.

She grew up in Kearney, Neb., graduated there and went on to the University of Nebraska where she did her master's thesis on watercolors. Back then old homesteads and abandoned buildings portraying the past were her subjects.

After her degree was achieved, she taught art at a private Baptist school in Detroit followed by art teacher positions teaching K-12 programs in various towns in Nebraska.

**Fleming**

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# 2020 Year in Review Part II, July-December

This is the July-December, 2020, Year in Review, the last six months.

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic case curve was not flattened, but rather elevated, the last six months of 2020.

As of December 31, in Clark County there has been 310 cases with 289 recovered and two deaths. There (as of Dec. 31) currently are 19 active cases.

Spring, into summer, was a stressful time for all Americans because of the COVID, but case numbers really took off right after Labor Day, as students went back to classes.

That is sort of a mystery in itself, as no one really knows who the 'super-spreaders' are, but not everyone is affected the same and we know we need to stay separated, wear a mask, keep our hands clean and stay

home if you are not feeling well, even that doesn't always work, as numbers prove that one in nine South Dakotan has had the coronavirus.

Plus, those with underlying health conditions and the elderly have been hit the hardest.

On a personal level, in a small town such as Clark, when a noted businesswoman has COVID-19, it hits home in a big way. Clark Flower and Gift co-owner Melanie Smith has been in a Sioux Falls hospital all fall, fighting COVID. Clark Flower and Gift co-owner



This was the sight last fall in Doug Hansen's soybean fields. A farming bee was held to bring in the soybean crop of Doug and Tina Hansen. The Hansens were tragically killed last month in an airplane accident and neighbors and friends organized a group effort to bring in his soybean crop.

Photo by Amy Hansen

Linda Seefeldt said Melanie has been upgraded to a rehabilitation site. That is good news, as Melanie has been in our thoughts and prayers.

To those of us like the Courier, the holiday season isn't the same without the Clark Flower and Gift Shop



Not only are the Ty and Liza Linneman children dressed in red, white and blue for this holiday edition photo, their middle names also reflect the holiday as they are also, left to right, Red, White and Blu.

Rowdy Red, Trigg White and Stella Blu are all under four years old. Keeping their parents hopping even young Rowdy was in a hurry at the beginning being born so fast his father Ty ended up being the 'attending physician' at home.

Rowdy Red surprised everyone coming two and a half weeks early during inclement weather in January, 2020 northwest of Clark.

Open House the weekend after Thanksgiving.

The second half of 2020 was highlighted by a positive row crop harvest, a cold late October followed by two months of abnormally warm weather.

As 2020 turns to 2021, let's hope the new year and the vaccine that comes with it, helps bring normalcy, activities, events and gatherings back to the fold. Happy New Year.

**July**

☛ Corn is above knee-high in the county by the Fourth of July. Scarlett and Larkyn, daughters of Kaley and Heidi Madsen are the 'Children of the Corn' for 2020.

☛ It's Red, White and Blu at the Ty and Liza Linneman house this Fourth of July. Rowdy Red, Trigg White and Stella Blu reflect the patriotic spirit.

☛ Wednesday, July 1, was Roger Chapin Day in South Dakota, proclaimed by Gov. Kristi Noem. Roger barbered in Clark for over 40 years.

☛ The Clark American Legion Post #60 puts in a flag drop box at Flat Iron Park for retired American flags.

☛ Misty Riter is the new ICAP Community Service Worker for Clark County.

☛ Health care systems, especially in rural areas, are feeling the stress of the pandemic. Nursing homes and assisted care facilities have had a 'no visitor policy' from the beginning.



Caleb Bratland who has anchored the Cyclones' offensive and defensive lines for the past two seasons, has been selected to the 2020 Class 9AA All-State football team.

Photo by Heather Jordan

☛ Forty-seven year old Nancy Berendes of Doland was killed in a two vehicle crash east of Clark, Sunday, July 5.

☛ 4-H summer activities are modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many activities are being done

**Year in Review**

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