

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880



Non-resident
S.D. Pheasant Season
Opens Saturday, October 17

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

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The hometown newspaper of Michael Holmstrom, Gilbert, AZ

Pheasant season opener is Saturday

This is the 97th edition of South Dakota's annual pheasant hunting season and the outlook for 2015 is better than 2014, but numbers are down from the 10-year average.

Weather always plays a significant role on opening weekend and the weather forecast is pretty average for the third weekend of October, highs in the upper 50's, lows in the 30's and dry.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has completed the annual pheasant brood survey and the results show a 42 percent increase in the statewide pheasants-per-mile (PPM) index from 2014.

The 2015 statewide PPM index of 3.80 is up from 2.68 last year and 1.52 in 2013. The statewide PPM

index is similar to 2011 when hunters harvested 1.56 million roosters. In the Watertown area, that Clark County is in, the PPM survey for 2015 shows 2.01, last year it was 1.21 and the 10 year average if 4.35.

"The favorable winter and spring weather conditions for the second consecutive year contributed strongly to another large increase in pheasant-per-mile," stated Kelly Hepler, GFP Secretary. "This year's population index is more than double the 2013 level when hunters harvested just under one million pheasants. Although the index continues to lag behind the 10-year average due to the extremely high counts from 2005 to 2010, a second straight year of substantial gains

in the index is great news for our hunting community."

Pheasant opener
(continued on page 8)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 6	66	42	0
Oct. 7	60	39	0
Oct. 8	51	36	0
Oct. 9	59	30	0
Oct. 10	84	49	0
Oct. 11	84	50	0
Oct. 12	57	37	0
2015 precipitation to date	18.86"		
2014 precipitation to date	14.93"		

Pastor Mindy Ehrke is the new minister at St. Paul Lutheran



Pastor Mindy Ehrke began serving the St. Paul Lutheran and New Helgen Lutheran churches in Clark and Florence, respectively, at the end of September. A native of Aberdeen, Pastor Mindy and her husband Greg have moved to the parsonage in Clark.

'Pastor Mindy' as she likes to be called, most recently served in the Mount Vernon and rural Letcher parish, serving the Salem, St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches.

"I'm impressed with the incredibly welcoming community here," states Pastor Mindy who started her position on September 27 in the pulpit of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clark.

In addition to duties at St. Paul, she is also the pastor of the New Helgen Lutheran Church in Florence.

New Helgen was formerly part of a three point parish with the Goodhue Lutheran Church and the Bergen Lutheran Church, which are in the country north and northeast of Florence.

The Bergen church closed many years ago and has since been demolished. The altar, pews, pulpit and other memorabilia as well as the church bell were saved and a small chapel was erected at the site - the Bergen Cemetery Chapel.

The Goodhue church still stands and several services are held there in the summers.

"With the linking of the two par-

Pastor Ehrke
(continued on page 8)



City of Clark finance officer Jackie Luttrell is shown above after placing the history of Dickinson Park in its message board at the new sign. The new signage was placed earlier this month by the city of Clark, as it continues to appreciate Dickinson Park.

Dickinson Park has a new sign

Dickinson Park in Clark had a new sign erected earlier this month, done by the city of Clark. Along with the sign is a history including pictures of the park and some of the early baseball teams that utilized it for their games.

The history of the park explanation has been reproduced onto a tin plate and is locked under glass, so it will be there for several generations to come. The angled green message board box containing the history

is located right in front of the new sign which was placed on the southwest corner of the park.

"It will be nice for people to read the history of Dickinson Park," stated Clark city finance officer Jackie Luttrell as she placed the history plate into its permanent place last Tuesday.

Earlier this summer, the athletic fields within the park became Dakota Style Field. The name of the park has not changed whatsoever.

"It will always be our Dickinson Park," stated the city officer.

Harry E. Dickinson was the name of the Chicago-Northern Railroad depot agent who instigated the sale of the two blocks of land - from the railroad to city alderman S. H. Elrod.

At that time it was illegal for the railroad company to just give land directly to a municipality. The land

Dickinson Park
(continued on page 2)

Nicole Seefeldt is on lung transplant list

Breathing is taken for granted. On average, a person at rest takes about 16 breaths per minute. This means we breathe about 900 breaths an hour, 23,040 breaths a day, 8,409,600 a year.

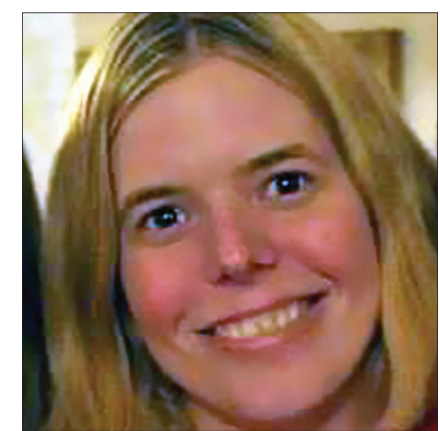
Because of two rare, progressive and destructive (lung) diseases, Nicole 'Nikki' Seefeldt needs a double lung transplant.

Seefeldt, a 1995 Clark High School graduate and 1999 South Dakota State University graduate, has Tuberos Sclerosis Complex (TSC) and Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM).

"My future, I think, post transplant is well worth the risks," said Seefeldt as she currently is listed for a double lung transplant. "Outcomes are much higher than even five years ago. I look forward to breathing more freely and without oxygen. Realistically the first year after transplant is rough but some do very well with little to no complications their first year. Outside my lung and kidney issues I've been pretty healthy. I have even set one goal of doing a 5K (running 5000 meters) once I've fully recovered from my transplant."

TSC is a genetic disorder and because of this Seefeldt has benign tumors on several organs including her lungs, leading to LAM.

LAM is a progressive lung disease that results in cystic destruction of the lung where the airway is blocked limiting the delivery of oxygen to the rest of the body. In August 2015, the seriousness of her



Nicole Seefeldt

12 year battle with LAM escalated to such a point that she was evaluated for a lung transplant.

Said Seefeldt, "Inspite of my health issues I have always been thankful for everyone's support, both past and present. It's a nice thing to have to fall back on - those prayers and energy. I am fortunate to have my friends and family that I do because while it's difficult, I have good support that many others in my position may not. I also appreciate people being supportive of my family as I know it's harder for them being farther away. But I'm in the best possible hands I can be in with all of this. My transplant center has one, if not the most well established programs in the country."

Nicole is the daughter of Merritt and Linda Seefeldt, Clark. She lived in New York City from 2000 to

Seefeldt
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Clark School will stay with Johnson Controls

At the October meeting of the Clark School Board, the board approved the 2015-2016 yearly maintenance agreement contract with Johnson Controls.

This annual (approximate) \$10,000 maintenance contract has been under scrutiny by the school board for some time, but at this time, for this year, the board needed something in place, with winter near, so it was a decision of need to go with Johnson Controls for this school year.

Board president Bob Steffen, along with board vice president Todd Fjelland, both wanted to re-visit this topic before July 1, 2016 when a new contract for 2016-2017 heating and cooling will be needed.

Clark superintendent Luanne Warren recommended to the board that Johnson Controls should be the system used for this year, at this point. "It gives me peace of mind that things (heating and cooling issues) will be taken care of," she said. "If it is cold out, as it will be shortly, we need someone to take care of the problem right now."

Warren began the Johnson Controls usage discussion by saying that she had visited with local heating/cooling businesses earlier Monday and asked each several questions: such as detailed cost for service?, if it was a major problem, who would you go to for help?, have you worked with Johnson Controls

Clark School
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Fall is on display this season!

Autumn is upon us. Autumn is a time when the sun's angle changes, things become cooler and all of the beautiful leaves earn a fiery glow before falling.

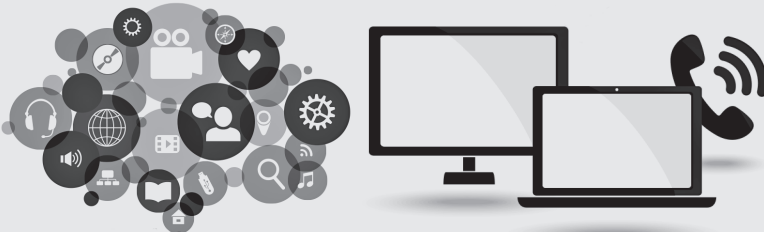
Scarecrows and hay bales and pumpkins and gourds make great fall displays such as this one at

Westside Implement.

Located just north of the front door, employees Lynn McGraw and Erin Heiman stand along side the fall decoration display.

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