

## Clark School administrative assistant Renae Mudgett moving to elementary

As October is coming to an end, so is the first academic quarter at Clark School. At Monday's October meeting of the Clark School Board, it was announced that parent-teacher conferences will be held Thursday, Oct. 27.

With a light agenda Monday, the board did its work in just over a half hour. Elementary administrator assistant Kari Hurlbut is done the end of this month, and long-time high school/middle school administrative assistant Renae Mudgett will be moving to Hurlbut's position at the elementary.

Clark School superintendent Travis Ahrens said the school had already received more than a handful of applications for the 12-month middle-high school position. The elementary contract is for 10 months.

Ahrens began his superintendent report portion of the meeting noting that there are 484 students attending Clark School, 451 in K-12 classes. That leaves 33 students in pre-k, and next year that pre-k number could be as high as 45. The superintendent was looking for input as to prepare for this number. State funding does not allow for pre-k, and when the February pre-school round-up is held, the school will need to have a plan in place regarding eligibility, numbers and knowing how many pre-k students from this year will remain in pre-school next year. Seventeen per section is the optimal number, with two class sections.

Also during the superintendent's report, Ahrens told the board that Ford currently is not taking orders for passenger vans. The budget has

\$58,000 appropriated for a passenger van, and the board discussed options for all their vehicle needs. A used suburban might be the way to go, was the board's consensus.

### In other business:

\* No executive session was necessary.

\* Board president Robert Steffen was appointed as the Clark School District Associated School Boards of South Dakota delegate for the upcoming legislature session delegate meeting on Nov. 18.

\* Approved the hiring of Adam Carvajal as the afternoon, 3:00-7:00 p.m. Field House supervisor at \$13.50 per hour.

\* School report cards are being released this week. Ahrens acknowledged that the school has work to do in the math and science areas. District assessments are coming in November.

\* Elementary principal Jon Redmond, during his report, said that next year it is math that will be the curriculum of emphasis.

\* The administrative team said that things are going about as well as expected with X-Tech, the IT company working with Clark School, providing service in place of having a full time on site technical person.

\* Comments on this year's Government Day having been in the Fall instead of the Spring proved that students were able to participate in the activity that required travel without worry of being snowed in like in past years. Government Day was Sept. 19, which is also Constitution Day in the United States.



## Grass fire burns north of Clark last Thursday

Conditions have been ripe for grass fires this fall, and last Thursday, approximately a quarter-mile square burned just northwest of the Clark County Airport.

As dry and windy as Thursday was, it is not known at this time what

started the fire, as it remains under investigation.

Fire departments from Clark, Garden City and Raymond were on the call, which came in around 12:38 p.m., according to the sheriff's report.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
October 11.....	74	35	0
October 12.....	79	40	0
October 13.....	53	30	0
October 14.....	47	29	0
October 15.....	45	29	0
October 16.....	60	36	0
October 17.....	44	23	0
2022 precipitation to date	18.27		
2021 precipitation to date	20.16		

## Brush receives two awards at Dakotas AER Conference

Dawn Brush was awarded with the Dakotas Chapter of AER Friends of Vision Award at the annual Dakotas Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired Conference, October 5-7, in Aberdeen. This prestigious award, won by doctors, researchers and philanthropists, has qualifications including a background in the field of vision as well as making contributions in the area of visual impairment.

Brush sat in the award ceremony awaiting an expected award for her twenty years with the Dakota AER chapter but said she continued to hear her name being talked about. Brush said the award is usually presented to those in the likes of ophthalmologists or professors. This year, however, she was called upon to receive the award.

"I am truly honored to receive these two awards. I had no idea, with all of the deserving and accomplished experts, that my name would be called."

Brush began her career working with the blind and visually impaired as a child care specialist at the school for the blind and visually impaired. She also provided services to the blind community as a rehabilitation teacher. Currently, Brush works with members in the community who are experiencing vision loss and are among the 55 plus age group. Brush helps them to continue living independently as long as possible with the help of aides and other tools.

She was recognized for her fundraising efforts for the AER and specifically for the Friends of Vision Award. For the last three years she has done multiple fundraisers using the company Pampered Chef. When contributors make purchases through her during the fundraiser, a portion of the proceeds go to the charity of her choice.

Clark County has been one of the areas Brush has supported, especially in the assisted living centers and in the homes of people in that 55 plus age group. Brush has also spoken for courses at Northern State University and for Early



Dawn Brush is pictured holding the two awards she received at the annual Dakotas AER Conference that was held October 5-7 in Aberdeen. On the left, the Dakota Chapters Friends of Vision Award and on the right, her award In Recognition of 20 years of Membership of the Dakota Chapter of AER.

Child Development concerning the Blind and Visually Impaired.

White Cane Day was last Saturday, October 15, and is something Brush feels passionately about. It is a day that is set to raise awareness to the blind and visually impaired population when they are navigating their way through the community. When someone is seen at a crosswalk with a walking cane or guide

dog, it is the law that said persons have the right of way. With a dangerous roadway, like U.S. Highway 212 running through Clark, it is important to spread the word.

Brush said she enjoys the Clark community. The people in Clark have always treated her as a person first and not differently due to her being legally blind.

Role of the press in a democracy

All three candidates heaped praise on journalists when asked to characterize the role of the press

Gubernatorial Candidates

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## Clark-Willow Lake girls are Region 1A champs!

The Clark-Willow Lake girls cross country team defeated Milbank 31 to 34 to claim the first place championship at the Region 1A cross country meet, last Thursday in Webster.

In Class A, the top four runners place and then the next two are pushers.

The cross country state championships, boys and girls, are this Saturday, in Huron.

Cyclones varsity region runners included, left to right: Emma Bochek, Alexia Schmidt, Kayla Jordan, Kamryn Nesheim, Cadence Bochek and Hadley Gjerde.

The Cyclones cross country coach is Tammie Paulson, who is assisted by Ryan Larsen.

## Gubernatorial candidates weigh in on open government issues

By Dana Hess  
S.D. Newspaper Association

Candidates for governor gave wildly different answers when asked to grade the openness of government in South Dakota.

Gov. Kristi Noem, the incumbent Republican candidate, said the grade should be an A or B+, noting the journalist's shield law that was passed in the first year of her tenure as governor and her family's presence on social media.

"Since I've been here, in my administration, we've been more transparent than any governor ever has," Noem said.

Her Democratic challenger, Rep. Jamie Smith, gave the government openness a D or C. "I'd say we can do a whole lot better," Smith said. "There is lots of room for improvement, I think."

Libertarian candidate Tracey Quint gave the state what she called a "low C or D." According to Quint, "I think there's a lot of issues that people are noticing with the

transparency of the current government. They just want to know what's going on behind closed doors and what's happening with their tax dollars."

This fall the candidates were questioned individually about a range of open government issues by members of the First Amendment Committee of the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The committee of editors and reporters has held similar sessions with gubernatorial and attorney general candi-

dates in past elections.

Topics included:  
**Governor's accessibility to the press**

Smith said he didn't want to be held to a strict policy, but that he thought a governor's accessibility to the press was important, including having news conferences at scheduled times.

"We've gotten away from that in the last few years, because, some people, I don't think want to tell the truth and have that opportunity to

speak the truth," Smith said.

Noem characterized her administration as "extremely accessible," noting that during the pandemic she held daily news conferences, sometimes more than one a day.

"We're always giving people the opportunity to have access to us and information and ask the hard questions," Noem said. "I don't know that we've ever shied away from answering a hard question."

The only way for government to be open and honest is to have an