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The hometown newspaper of Elaine Blashill, Rapid City, SD



Happy Halloween Clark County

The five children of Dave and Beth Severson of Clark had a practice run with their Halloween costumes last week. These five little SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) U.S. Army men from left to right are, Carter, Damian, Jax, Mason and Blake Severson.

Their parents enjoy dressing up as well and will no doubt be the boys' Master Sergeants this year. Beth comes up with a theme every year for the family. Her shirt this year will say "Raising an Army". Cops and robbers, Ninja turtles, Minions and Star Wars characters have been past themes.

Individual favorites about Halloween Trick or Treating are Damian - "Trading candy at the end." Mason - "It's fun to see what everyone is wearing."

Carter - "Picking out my favorite candy." Blake - "I like it when people give you candy." Jax, 18 months, had no comment but will probably be sharing some of his candy with mom as she enjoys picking out her favorites from the collection.

"We really get spoiled by our neighbors at Halloween," ended this year's tactical force from the Severson farm.



Do not forget to vote on Election Day, Nov. 3

The presidential election is next Tuesday. Election 2020 has been long awaited and 2020 has been different because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any voter in line at 7:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Because of the coronavirus Clark County Auditor Chris Tarbox said there is more absentee voting than usual this year. "Absentee voting has been going very well," said Tarbox. "We have 436 total (as of last Wednesday). Much of the voting has been by mail."

Social distancing is a big voter emphasis this fall on the local level and that is why the Clark American Legion Hall for Clark precincts is being used rather than the Ulyot Building. "Please practice social distancing," urged the auditor.

At the precinct voting tables there will be plexi-glass shields. The voter will lay their drivers license on the table and it will not be picked up by the election worker. Hand sanitizing stations will be at the entrance. Voting pens will have a one-time use. One can either take them with or dispose of them.

"We've taken safety precautions as voting is a precious right of the individual," Tarbox stated.

Secretary of State Steve Barnett stated, "The goal of all election officials in South Dakota is to ensure every South Dakotan has access to exercise their right to vote in fair and honest elections. Citizens exercising their right to vote is the foundation of our democracy and I encourage everyone to participate."

Voter ID requirements: South Dakota protects against voter fraud on Election Day. Voter ID is a requirement to vote. You must present some type of government issued ID, such as a SD drivers license, a state issued non-drivers license ID, tribal ID, passport, regents university photo ID or high school photo ID.

If you do not have an acceptable form of ID you must be presented

with a personal identification affidavit that you will sign under the penalty of perjury in which you state you are who you are.

The polling places for Clark County are: #1: Blaine Township, Cottonwood Township, Spring Valley Township, Warren Township, Town of Bradley, Community Center, Bradley SD,

#2: Ash Township, Woodland Township, Garfield Township, Elrod Township, Ulyot Building, Clark City Hall, Clark SD,

#3: Raymond Township, Logan Township, Raymond Town, Fordham Township, Raymond Fire Hall, Raymond, SD

#4: Thorp Township, Maydell Township, Eden Township, Town of Garden City, Garden City United Methodist Church, Garden City, SD.



Clark County District 2 commissioner election is Tuesday

The only Clark County local election in 2020 is for Clark County Board of Commissioners in District 2. Running for the board are incumbent Chris Sass and challenger Eric Caulfield.

Those who will vote in this election include: Precincts #1 (Blaine Township, Cottonwood Township, Spring Valley Township, Warren Township, Town of Bradley), #2 (Ash Township, Woodland Township, Garfield Township, Elrod Township) & 4 (Thorp Township, Maydell Township, Eden Township, Town of Garden City).

Each candidate was asked five questions and their answers follow:

Please tell us a little bit about yourself, your family, education, occupation, civic and community activities, etc.

Eric Caulfield - I am a 1998 Clark High School graduate and a 1999 WyoTech graduate. I've operated The Body Shop Restoration Garage LLC for 20 years, four years Bradley Town Board Member and donated many hours improving/cleaning up the Town of Bradley. I have lived in Bradley the majority of my life and feel lucky to be able to do what I want to do and live where I want to live with my family. My son Louie enjoys hunting, fishing, and sports and my daughter Cora enjoys horses. Cora has even started her own horsemanship business at the age of 15. We are very proud of our children.

Chris Sass - My name is Chris Sass. I grew up on a farm north of Bradley, I graduated from Webster High School and then received a degree in Diesel Technology from North Dakota State College of Science. I worked as a tractor mechanic at Codington-Clark Equipment and then as a salesman for Westside Implement. In 2013 I lost my dad and I started farming full time.



Eric Caulfield

I am married to Amy Sass who teaches at the Henry School. We have three girls. Olivia, a freshman at USD; Ella, fifth grade and Alayna, third grade, who both attend Clark School.

We are very active in Clark County 4-H and I am a member of the Bradley Fire Department and current chairman of the Clark County Commissioners.

What is your motivation in seeking the office of commissioner and what are your goals, if elected?

Eric Caulfield - To bring an open mind and non-biased views to the board. My goal is to develop markets for agriculture inside of Clark County or participate with bordering counties for better prices of ag products. I want to create more agricultural jobs.

Chris Sass - If re-elected I would like to continue to be a voice for the district and keep working with the other commissioners to resolve issues and make the right decisions for the county.

What do you feel should be the top three priorities for the Clark County Board of Commissioners for the next four years?



Chris Sass

Eric Caulfield - Improving and maintaining infrastructure/roads, development of Business Agriculture, and NOT raising taxes.

Chris Sass - 1. Road repairs seem like an issue that never goes away. With all of the past rainfall and spring flooding there are a lot of roads in need of repair.

2. Keep working to get more economic development to the county to create jobs for people so they stay in the area.

3. Keep working together as a team to make the right decisions on issues in the county so everyone is treated equal.

Why would you be the best person for this position?

Eric Caulfield - I would say work ethic and a good grasp of business/taxes.

Chris Sass - As being a current commissioner I have the experience to continue the job. I am very familiar with every part of the county and the people and would like to continue working for the people.

What are your thoughts on Dry Lake #2 flooding and the new proposed dairy?

Commissioner election
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School safety precautions and policies being tested during pandemic

As public schools hit the quarter turn, in late October, coronavirus cases are the highest they've ever been. Clark-Willow Lake is in Tier 3 sporting events, meaning only parents can attend the event.

At Clark, a message went out from superintendent Luanne Warren to parents notifying them that the Clark School District will be moving to hybrid learning, beginning Monday, Nov. 2.

This hybrid learning format, with only half of the students in the building one day and then the other half the next day, will extend until at least Nov. 14.

This week, school will be as usual, with preparations being made for next week.

Parent/teacher conferences were to be this week in the school building. That will change to either Zoom conferences or phone visits.

Said Warren, "Parents, please contact teachers to set up a time for the conference. We have a spike in adult cases in the community so it's important for all of us to slow down the virus the best that we can."

Warren went on to emphasize that masks are highly recommend-

ed for all students and staff. Social distancing and hygiene mechanisms are also key to stopping the spread, she said.

"We must keep our school and community as safe as possible," ended the superintendent.

Willow Lake
As of Monday, there are 53 active coronavirus cases in Clark County.

"We appreciate everyone's support as we navigate the COVID waters," said Willow Lake superintendent Chris Lee. Lee admitted that having school during a pandemic is

School safety
(continued on page 4)

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 20.....	33	29	.08
Oct. 21.....	35	26	.47
Oct. 22.....	31	26	.05
Oct. 23.....	31	25	.04
Oct. 24.....	28	15	0
Oct. 25.....	25	20	.17
Oct. 26.....	24	7	0
2020 precipitation to date 17.79			
2019 precipitation to date 34.97			

Many social events have been canceled this year

One activity after another has been canceled for this fall, all in connection with concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

The South Dakota All-State Chorus and Orchestra concert has been postponed until spring this year. The first time that one can recall, of it ever being postponed in the fall. The date for this year's performers has been moved from this fall to April 20, 2021. It will be held at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls.

Last weekend was the date usually reserved for the St. Paul Lute-fisk supper in Clark. The Wednesday before was the usual time for the Clark United Methodist Church turkey supper.

The Harvest Festival at the Avantara Clark Care and Rehabilitation Center at the end of September was

also canceled this year due to safety concerns for the vulnerable residents.

Style shows at Roetells and students coming in to assist residents with fall crafts and bingo at Wook-ey's has also come to a halt this fall due to COVID-19 concerns.

At the Plymouth UCC Congregational Church their longtime tradition of the annual Fall Bazaar held on the last weekend in September was changed instead to a brown bag lunch pickup event. On October 16, they had their customers drive through the alley with one taking orders and another bringing out the brown bag order to the vehicles. An outdoor bake sale was also offered.

The Clark Fire Department canceled their fundraising Street Dance event this year and it was replaced by a Drive Through lunch-

to-go on September 11.

A hamburger-to-go lunch was offered this year by the Clark/Day County Farm Bureau to show appreciation to farmers.

The St. Paul Lutheran Church ladies usually have their annual bazaar the first week in October but that was canceled too this year and replaced with a lefse fundraiser. They took orders on the phone and pickup was on a Sunday morning.

In Raymond, the First Presbyterian Church did not hold their annual Roundup soup dinner event and the Raymond Legion members decided to not hold their Veterans Day pancake supper or their annual poultry party due to COVID-19 concerns with members participating.

Other Legion posts have also followed suit in not planning poultry

parties this fall. Sitting shoulder to shoulder, conversing with neighbors and friends, catching up with one another in addition to playing bingo and maybe winning a turkey will be an annual tradition missed by many this year.

The Willow Lake Legion will not be having their poultry party this fall due to COVID-19.

In Garden City, their fire department will be having a Drive-In Bingo event in the Agwrx parking lot across the street from the Tin Hall. The Tin Hall has been the location for many years for the annual poultry party.

For this year, it's been decided that playing bingo in one's car, hearing the numbers over the FM radio will be how one will play bingo in Garden City this year on Sunday afternoon on November 8.

Buying a bunch of cards at once and winning gift certificates for turkeys and hams (buying locally) will be altered plans for the turkey bingo this fall.

In Clark, the turkey bingo party put on by Legion members has been canceled, however an alternative fund raiser event has been planned. A raffle will be held in its place with tickets available from Cagley-Smith Post #60 Legion members.

The Gun Raffle and the Poultry Party in Bradley were also canceled this year according to Legion commander Ken Tarbox. "We're playing it safe this year," he stated.

Sara Tarbox of the Bradley area was contacted regarding the annual Bradley Halloween party for the children. That will also be canceled this year unfortunately.

An Octoberfest event was in the

works at the end of September by the Clark Area Chamber of Commerce, but as time went on and COVID-19 cases increased, this was canceled as originally planned.

Events canceled
(continued on page 4)

Mystery Snowperson Clue
52nd Annual
Snow Queen Festival
Mystery Snowperson Contest

"Frosty says: 'When I come to work from Raymond, the first thing I do is to put on my apron'"

Send guesses to: Erin Heiman, 17746 426th Ave., Clark, SD 57225 or email: clarksnowqueen@gmail.com