

TOP of the Week

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 24	42	28	0
Nov. 25	33	18	0
Nov. 26	22	10	0
Nov. 27	22	7	0
Nov. 28	34	9	0
Nov. 29	34	25	0
Nov. 30	28	25	0
2015 precipitation to date	21.34"		
2014 precipitation to date	15.78"		

High school sports season is upon us

The high school winter sports seasons are upon us. The Cyclone Wrestling Booster Club Tournament is this Saturday at the Clark High School gym, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Triangulars and tournaments continue to be the trend in high school wrestling, so only one more event is scheduled for Clark the entire season. It is January 21.

The Cyclone girls and boys basketball teams have begun practice and open at Volga the following Saturday, Dec. 12 with the Sioux Valley doubleheader. The trend this year is for more doubleheaders and if it is on Saturday, to play the doubleheader in the afternoon.

The Clark-Willow Lake boys and girls will be playing seven doubleheaders this season.

Be careful on area ice

Last Saturday, around 11:00 a.m., the Clark County Sheriff's office received a call that a boat capsized at Mankey's Slough about three miles north of US Highway 212 on SD Highway 25.

According to the Sheriff's report, three people had been in the boat and they got out of the water on their own and were transported by Clark Ambulance to a Watertown hospital. The sheriff didn't know the names.

Five Wednesdays in December

December 2015 is a month which includes five Wednesdays. Christmas is on Friday this year. The *Clark County Courier* Christmas greeting edition will be the December 23 paper.

Monday snow storm shuts down schools

The Monday snow storm in eastern South Dakota was quite impressive, causing schools to close early on Monday and not open on Tuesday.

Roadways have been very slippery, but temperatures and wind conditions have been quite moderate and today into next week looks very nice, for early December.

Snowfall amounts were scheduled to be in the eight to 10" category, but ended up being about half that in Clark County.

For the next seven days, the high temperature is forecast to be in the mid-30's with lows in the 20's. Again, pretty nice for early December.

Community music concert is Dec. 20

Clark United Methodist Church is hosting a community Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 20.

The first choir practice will be held on Wednesday (tonight), December 2 at 7:45 p.m. at the Clark United Methodist Church.

Any and all voices are welcome and encouraged to join in this community choir. Lola Bartels is the director for the community choir.

Retailers looking for good holiday season

With a nice blanket of snow on the ground, the county has taken on the feeling of winter and also Christmas, as Thanksgiving and November are both history.

With just three weeks of shopping days left until Christmas, area merchants are thinking sales are on a pace to equal last year, or at least that is the hope this holiday season.

Local retailers are looking for a good holiday season this year and most comments have been favorable and positive concerning buying locally.

Small Town Saturday on the Saturday after Thanksgiving was a good day for local retailers.

Dakota Butcher manager John Hartman said he has been busy processing deer seven days a week and his store is really looking forward to this Christmas season.

"Ribeyes have really been a hot item," he said, "along with smoked turkeys and bone-in and bone-less hams." Dakota Butcher smokes all of their own hams and turkeys.

"We now have two locations as you well know," Hartman continued, as we have expanded to Watertown. "Christmas is a big holiday for us, with meat and cheese trays, meat bundles and gift certificates making great holiday gifts."

Melanie Smith, Clark Flower and Gift Shop said, "We had a good open house. We shipped out more care packages this year and we sold a nice variety of scarves and jewelry," and co-owner Linda Seefeldt con-

Retailers
(continued on page 3)



A winter storm on Monday brought about this scene, as well as four or five inches of snow and slippery driving conditions. The 10-day weather outlook is more on the positive side, with moderate winter temperatures with little moisture predicted.

Doesn't this have a rural, 'Christmas is coming' look? The Dakota

Butcher shop in Clark is one of the retail establishments looking for a bountiful holiday shopping season. The deer season is going strong and Dakota Butcher manager John Hartman said "We are more than busy."

Carol Borg is serving the Peace Corp, in Africa



As her husband Steve Manders takes the picture, Carol Borg is seated with her Thanksgiving guests in Mzuzu, Malawi in Africa. Carol and Steve have chosen to mentor and help out these five nursing students who attend the Mzuzu University, enabling them to continue their studies. Borg will spend until

next July at the University teaching/lecturing and doing clinical supervision to nursing students; through a Peace Corp/Seed Global Health initiative providing additional medical staff. Manders is working on digging new wells and both have additional projects going on to help the people of Malawi, Africa.

Since August Carol (Birkholtz) Borg, formerly of Willow Lake and her husband Steve Manders have been 'making a difference' in Malawi, Africa.

"I'm so very thankful for this opportunity and for my health to be able to do this and have a chance to give back for all the blessings I've had," said Borg of her one year position with the Peace Corps partnered with Seed Global Health.

The organizations partnered with a new initiative to help build capacity in low resource countries that are critically short of medical and nursing staff.

Borg, a 1983 WLHS graduate and the daughter of Owen and Lucille Birkholtz of Willow Lake, has wanted to join the Peace Corps since her high school days. She's also wanted to be a nurse since she was four years old. "I remember telling my mother, I wanted to be a nurse so I could take care of my dad when he got old," recalls Borg.

Currently a nurse practitioner since 1996, Borg will spend until next July teaching/lecturing and doing clinical supervision to nursing students at the Mzuzu University and Mzuzu Central Hospital in Mzuzu, Malawi.

Borg started her nursing career at the Sioux Valley Hospital (now Sanford) after getting her nursing degree at SDSU in 1990. She worked in the ICU, the ER and as a flight nurse with Sioux Valley Intensive Air. Furthering her education she obtained her Masters and nurse practitioner degree in 1996 and began working as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Custer Hospital/Clinic shortly after. She also worked in the outreach clinics of Hill City and Edgemont.

In 2008, wanting an adventure, she accepted a position at Dahl Memorial Clinic in Skagway, Alaska as the medical director and nurse practitioner, where she and husband Steve, who is self employed, have been residing up until August, when they left to work in Malawi.

"I've found Malawians to be a very warm and generous people with a very strong sense of family ties. Family is more important than jobs and ambition and takes priority over everything. There remains huge gender inequality issues. Keeping girls in school past puberty has become a huge 'battle

Borg

(continued on page 3)

Teacher shortage: mothers can bring experience to classrooms through 'encore careers'



By Anna Jauhola and Wendy Royston, Dakotafire Media

Perhaps the answer to South Dakota's teacher shortage doesn't lie in recruiting this year's high school seniors to the profession or retaining next year's education grads within our borders. Maybe the answer sitting in homes and in offices throughout our state, already engaging with youth.

"Being a teacher was not an option because of the pay" when Angie Baszler was in college. "I was going to do something that made a lot more money, because money was the most important thing, but when you have children, you realize that that is not the most important

thing." Now 34, Baszler is entering what he calls her "encore career" and thinks other stay-at-home-moms might make good teachers, too.

"Moms who are returning (to work)—and who were able to be a stay-at-home-mom—might not be doing it for the money," she said. "If we can't change pay, then we need to figure out how to get people who are excellent teachers to go back and do it for something other than the money."

Equipped with both bachelor's and master's degrees in business, Baszler struggled to work 60 hours per week as the foundation director for Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D., while being the kind of mom she envisioned for her children. So her family moved to De Smet, S.D., where Jason Baszler was raised, so she could stay home with the children, offer them a slower-paced upbringing, and work

part-time in economic development. Now, as her children are entering school, her priorities again are shifting, and she wants to go back to work full-time, but still be able to be on her children's schedule. And teaching will allow her to work in a different realm of community development.

"Not only can I put my kids first," as a teacher, but "I can put the kids in my community first as well," Baszler said. "I really want to have an impact on students while they're still moldable," to help foster an appreciation for the opportunities available in DeSmet, as well as to show them how to become effective leaders who can help shape the future of the community. And "I want my children to be able to take advanced education classes, even though they live in a small town."

Jeanette Remily, who has taught in her "encore career" the past 16 years, after spending 30 years rais-

ing children and helping run the family's grocery store in Britton, S.D., encourages women like Baszler to follow their dreams.

"Don't hesitate for a minute," she said. "Try it. It can be the most rewarding job you could do in your life."

Finding the funds to further their education

While someone who hasn't recently worked full-time may not be as apt to complain about South Dakota's average starting teacher pay of just under \$30,000, the investment in order to begin earning can be a major hindrance in pursuing encore teaching careers.

Though Baszler, who graduated toward the top of her Yankton High School graduating class in 1999, would have qualified for full-ride scholarships to become a teacher fresh out of high school, she is footing a \$12,000 bill to pursue two years of classwork and stu-

dent-teaching to become a certified teacher at this juncture.

"That's a lot—especially when you're a stay-at-home-mom, convincing (your) husband," she said. "I'm not getting a degree—I'm getting a teaching certificate—so I don't qualify for scholarships."

Baszler said she is thankful South Dakota's public universities have made the endeavor easier by offering the coursework online, but suggested policymakers explore ways to make it more affordable.

"If our government leaders really, really wanted to provide good teachers, I think this is a great pool to get it from. They're passionate moms who care about the education of their children, and who are really going to their 'encore careers' after they took a hiatus from their old careers and can go do this, but I think the financial impacts are a barrier."

Teacher shortage
(continued on page 8)