



The Clark Rotary Club invited past Clark High School graduates and active military members to their dinner meeting last Tuesday for a complimentary meal at a local restaurant.

Shown above after the meeting from left to right are

Rotary members and guests seated, Greg Furness, Cooper Hartley, Braxton Hartley, Torrey Kolden, Rhett Florey and Rory Forest. Standing from left to right are Tom LaBrie, Hudson Steffen, Dustin Reff, Annabell Ryan, Gayle Wookey and Dala Albright.

Eight C.H.S. graduates are Clark Rotary Club visitors

Joining the Clark Rotary Club for a lively meeting last Tuesday in Clark were eight past graduates of Clark High School. They were welcomed home on their Christmas break from college and in service with the military and were treated to a complimentary noon lunch by the Rotary at a local restaurant.

The guests were also witness to the protocol of the weekly Rotary meetings and were encouraged to participate in the future in the Rotary organization.

The guests shared individually where they are attending college and serving in the military.

Annabell Ryan is currently serv-

ing in the U.S. Air Force in Germany.

Braxton Hartley is at South Dakota State University and is going into the nursing profession. His brother Cooper Hartley is also attending South Dakota State Uni-

Clark Rotary
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Be careful out there!

Christmas Day storm packs a wallop

Have you ever seen lightning and heard thunder on Christmas Day? That is what happened in Clark County this Christmas.

Being tabbed a Christmas Day storm, different parts of South Dakota were affected differently, but in Clark County we experienced blizzard conditions, with strong winds, freezing rains and believe it or not, the aforementioned lightning and thunder on Christmas Day.

Many Christmas plans were changed by area residents due to the impending storm. No travel was advised in Clark County on Christmas Day and until noon on December 26.

The aftermath is very slippery conditions underfoot and on the roadways. As the headline says: "Be careful out there," because it is very slippery and snow covers many spots with ice underneath.

Clark County Sheriff Rob McGraw stated that his office hasn't been as busy as the counties around

us, to the north and east, as well as Hamlin County.

"On Friday a semi was blown off the road down on SD Highway 25, but other than that, we've only had a couple of calls. Monday, was the worst day to try to get around and the eastern part of the county was worse, as far as ice," said the sheriff.

Be careful
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WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 20	31	18	0
Dec. 21	33	13	0
Dec. 22	33	12	0
Dec. 23	34	12	0
Dec. 24	20	12	0
Dec. 25	35	14	.61
Dec. 26	14	8	tr
2016 precipitation to date	21.93		
2015 precipitation to date	22.50		

Spratt and Flatten combined are postmasters at Crocker for over 50 years

The Crocker Post Office/contract station continued from 1907 to 1993 serving the area for 86 years.

The town of Crocker began in 1906 with Carl Benson's cafe being the first business constructed being operated by Otto Rasmussen. Shortly after a grain elevator, the Independent Elevator was the second business followed by the Lambert Lumber Company and then the Nicholson Lumber Yard.

Crocker was a stopping place for the train between Aberdeen and Watertown. There was a pump station in Crocker where steam locomotives filled up with water. At one time Crocker had four trains a day going through.

Hans Rasmussen saw the need for a general store which he built called the General Merchandise Store. Hans was also appointed the first postmaster in 1907. He was followed by his younger brother J.M. (John) Rasmussen as Postmaster and then John Thoe for a time served in that capacity starting in 1919.

Pauline Spratt served as post-

master from 1925 to 1947 when she retired. The Spratt's General Merchandise Store opened in 1919 and was known to be the largest of its kind between Watertown and Aberdeen on the train route. They even sold cars, out of their basement noted locals.

Floyd Flatten became the next postmaster moving the post office to Flatten's Grocery. The Flattens lived in the back of the store which added a cream station also buying eggs in 1948. They didn't have electricity there until 1949 and running water was added in 1954.

Crocker Post Office
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This is the close-up view of the Crocker Post Office in the early 1900s. On page three is the larger view of the Crocker, S.D. main street.

On the second building in, if one looks closely, one can read 'Post Office' below the second floor balcony. The three individuals in the picture are unidentified.

Photo courtesy of Greg Furness



Jody Peterson has opened her own insurance agency office called Legacy Insurance Services in the Tony's Electric building along third street in downtown Willow Lake.

Shown in her new office last Tuesday, Peterson is looking forward to going full-time being an independent agent in Willow Lake. Formerly a Wishard from the Florence area, Peterson will continue to have a working relationship with family members in the insurance business so she will be able to, in her words, "Insure pretty much anything". Jody and her husband Kyle and family have lived in the Naples/Vienna area since 1999.

starting a new business just after moving to a new acreage we purchased, just like my mom did back in 1997 when they bought their farm near Florence."

Peterson's parents are Steve and Rita Wishard who live near Florence where Peterson graduated in

1996. Her mother did upholstery work while her father ran a body shop in Florence before Rita started Wishard Insurance.

"I was a freshman in college at

Peterson
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The Clark County Year in Review - Part I

As the final 2016 edition of the Clark County Courier goes to press, the year is pretty much a wrap.

What will 2016 be remembered for and thought of... internationally terrorism will take the top spot and nationally it will probably be remembered for Donald Trump winning the presidency. On the state level, the sales tax went up a half penny, largely due to increasing teacher salaries.

The Clark County Courier, a weekly community newspaper, concentrates on the county area and one of the favorite features annually is the Year in Review.

Without further adieu, let us begin. (It is a review, it is not 'all inclusive')

January

Richard Reints is re-elected chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners.

The city of Clark begins an annexation study with Todd Days of the First Planning District, of Watertown.

The Clark Flower and Gift Shop, owned by Melanie Smith and Linda Seefeldt is given the Spirit of Entrepreneurship by S.D. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs. Next year, 2017, will be the 40th anniversary for the Clark Flower and Gift Shop.

\$12,000,000 is the magic number of construction spent in Clark County for 2015, it was reported. Ag individual, ag buildings, the Willow Lake School and the Dollar General Store in Clark, were the big building permit spending sites. The Big C Travel Plaza should be in this year's construction story.

Gov. Dugaard begins the 2016 legislative session offering sales tax increase to boost teacher pay. It inevitably squeaked by to become law and the .5 percent increase went into effect in 2016.



Wednesday was a big day at the Clark Flower and Gift Shop as South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs, left, presented Linda Seefeldt and Melanie Smith, front center and right, with the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award.

In the back are Sen. Brock Greenfield and Rep. Lana Greenfield.

Interior work continued all throughout the winter at the Willow Lake School. In January concrete was poured for the gym floor. The gym is scheduled to be ready, hopefully, sometime in late winter, 2017.

El Niño keeps January moderate, with two cold snaps throughout the month, but 17 days with highs in the 20's or above.

February

Winter sports draw a huge following and the Cy-

clones, whether it be wrestling, girls basketball or boys basketball continue to have very successful campaigns with many talented athletes.

Lent began on February 10 in 2016. It is later this year, as lent begins March 1, 2017.

Replacing ash trees, as the emerald ash borer (EAB) has devastated tree populations in the eastern U.S. and is heading west, was the city topic at the February meeting. Rotary president Tom LaBrie told the council of erecting and maintaining a potential Rotary Tree Park, for replacement trees.

The Clark city library continues to reach out to young and old alike, with Kim Taylor as librarian.

The 5th Annual Lee Schlager Memorial Basketball Tournament, boys and girls, hosted 12 teams for the J.V. tourney.

Greg Furness is featured with his postmark collection and his knowledge of Clark County post office history.

Henry School hosted several opt out public meetings, prior to the April election. Henry superintendent Steve Zirbel and the school board used these meetings to talk about the \$127,318.80 shortfall in the school's budget.

In February School Board Recognition Week was saluted, as well as the FFA and FCCLA programs.

The Clark Legislative Cracker Barrel was dominated by the education reform bill, working its way through the state legislature.

The Courier featured several county cemeteries in 2016, in story and pictures.

Cal Simmons was the first black homesteader in Clark County history and his story was featured.

The Cyclone boys basketball team is 17-2 on Valentine's Day, against a very challenging schedule.

Five Cyclone wrestlers qualify for the State B tourney in Rapid City. Josh Weisbrod, Jess Karber, Wyatt

Year in Review
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Clark High School one-act play members earned a Superior Play award at the State One-Act Play Contest in Sioux Falls. Corrine Kallemeyn is the director. Pirates Ally Monson, Jen Hurlbert and Jos Hurlbert all received State Drama Superior Performance medals for their performances in the play entitled *Thirteen Reasons To Stop Being a Pirate*.

Shown above in action last week are, from left to right, Monson, Jos Hurlbert, Mason Nelson, Tavie Guzman, Jen Hurlbert, Justus Reidburn and Keith Myrvold. Behind the scenes were Alex Thomas, Cheyenne Jones, Karli Paulson, Nicole Luttrell, Savannah Fisher and Hannah Gruenwald, with Russ Hurlbert and Nicole Nelson assisting with transportation of the set.