



Agriculture, athletic successes and atypical weather highlight 2013

Clark County Year in Review - Part I

2013 was quite a memorable year and hopefully your memories of the last 364 days gone by are good memories.

In Clark County the positive definitely outweighed the negative. The Courier will look at Jan. - June this week and next week, July - Dec. will be recapped.

A late winter storm, both Cyclone basketball teams qualifying for state tournaments, moving the CCR run to the fairgrounds and much tree damage from the first day of summer storm are several of the first half highlights of 2013.

January

Francis Hass is elected chairman and Richard Reints vice chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners for 2013.

Clark City Council discussed aiding the Clark Golf course in a payment of \$30,000 to repair a water pump.

The Northern State University marching Wolves band performs at the 57th annual Presidential Inaugural parade (for President Barack Obama) in Washington, D.C. CHS graduates Levi Seefeldt, Kallan Christman and Kelsey Luckhurst are members of the band.

For the second time in four years, Clark native Kim Kaufman is named the South Dakota 2012 Independent Female Athlete of the Year. She was also named the top collegiate (No.1) Women's golfer by Golf-week magazine.

Clark School Board moves forward with plans to opt out in 2013. Supt. Heupel explains this has been ongoing the entire millennium and at this point, all future cuts will involve programs, not just personnel.



These two Cyclone seniors had great 2012-2013 high school basketball seasons and are now reaping the honors!

Chynna Stevens, left and Skyler Flatten are both first team Class 'A' All-State; named the Class 'A' Player of the Year and named to the Sioux Falls Argus First Five list (as one of the top five players in the state of South Dakota).

Stevens is the daughter of Eric and Nichol Stevens and Flatten is the son of Michelle Flatten, both of Clark.

History of the Clark Farm and Home show states it started with a Farmers Night Party in 1949, put on by the Clark Chamber of Commerce.

The Willow Lake Community Daycare is featured, going into its 11th year. Marie Zantow with periodic help from her husband Stan, manages the daycare

which currently oversees from seven to 12 children on any given day.

Kristin Janisch's digital photography class is featured as they continue their first year at Clark High School.



The ice skating rink in Clark was a popular place as area youngsters took to the ice. Shown above from left to right are, Caitlyn Anderson, Correana Anderson, Jackson Werdel, Ashley Dailey, Taylor Pickrel and Noah Boykin.

Terry Kaufman, plant manager at Clark Rural Water is named Rural Water Operations Specialist of the Year by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems in Pierre at their annual convention.

Alma Bauman, Eileen Grensberg, Linda Grensberg, Pam Hartman, Don Knutsen Jr., Nicolette Schmidt, Pat Seefeldt and Mary McGillivray were the category winners at this year's farm show held in Willow Lake. For an hour and a half, the Farm Show continued in darkness due to a power outage.

Ann Kriese, a Watertown native is interviewed on her new position as the Community/Clark County Health Nurse.

Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone basketball senior stand-out Skyler Flatten has been nominated to play in the 2013 McDonald's All American Games.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Adam Henderson, a CHS graduate in 2011 and the son of Mike and Charlene Henderson steps up as chaplains assistant. Henderson's job is to protect the Navy chaplain (Cmdr.) Michael Williams and to assist with logistic and administrative duties.

Willow Lake's ice fishing derby is well attended with the largest walleye caught by Shane Ladwig weighing in at 4 lb. 10 oz. and largest northern was 6 lb. 15 oz., caught by Josh Shickedanz.

Lee Kopriva of Raymond competes at the National Young Farmers and Ranchers discussion meet after winning the South Dakota YF&R contest in November.

Clark's after school program set up for students from preschool through fourth grade is featured. The after school facilitator is Betsy Kolden. The program has been ongoing and successful for the last 10 years.

Oak Tree Energy LLC receives a verbal order from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission on a Power Purchase Agreement at a leveled rate for 20 years with Northwestern Energy. "This marks another step forward towards making the Clark Wind Farm a

reality that will benefit the entire community," stated Michael Makens of Oak Tree Energy LLC.

Assessed value of new construction in Clark County in 2012 was 5.2 million dollars. In comparison, 3.7 million was assessed in 2011 and 4.7 million in 2010. County wide, 80 building permits were taken out with 11 of those being new home permits.

February

Auctioneer Terry Schlager is honored for his three decades of involvement, by having the Watertown Winter Farm Show dedicated to him in his honor.

Hudson Steffen of Clark, who is diagnosed with MPS V1 spends a week in Hawaii with his family at the NFL Pro Bowl through the Make a Wish® program.

The Clark County Riders meet with the Clark County Board of Commissioners to discuss possibly having their annual CCR Run held in June at the Clark County Fairgrounds, moving it from the town of Bradley to Clark.

Modern farming practices with no-till farming increase the removal of shelterbelts in the countryside as reported in a DakotaFire story.

Four Clark Elementary students, Correana Anderson, Katlyn Maynard, Saylor Hallstrom and Martyna Shape are chosen for the 2013 Elementary Festival Honor Choir held at South Dakota State University.

A weekend snowstorm brings 13.5 inches of snowfall recorded in Clark. By Tuesday schools are back in session and most businesses are back open.



Laird and Kathy Larson have taken two trips to South Africa the last two years. On the first trip, Laird bagged a White-tailed Gnu in February of 2012. This photo was taken in the new addition at Larson Gun Sales.

A combination of ice and wind were probably the culprits in breaking the antenna used by the Clark Ambulance and Clark Fire Department. The antenna was replaced by a tower and communications crew from Sioux Falls and was located on top of the city of Clark's water tower.

Andrew Wegner, WLHS senior, serves as a legislative page for Rep. Brock Greenfield during the 2013 legislative session.

Ashley Tonak of Willow Lake and a sophomore at SDSU is traveling South Dakota conducting farm safety programs as the new Farm Safety for Just Kids outreach coordinator.

Students at CHS taking Paul Streff's project-based geometry class work with their new HyperTherm plasma cutter and table set-up, learning about computer aided design or CAD.

The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones boys basketball



On the hill to the southwest overlooking Casey's Slough, is the building that houses CK Seeds. Owned by C.J. and his wife Kelsey Beving, shown with their six-month-old son Chas, the business specializes in the distribution of Pioneer brand seed corn and soybeans.

team, finish their regular season at 19-0 and are NEC champs.

Ribbon cutting is held at Sturdevants Auto Parts in Clark.

Six Cyclone wrestlers qualify for state tourney including Logan Tonak, Jakob Weisbrod, Wyatt Burke, Jess Karber, Kane LaPlante and Kevin Schuelke.

Clark Boy Scout Troop 23 is awarded traveling trophy winning the North Star District Klondike.

WLHS FFA members package 35,640 meals for the needy in the Kids Against Hunger project.

Jakob Weisbrod and Logan Tonak bring home state championship runner-up awards in their weight classes at the South Dakota Class B Wrestling Tournament.

Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone girls basketball team finishes season at 17-4 and are District 3A champions and make fourth consecutive state A appearance.

March

Clark City councilman Terry Binger resigns his position on the council due to moving out of Ward I.



A weekend storm brought over a foot of snow to Clark County and as the wind picked up on Sunday afternoon, blizzard and white-out conditions made any type of movement almost impossible.

Before the weekend snow, hoarfrost made everything look especially white. This photo of Veteran's Memorial Park in Willow Lake was taken before the snow storm.

Year in review (continued on page 2)

Johnson Trucking has been hauling ag commodities for 50 years



Brothers Jim, left and Dennis Johnson have been trucking approximately 30 years apiece and Johnson Trucking turned 50 this month. Their dad, Robert Johnson, started Johnson Trucking in December, 1963. Jim is standing by his truck with his son Lucas and Dennis is

standing by his truck with his daughter Jeny. The brothers and their respective trucks are very visible in Clark County as the duo haul ag commodities year round.

Johnson Trucking turned 50 years old this month. Started in December of 1963, Johnson Trucking has climbed that same hill from the same yard, nine miles south and a mile east of Clark.

Robert Johnson started the business and now sons Dennis and Jim are the owners and operators.

"When dad started trucking, there were only 'x' amount of truck driving permits per area and that area included a 20-mile radius," explained Dennis and that meant that in the 1960's, in South Dakota, if you wanted to drive truck, you either had to get one from someone who was retiring or you had to go through a hearing process.

Robert Johnson, Sr. started hauling cattle in December of 1963 with a straight truck and a 13.5' box. Bob's wife Marlene was the bookkeeper and fill-in driver in the 1960's and 1970's.

"He was looking for a change of pace from farming," said son Jim and many, many miles have been logged since. Bob got out of farm-

ing entirely as the business took off and Dennis started trucking in 1982 and Jim in 1984. Their older brother, Bob Jr., trucked for the family for a time but now it is Dennis and Jim who carry on the Johnson Trucking legacy.

Dennis is married to Lisa and they have two children, Taylor and Jeny. Jim is married to LeAnn and they have two children, Michaela and Lucas.

Dennis drives an International and Jim drives a Freightliner but ag commodities have been their 'bread and butter' all these years.

Whether it be grain, or cattle, or fertilizer or seed corn or feed, the product has always been ag related mainly to another South Dakota destination. Once in a while it's to a surrounding state but usually it's private customers who want cattle driven from the farm to market or from the farm to pasture land.

"Nothing is dedicated, we work year 'round and we're usually on

Johnson Trucking (continued on page 10)

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