

Alma Hass turns 100 on March 5



Alma Hass will be celebrating her 100th birthday soon. On March 5, 2020 she will become a centenarian and will celebrate at an open house held in her honor. Hass was born in 1920 on a farm near Raymond. A 1938 graduate of Raymond High School, her class was the first to graduate from the newly built brick school.

Alma Hass will turn 100 years old on March 5, 2020. "I can't believe I'm 99 years old," stated the hard working farm wife from the Raymond area. She grew up in the days of no running water or electricity on the farm and recalls waking up to frost on the bedcovers unless the heated up sodd iron wrapped in a blanket at her feet did its job.

The so-to-be centenarian believes she's lived in the greatest generation of all time as she's seen so many changes in her life time. "From living with no water or electricity to all of the modern conveniences we

have now, I've seen us going from the worst to the best," she recalls.

In her lifetime, she's witnessed the coming of radio and television, a man walking on the moon, electric appliances and more recently computers and cell phones.

"I'm thankful for everything I've gotten in my whole life," said an appreciative Hass. "The Lord has really blessed me. All I do now is pray, pray, pray..." confided Hass who is currently a resident at Avantara in Clark.

"I thank God for everything - absolutely!" states Hass. "And I pray

in Jesus' name."

Hass has spent her lifetime in Clark County. Born near Raymond, she was born at home to Bobbie and Esther (Franzen) Ludwig. She had two siblings, Merle and Lois.

She attended the Fine school, often joining the Kelly girls down the road in walking the nearly two miles to school. The school later closed and she then attended the Raymond school.

The school burned down when she was a junior and classes were attended in local businesses until a new school was built in 1937. Her class was the first senior class to graduate from the newer brick school in 1938.

She began dating Henry Hass from Doland after he asked her to 'the picture show'. The couple dated and were later married in Raymond at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Their honeymoon trip to the Black Hills was her first trip taken away from home. In the 1960s, Alma joined the Farmers Union and went on many trips hitting all 50 states and their capitols. "I could write a book on those trips alone," she was heard to say.

She could also write a book on the hard times of the earlier years. Like when the bank crash of 1929 took all of her grandfather's life savings after he'd moved from Mis-

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Clark County is looking at a TIF plan for dairy road construction/maintenance

An informational special Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting was held Wednesday, Feb. 19. At the table with the commissioners were Todd Kays, executive director of the First Planning District and financial specialist Toby Morris.

A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project is being pursued by Riverview Dairy LLP through the Clark County Board of Commissioners. It is in a very preliminary stage.

What is a TIF (district)? TIF is a tool to help local governments, in this case the county, to improve and further develop their communities.

Clark County can capture additional tax revenue to make the needed improvements.

This provides incentives to help Riverview Dairy, without tapping into general funds. It is not a tax break.

Morris gave a background to TIF's, noting that this economic development public-private partnership puts the county in the driver's seat for economic development, off-setting road costs.

Riverview Dairy will house

11,000 dairy cattle 10 miles west of Clark and approximately six miles south. This meeting was set up to begin preliminary talk of handling the \$3,600,000 road cost, so not out of county expense. "But," said Morris, "to relieve liability between two parties (the county and Riverview). This TIF would be a partnership."

Morris repeated that this meeting to set up this TIF is to offset costs, so that the county would not have any out of pocket expenses, the school funding formula would not be affected and it is not a tax break whatsoever.

This special meeting lasted approximately two hours. Going through this TIF process is a transparent process. Next, a planning/zoning commission a public hearing will be held, followed by a 30-50 page TIF plan and then a Developer's Agreement between Clark County and Riverview Dairy, LLC.

Morris talked and explained how the TIF would work. "Again, the county will be in the driver's seat, Riverview would pay taxes, the county would segregate that amount." He realized that valua-

tions had gone up significantly and reiterated that this would have a neutral impact on the school's general fund and hopefully capital outlay.

The dairy will be finished two years down the road, it was thought, with construction starting this summer.

This haul-road agreement and highway maintenance is the financing mechanism behind the TIF. The longest the TIF can go is 20 years.

Riverview has a \$40,000,000 investment in this dairy. "Will a TIF be available for every CAFO discussion?" it was asked. This situation is unique and the commissioners agreed that assurances need to be made on both sides regarding this issue.

A traffic study will also need to be done, as trucks turning off of US Highway 212 will need some room for the turning.

Morris said the time frame regarding this TIF will be 60-90 days. An exact amount for this matter

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Leap Day is Saturday - Feb. 29

What are one's chances of being born in a Leap Year? About one in 1,500.

So Leap Year babies get their drivers licenses when they are officially four years old (16).

A Leap Year occurs every four years to help synchronize the calendar year with the solar year. And to make it even more in line with the solar year's 11 minutes discrepancy, a Leap Year is omitted three times every 400 years.

In other words a century year cannot be a Leap Year unless it's divisible by 400. Thus 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not Leap Years but 1600, 2000 and 2400 are Leap Years.

Leap Day is February 29 which is next Saturday in the 2020 calendar year.

An 'intercalary' or extra day is in the 366 day Leap Year while there is no intercalary day in a common year (365) within the Gregorian calendar.

The Gregorian calendar goes back to approximate 1582 with

Pope Gregory XIII adjusting the calendar from the former Julian calendar introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C.

Leap Year traditions

One well known tradition is the Irish folklore that started when Saint Brigid of Kildare complained to Saint Patrick that "women had to wait far too long for men to propose".

So women were given one day - Leap Day - to take matters into their own hands and to propose to the men. Bachelor Day is another name for Leap Day in the Irish tradition and women could also initiate dances on this day.

For those born on February 29, there is the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies, a free membership birthday club that got its start in 1997. One of their main goals is to promote Leap Year Day awareness and knowledge.

Since 1988, Anthony, Texas/New Mexico has been dubbed 'Leap Year Capital of the World' and throws a

worldwide Leap Year Festival every Leap Year for people born on February 29. People from all over the world come to this tiny town to participate in parades, birthday dinners and hot air balloon lifts.

According to statistics there are approximately 187,000 Americans born on February 29 and approximately four million 'leaplings' or 'leapsters' share this birthday world wide.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 18	25	10	0
Feb. 19	15	-3	tr
Feb. 20	8	-9	0
Feb. 21	23	-5	0
Feb. 22	33	19	0
Feb. 23	38	24	0
Feb. 24	37	19	0
2020 precipitation to date	1.04		
2019 precipitation to date	2.13		



Five wrestling Cyclones State B bound

These five Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone wrestlers qualified for the South Dakota Class B Wrestling Tournament, this Thursday through Saturday, in Sioux Falls.

In order to wrestle this coming weekend, at State, each wrestler had to place respectively, in the top four of the weight class at Region IB, at Sisseton.

Three Cyclones won Region IB championships,

Gunner Kvistad at 106; Lucas Kannegieter at 126 and Gage Burke at 160. Charlie Spieker was third at 145 as was Avery Nichols at 285. Greg Marx is the Clark-Willow Lake head coach.

Cyclone wrestlers who will be in the State B tourney this coming weekend include, left to right, Spieker, Kannegieter, Burke, Kvistad and Nichols.

S.D. hunter residency case creates 'nightmare' for retired combat veteran

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

The legal language describing who qualifies as a South Dakota resident when it comes to in-state hunting privileges is laid out in state law, but the real-world definition is now murkier than ever.

A recent drawn-out, highly charged criminal case in South Dakota could have further defined residency, particularly when it comes to so-called "snow birds" or part-time residents. Instead, the case has done the opposite, adding confusion rather than clarity to what it takes to become a resident and upending the life of a retired combat veteran along the way.

The recently settled criminal case in Aurora County has left the retired optometrist and veteran outraged and feeling persecuted, and has left state game officials and a local prosecutor disappointed that they were unable to convict the doctor of fraudulently obtaining resident hunting licenses.

Neither side of the equation says it feels good about the outcome of the case that involved an extensive two-year state investigation and cost the doctor nearly \$20,000 in legal fees, and which even swelled to involve Kelly Hepler, secretary of the South Dakota Game, Fish &

Parks Department.

The case has also called into question the language in the GFP "Hunting and Trapping Handbook" — of which 180,000 free copies are distributed annually — that guides people on how to qualify as a legal resident for hunting purposes.

The defendant in this 2019 case was Jeffrey Peters, 64, a retired optometrist and a lieutenant colonel who served 30 years combined in the Army and National Guard, including a stint with the 101st Airborne Division in 2003-04 in which he treated the medical and ocular issues of U.S. soldiers while at Camp Anaconda and other sites on the front lines of the war in northern Iraq.

A state game official involved in the case said Peters' military record is laudable but is not relevant to the criminal case or whether he is a legal resident.

Peters was born and raised in Stickney, S.D., graduated from South Dakota State University, and spent most his career as an optometrist in Colorado.

Peters owns 581 acres of pastureland in Aurora County, and Peters' goal in 2017, he said, was to shift his life back to South Dakota in retirement, including establishing residency and hunting on his farm.



Jeffrey Peters holds his South Dakota driver's license while sitting at the kitchen table of the home he owns in White Lake, S.D. Peters' residency for hunting purposes was challenged by the state Game, Fish & Parks Department, which conducted an extensive investigation into Peters and charged him with four misdemeanors.

But because Peters still has a home in Colorado where his wife still lives and where he spent most of his time from 2017 to 2019, a local GFP game warden, his supervisors and the Aurora County state's attorney became determined to prove that Peters was not a legal South Dakota resident and had committed

fraud.

Their certainty that Peters had violated the law led them to engage in an investigation that lasted nearly two years, delved deeply into Peters' life and cost untold thousands of state dollars.

Before filing four misdemeanor charges against Peters in Novem-

ber 2018, state investigators obtained nearly two years of Peters' cellphone records and correlated which cell towers were pinged; they drove by his South Dakota house at least 27 times and took 65 photos; they tracked his Facebook use; they interviewed his neighbors in White Lake and a contractor who worked on the property; they obtained real estate transaction and utility usage data; they recorded phone calls between Peters and an investigator; they examined UPS delivery information to both his homes; and they sent a state investigator to the Denver area in a failed attempt to interview Peters' wife.

Peters called the investigation and prosecution "a nightmare" that has cost him more than \$18,000 in legal fees, prevented him from hunting on his own land and shaken his faith in the GFP and the local prosecutor's office.

"It's been a circus, a disgraceful circus what they put me through, an annoyance and a frustration for two full years," Peters said.

David Jencks, the Madison, S.D., attorney who represents Peters, said the state wanted to use Peters and the fact he owned a home elsewhere to set an example and clarify what he called "vague language" in state hunting-residency laws. He

called the state's prosecution "arbitrary and capricious" and said he believed the case somehow became personal for the local game warden and prosecutor and ultimately led to an unreasonable level of investigation.

"This wasn't a rape or a murder or a million-dollar fraud, and in all my years I've never seen even close to this level of effort put forth on a misdemeanor case," Jencks said.

In the end, just days before a trial was about to begin in September 2019, the four charges against Peters were dropped, and the state offered a plea agreement to a single, lower misdemeanor administrative count of "applying for a license when ineligible." On the advice of Jencks, Peters pleaded no contest, paid \$310 in fines and court fees and did not lose his hunting privileges.

Aurora County GFP conservation officer Lynn Geuke led the investigation into Peters' residency. He refused to speak to News Watch but did say of Peters in a brief phone call, "Well, he was convicted."

John R. Steele, the Aurora County State's Attorney at the time of the Peters prosecution, pointed out that Peters had taken a homestead tax

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