

# Clark County Courier

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## Clark Area Tragedy Fund is people helping people

"In a way, the Clark Area Tragedy Fund (C. A. T.), was started in memory of my father, Lyle Stern", says Trudi Gaikowski. "He was always wanting to help people and this is a way of doing it. Personally my sister Heidi Stern and I experienced first hand what it was like to have to take numerous trips out of town and the expenses involved when we would take him for his cancer treatment in Minneapolis, Minn. We saw a need for help for people locally and thought it would be great to have a fund where local people are helped who have to go through unfortunate circumstances, such as accidents, fires or unexpected illnesses. We talked to our friend Nicole Kittelson and she helped start the ball rolling and it snowballed from there," said Gaikowski.

out with the help of Nicole's accountant Bob Syring and Fawn Lamb also came on board to help. They were joined by Erin Brenden, Chris Tarbox and Robin Woodring, who are all members on the board.

They have made significant donations so far to residents in need in the county as victims of a tragedy in their family. The funds they work with are all a result of the group's fund raising.

"Good news as well as bad news travels fast and having people on the board from the different corners of the county helps us to locate who needs help. People are proud and won't ask for money themselves, but we want the public to know that they can ask for someone else and everything will be kept confi-

CAT Fund  
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## Director of Equalization office to reappraise city of Clark residences

Clark County Director of Equalization, David Paulson announced this week that he is planning to do a reappraisal of residences for the city of Clark over the summer. Said Paulson, "A reappraisal consists of a physical inspection of the property and reviewing the information on file. This inspection includes a walkthrough of the home, measuring the exterior of all the structures/improvements and taking new pic-

tures to update the property card."

Paulson continued that a reappraisal doesn't necessarily mean bad news or an increase. "We are doing this to be as fair and equitable as possible. If you are not at home on the day we are working in the area, our office will leave a note with our phone number on it. If you have any questions, you may contact the Director of Equalization office at 532-3751."

Annually, the Clark County Historical Society's Heritage Day begins with the local Boy Scout Troop providing the United States Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Members of Clark Boy Scout Troop 23 were at camp this week so for-

mer Boy Scout Eagle Scout members did U. S. Flag Retirement honors.

Former Eagle Scouts who did the Flag Retirement Ceremony included, left to right, Mark McHenry, David Moritz, Merritt Seefeldt and Mike McGillivray.

## Heritage Day provides images of days gone by

Many Clark County residents who have an interest in local history attended the Clark County Historical Society's annual Heritage Day, Sunday.

CCHS Heritage Day was held on the eight-building Beauvais Heri-

tage Museum Complex and the attendees enjoyed many sights of days gone-by. The weather was on the cool and breezy side, but for the most part the rain was light around 1:00 p.m. when Heritage Day started, but then dissipated.

Programs this year included: An Hour With Laura - Marion Cramer of Bryant, current Director of the Little Prairie School, Ingalls Homestead. The Stavig Letters - The Stavig Letters, written in Norwegian and translated into English,

are an extensive collection of letters between two brothers, Lars Stavig, who immigrated to America and his brother Knut, who stayed in Norway.

## Clark School Board election is Tuesday

▲ Two of three to be elected



Michelle Mehlberg



Trudi Gaikowski



Brenda Yost

Three candidates are vying for two positions on the Clark School Board. The upcoming election is slated for June 19, 2012 and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Clark School board race will have incumbent, Michelle Mehlberg, Trudi Gaikowski and Brenda Yost running for the three-year terms. Amy Sass will also be on the Clark School Board in July. Sass was the only one to file for the two-year spot.

The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:

Clark Precinct: Clark County Court House (Includes City of Clark, Woodland, Garfield, Lincoln, Darlington, Merton, Day, Foxton, and Mt. Pleasant townships)

Bradley Precinct: Bradley Community Center (Includes City of Bradley, Blaine, Cottonwood, Spring Valley, and Thorp townships)

Raymond Precinct: Raymond Fire Hall (Includes City of Raymond, Fordham, Logan, Ash and Raymond Townships)

Garden City Precinct: Prairie Ridge Lodge (formerly the Garden City Manor) (Includes City of Garden City, Maydell, Eden, and Elrod townships)

The candidates were asked some

questions and given a 100 word limit for their answers.

### Brief biography (including education, family and career).

**Mehlberg:** I am married to Tim Mehlberg and all three of our daughters, Jessica, Heidi and Carly, along with Tim, have graduated from Clark High School. I have worked in education for the past 22 years, both in the classroom and at the state level for the South Dakota Department of Education. I graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelors Degree in Education; Dakota State University with a Masters Degree in Computer Education and Technology and the University of South Dakota with an Educational Specialist Degree, Career School Superintendent.

**Gaikowski:** I grew up in Bradley during my early childhood years and attended Clark school through second grade. My family moved to Watertown in 1987 and I graduated from Watertown High School in 1997. I attended Lake Area Technical Institute, graduating in 1999 with an A. A. S. degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant. I have been employed by AEGIS Therapies for the past nine years. I also do

the internet advertising for West-side Implement, our family business. I have been married to Kyle Gaikowski since 2004 and we have two sons. Collin is a first grader and Cade just turned two.

**Yost:** I graduated from Clear Lake High School in 1983 and graduated from Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa in 1987 with an Associate Degree in Accounting. My husband John and I managed an airport in Iowa from 1996 to 2003 and I worked there as the office manager. In November of 2003 we moved to the Walt and Valois Danekas place north of Raymond. I worked in bookkeeping briefly when we moved here but in 2006 I started volunteering in the Clark Schools, eventually becoming a substitute teacher and for three years I was the cheerleading coach. We have three children, Jenna, 24, Brandon, 20 and Rawson, 15.

### Why are you interested in serving on the Clark School Board?

**Mehlberg:** I have enjoyed being on the board for the past three years and feel that the district is making

School board election  
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## Clark School June meeting

The June meeting of the Clark School Board was a relatively short meeting, with no 'earth shattering' items on the agenda. A 38-minute executive session was held after the half hour opening portion of the meeting, with no motions forthcoming. The executive session was held to discuss a personnel issue.

A budget hearing is planned for the July 9, 2012 school board meeting, scheduled for 6:45 p.m. A special meeting of the Clark School Board will be on Wednesday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to canvass the June 19 school board election and to finalize the current school budget.

Regarding the current financials, superintendent Brian Heupel told the board that at this time a year ago, 89% of revenue had been collected. This year, 104% of revenue has been collected, so 15 percent more revenue had been collected than had been budgeted for. At this same time, expenditures are up five percent over last year, giving the school a nine percent total bump.

During his superintendent's report Heupel stated that there will be at least two new board members as chairman Julie Foster and Janelle Paschen chose not to run for

### June meeting (continued on page 3)

#### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 5 .....	79	56	0
June 6 .....	82	62	0
June 7 .....	84	58	0
June 8 .....	85	58	0
June 9 .....	85	67	0
June 10 .....	72	49	0
June 11 .....	66	41	0
2012 precipitation to date	10.23"		
2011 precipitation to date	10.34"		



This Beechcraft Skipper airplane crashed Thursday afternoon near the Clark County Airport. Alan Johnson was the pilot and Nicole Heinrich was the passenger. They were taken by ambulance to a Watertown hospital and were listed in stable condition with non-life threatening injuries. Pictured with the plane are Jed Hansen and Nicole Heinrich.

## Small plane crashes near Clark County Airport

A plane crashed Thursday afternoon near the Clark County Airport. "Out of fuel" appears to be the cause of the crash.

Piloted by Alan Johnson of Morris, Minn., he and his step-daughter Nicole Hienrich were on their way back to Morris, from Pierre.

According to Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Graving's report: On June 7, 2012 at 4:29 p.m., the plane crashed just east of the Clark Airport. I met with Jed Hansen and Austin Page, employees at the Clark Airport and went out to the field of the plane crash. I met with passenger Nicole Heinrich (DOB: 1-6-1980). Heinrich informed me that she and her step-dad Alan Johnson flew out of Morris, Minn. Airport and went to Pierre and left Pierre

about 4:00 p.m.

Heinrich stated that the plane's low fuel light was on when they were by Tulare, heading south of Doland and made it to Clark to land. Heinrich stated they flew over the airport and saw the grass runway and went to circle around the airport to land when the plane crashed. Heinrich complained of some right side abdominal pain and pain in the right side of her neck.

The pilot, Alan Johnson (DOB: 3-25-1959) was bleeding from his head. Clark County Ambulance and Clark Fire and Rescue responded. Clark County Ambulance transported both Heinrich and Johnson to Prairie Lakes Hospital. The airplane was a Beechcraft Skipper, wing number N18012.