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Buses are rolling at Duenwald Transportation in Clark

With a new school year, comes a new school bus provider. The buses are now locally owned by Duenwald Transportation, LLC and the Director of Transportation at the school is Dan Duenwald.

Since August of 1996, Duenwald has been driving bus as well as teaching Auto Mechanics at the Clark School. From 1985 to 1996, Duenwald drove bus as well as being head of buildings and grounds at the Conde School. He originally was raised on a dairy farm near Hoven.

Duenwald purchased six buses from Harlow's in Webster, the exclusive International bus dealer in South Dakota this past year. Four of the buses were already Clark School buses. He has seven school buses total for the five routes that the school needs. One bus will be the 'practice bus' that transports students to Willow Lake for practices and the other is a spare bus that is sometimes used to drive students around town if needed.

The school buses are only a part of the fleet of 13 buses that Duenwald now owns.

Since 2007, the purchase of 'The Green Bus' was the start of the bus service for entertainment purposes. Hauling large groups for weddings, birthdays, sporting events, proms, bachelorette and bachelor parties, church groups and other organizations, has become a lucrative business that has grown along with the addition of more 'party' or 'fun' buses.

Duenwald now has four buses just for fun trips with another one add-



Dan Duenwald and Melody Bokinskie are shown with three of the buses out of 13 that Duenwald Transportation, LLC now owns.

He now owns the fleet of school buses that the Clark School will be using this year, as well as six activity and entertainment or fun buses, used for weddings, sporting events, proms, church groups and other organizations.

Duenwald has driven a school bus since 1985, starting at Conde and since 1996 at Clark, as well as teaching Auto Mechanics.

ed soon to the fleet that has a rest room on board. All the entertainment buses have laser lights and music on board and U-shaped seating for more of a fun atmosphere. Their sound systems and the seating have been the handiwork of the auto class in recent years as a part of their learning in re-vamping the buses.

"Like you flip houses, we've

flipped these buses," chuckled Duenwald.

His first fun bus was a former Henry School bus that has now become the 'Green Bus'. The second bus purchased now called the 'Tan Bus' came from Albany, N.Y. Duenwald purchased 40 high back, comfortable seats from a charter bus to put into the buses in a U-shaped fashion. The 'Tan Bus' made its

maiden voyage on the Clark prom trip to St. Paul when they rode on the Riverboat. This bus was purchased in 2009.

The third bus or the 'White Bus' Duenwald (continued on page 2)

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 7.....	86	62	.03
Aug. 8.....	76	61	.27
Aug. 9.....	76	53	0
Aug. 10.....	72	52	0
Aug. 11.....	64	54	.25
Aug. 12.....	62	53	.27
Aug. 13.....	73	53	0
2012 precipitation to date 13.84"			
2011 precipitation to date 19.60"			

Clark County Achievement Days 2012 are a big success!

The weather conditions were perfect for the 84th annual Clark County 4-H Achievement Days held last week in Clark. Under sunny skies and with slightly cooler temperatures, many Clark County youth displayed their yearly projects.

Above, eight-year old Alicia Vig is with her rabbit named Cassie at Achievement Days.

Rabbits, goats and cats have all increased in popularity in recent years.

For more on Clark County Achievement Days, turn to pages 8 & 9.

Area schools will start next week

The 2012-2013 school term will begin for area schools next week. Clark and Willow Lake will open their doors to students on Monday, August 20. Henry will start school on Wednesday, August 22. Clark and Willow Lake will

both hold their teacher in-service on Thursday, August 16. Henry will hold their teacher in-service on Monday and Tuesday, August 20 and 21.

Fall sports practices at the schools began on August 13. In

Clark and Willow Lake the athletes have begun practice in football, volleyball and cross country and in Henry, football and volleyball practices have started.

Clark school budget is in transition at this point

With Clark School beginning Monday, August 20, this is a busy time for administrators to finalize the 2012-13 budget.

Clark superintendent Brian Heupel said it should be duly noted that the budget was passed following the budget hearing at the July Clark School Board meeting.

"This is definitely a transition period for us, as we are changing the business manager at the same time we are putting the school budget together, so we are making sure we have all the correct budgetary numbers in place by the September board meeting."

Heidi Sigdestad was hired as the

2012-2013 Budget in comparison to previous years

	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed
2012-13	\$2,447,258	\$415,160	\$443,370
2011-12	\$2,330,235	\$248,584	\$282,855
2010-11	\$2,536,580	\$434,830	\$282,169
2009-10	\$2,578,280	\$261,508	\$359,216
2008-09	\$2,527,214	\$269,122	\$394,165
2007-08	\$2,414,719	\$293,707	\$422,089

new Clark School business manager this spring and Heupel stated that he and she are striving for accuracy with the current numbers.

Heupel stressed that correct 2012-13 budget numbers are the goal, and he added that the \$275,000 deficit

spending could be subject to change, for the better. The final budget will be acted upon by the school board at the Sept. meeting.

Clark School is looking at a **Clark School budget** (continued on page 2)

Clark School Board continues to consider the selling of land

The Clark School Board met for almost four hours Monday evening, three hours for the public portion and 45 minutes in executive session. Even though school isn't in session as of yet, there still is much on the board's 'plate', as far as organizing, budgeting and setting policy during the month of August.

The school board voted 3-2 to continue negotiations in selling a piece of school property to Clark County Farmers Elevator for a dry fertilizer storage facility. This property is located southwest of the Clark School, or west of the practice football field.

The school board approved this 225' x 300' parcel, and will have

the ability to accept or reject a land price at a future meeting. In favor of pursuing the sale of this school land were Michelle Mehlberg, Trudi Gaikowski and Robert Steffen. Voting against pursuing this sale were Amy Sass and Kim Seefeldt.

Earlier in the meeting, during the 'Hear Delegations' segment, Jenny Hallstrom, along with three other interested patrons, asked the school board if bus service would be available for in-town day care providers.

"There is room on the bus and the bus goes right past my day care," stated Hallstrom as she felt it was a good idea to utilize the not full buses.

Clark school bus provider Dan Duenwald was also present at the meeting and commented that for this to work there would have to be an in-town only route, a new separate bus route.

School board president Mehlberg informed the group that the board had just recently entered into a five-year bus contract with Duenwald, for out of town pickups.

"We understand what you're asking and what you want, but from our vantage point we have to look at state law, economics and equity (fairness to all city residents)," said Mehlberg and it was the consensus

Clark School Board (continued on page 2)

Clark youth back from New Orleans for ELCA Youth Gathering 2012

"We're not put on this earth to have fun. We're here to serve God and we can do that in many different ways," said Janelle Paulson, one of the St. Paul Lutheran youth who recently returned from a youth convention in Louisiana.

After about a year of fund raising, 13 students from St. Paul Lutheran Church earned a trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering 2012 held in New Orleans, La. "It was really an amazing trip. It's hard to describe in words. I learned way more than I expected," said Kathryn Paulson.

The focus of this year's gathering was on bullying and treating everyone with respect. "We're all one big pot of gumbo," said one of the young speakers at the convention," commented Emily Binger. "We're all here to the same reason, even though we are all different people with different personalities."

Courtney Binger added, "It really opened our eyes on how judgemental we all are. The first speaker had a lot of tattoos and black hair and didn't look like a minister, but she was. She had an interesting story

on how she turned her life around."

The theme of the gathering was 'Citizens with the Saints'. The 15 students joined about the same number of students from the Clear Lake and Dell Rapids Lutheran churches with about 50 kids total on the bus.

Those attending from St. Paul Lutheran were: seniors - Kallan Christman, Kendra Stromsness, Austin Page and Ashley Heupel; juniors - Janelle Paulson and Courtney Binger; and sophomore/freshmen - Michael Stormo, Chasity Terrill, Emily Binger, Kathryn Paulson, Hannah Gruenwald, Chelsie Gehrke and Lucas Buechler.

Pastor Robin Schaunaman and chaperone Greg Stormo also accompanied the students on the trip. They left on July 17 and returned on July 23. The first day that the students arrived in Louisiana they went on an aquarium tour and a swamp tour and saw a 3D movie *About the Wild*. Then they checked into their motel, a very large one with 46 floors. South Dakota was represented with 1,400 kids at the

Youth Rally, the largest in attendance.

Every evening around 7:00 p.m., the students, 33,000 of them, gathered to hear inspirational speakers, sing songs, maybe dance a little and have their 'Final 15' which was 15 minutes of devotions at the Mercedes Benz Dome.

The second day, the Clark kids met with their South Dakota synod. They went on a scavenger hunt which took most of the day from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Their destinations among others were to try the new foods regional to New Orleans. They tried gumbo, a beef stew type of soup they said, a Cajun soup, jambalaya a spicy meat and rice dish and 'Po' Boy sandwiches. A 'Po Boy' was like a messy sub they described. That evening, when they all met at the dome, they had a contemporary Christian rock band and enjoyed dancing. They were divided into three groups to handle the size at the gathering, divided by colors with Clark being in the gold group.

New Orleans (continued on page 2)



The St. Paul Lutheran youth group recently returned from attending the ELCA Youth Gathering held at the Mercedes Benz Dome in New Orleans, La.

Shown in front of the Dome on their 'Mission Day' are, left to right, Lucas Buechler, Kallan Christman, Ashley Heupel, Michael Stormo, Kendra Stromsness,

Greg Stormo, chaperone, Emily Binger, Chelsie Gehrke, Chasity Terrill, Hannah Gruenwald and Kathryn Paulson. In front are Janelle Paulson and Courtney Binger. Pastor Robin Schaunaman who also went on the trip took the photo.