

## Clark School Board talks 2015-16 teacher staffing

Monday was the March meeting of the Clark School Board. The school board met for four and a half hours and usually when the meeting is this long, the ensuing story is endless. This is not the case.

The first hour and a half was the board meeting to discuss a strategic plan as well as a five-year capital outlay plan. The board has held three meetings since the first of the year for this purpose, with a summary of the strategic planning to be published probably after the April board meeting.

As the public portion of the Clark School Board meeting began, the board went into executive session to discuss negotiations. As both superintendent Luanne Warren and business manager Mary Nelson are in the first years in their respective positions, retired business manager Cindy Kopecky, of Faulkton, met with the board as a consultant, to talk negotiations. This executive session lasted approximately an hour.

During the hour-long public portion of the meeting, the two major issues dealt with approving the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclone athletic co-op handbook and discussing personnel/staffing issues for the 2015-16 school year.

No formal action was taken regarding the co-op handbook, but Warren organized previous year's notes and meetings into the various areas. The reason that this item is tabled is so that both schools can look over the information to see if any changes are needed at this time.

It was noted that both schools will have athletic directors in 2015-16 and both schools will have similar grading scales. The wording regarding grading policy, is: In order for students to have equal opportunities, it's important that our eligi-

bility scales are similar. The co-op board has made adjustments to be more consistent between schools by looking at percentages rather than grade at one site due to different grading scales. Willow Lake: Students must maintain 70% in each class and have NO F's to be eligible for school sponsored activities. Clark: A student must maintain at least a 1.6 on a 4 point scale to participate. It is up to the discretion of the coaches as to whether or not the student athlete will continue to practice or attend the qualifying events during academic suspension. Grades will be turned in at 4 1/2 week intervals. If a student is deemed ineligible (seven days - Monday to the next Monday), grade will be checked on weekly intervals (each Friday) until student becomes eligible. Ineligibility grade percentage is not cumulative beyond each nine-week grading period.

As far as staffing concerns for the 2015-16 school term, several elementary teachers were in attendance at Monday's meeting as the school is attempting to figure out how to best handle the primary grades, staffing-wise. Preliminary

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#### WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Mar. 3.....	23	-4	.03
Mar. 4.....	2	-15	0
Mar. 5.....	25	-15	0
Mar. 6.....	33	16	0
Mar. 7.....	40	26	0
Mar. 8.....	47	28	0
Mar. 9.....	54	32	0
2015 precipitation to date	.56"		
2014 precipitation to date	.60"		

## Clark-Willow Lake Lady Cyclones make fifth State 'A' appearance in six years

▲ Play Webster in opening round

"We've made great strides this year," began Clark-Willow Lake Lady Cyclone head girls basketball coach Mark Prouty, when talking about the Cyclones qualifying for the South Dakota State 'A' Tournament this Thursday through Saturday, at the Watertown Civic Arena.

"We went through some early season adversity and because of that became a stronger team," Prouty continued, "and throughout the season we have improved our focus, learned to do the little things the right way and we now know that playing strong team defense will bring good results."

Clark-Willow Lake opens the State 'A' tourney playing the Webster Area Bearcats at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday. Webster is 17-4 on the season and is the fourth seed. Clark-Willow Lake is 17-6 and the fifth seed. The two teams did battle February 19, at Willow Lake in the last regular season contest for both squads, with Clark-Willow Lake prevailing 49-31.

The Cyclones finished second in the Northeast Conference and Webster ended third in the NEC. Both teams lost to NEC champions Hamlin, whom the Cyclones defeated 63-40 in the second round of Region 2A. In the finals of Region 2A, Clark-Willow Lake defeated Sioux Valley 60-49, a 'real feather in the Cyclone's cap' as the Cossacks were 17-1 and rated second in the state, heading into region play.

"Our senior leadership has guided this blended team of youth and experience. Their mental toughness is key to our team's success. I

Lady Cyclones (continued on page 3)



These three Cyclone seniors have a reason to smile! The Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones are the Region 2A champions and will play Webster this Thursday, at the State A Tournament, in Watertown.

It truly was a remarkable win for the Cyclones, knocking off the 17-1 Sioux Valley Cossacks in the Region 2A title game last Friday, at the Swiftel Center,

in Brookings, 60-49. The Cyclones are the fifth seed heading to state.

These three seniors accounted for 46 of Clark-Willow Lake's 60 points and 22 of the squad's 40 rebounds. From left are Mikayla Prouty, Mackenzie Huber and Kandace Kolden.

## From the beaches to the Baltic

▲ Allen Smith recalls story of WW II's 7th Armored Division



Technician Fourth grade (sergeant) Allen Smith of Clark shares memories of the 7th Armored Division, Company A, 31st Tank Battalion, of which he was a part of from 1942 to 1945.

Going from left to right, the large map shows the path they traveled through Scotland, France, Bel-

gium, Holland and Germany, battling German forces.

Smith earned a purple heart, a good conduct medal, an appreciation medal from France and his battle ribbon has four stars on it, from his time serving as a tank driver in the U. S. Army during the end of WW II.

Smith, trained as a tank driver, fought with the 7th Armored Division across France, Belgium, Holland and Germany from August of 1944 to May of 1945 ending up at the Baltic Sea.

"The Germans called us 'The Ghost Division' because you never

looking through a periscope when the small glass window was covered by hatches that closed during combat.

Six wheels were contained in each moving track and the vehicle could go 35-40 mph. It had four speeds and sometimes it seemed like they were barely moving at all said Smith.

It took five soldiers to man the tank. One driver, which was Smith's job and one assistant driver who also manned a 30 caliber gun, were situated in the lower part of the tank. In the top, the turret which could rotate completely around, held a 76 millimeter cannon. A 50 caliber machine gun was manned by the tank commander, a gunner manned a 30 caliber and the assistant gunner manned yet another 30 caliber machine gun. Besides these larger guns on the tank, all the servicemen carried their own personal firearms - 45 caliber machine guns or 'grease guns' as they were so nicknamed.

"The tanks pretty much kept to the roads, but could probably bulldoze a tree if they had to," said Smith. "Our engineers would construct a floating pontoon we'd use to cross the bigger rivers such as the Seine and Mosselle Rivers. On some rivers, we'd use the existing bridges and small creeks we could go right through. We always used our pontoon bridges at night. Engineers would also bulldoze paths through the riverbanks for the tanks and jeeps to cross."

7th Division forms

Smith's Army career started when he was working on the farm and received his draft notice. He was 21 years old when he was inducted in November of 1942. The 7th Armored Division was just activated that March and special training for this unit was held at Camp

Smith (continued on page 3)

## Pops concert is Tuesday

The Clark Music Department, under the direction of Stacy Andersen-Mjoun, choral and Lola Bartels, band, will present a pops concert on Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym. It is Senior Parent's Night.

The concert band will perform "Some Nights" (recorded by Fun),

"Only Time" by Enya and "All About that Bass" by Meghan Trainor.

The 9-12th grade choir will sing, "Just Give me a Reason" by Pink and Nate Ruess. Clark High School seniors will sing "Say Something" by A Great Big World with Christina Aguilera.



## Thursday was a big day for Alma Hass

A nice crowd came to the community center located in the Ulyott Building last Thursday to help Alma Hass celebrate her 95th birthday. The room was full throughout the three-hour luncheon celebration.

One of the guest visitors was Jerry Lohr, foreground, who was in South Dakota, planning late April festivities at South Dakota State University, in Brookings. The engineering building/complex is named in Lohr's honor.

Alma Hass said that this party was very special and that it was so nice that everybody stopped to visit. Behind the 'birthday girl' are her children, Donna Davis of Aberdeen and Francis Hass of Raymond.