



Crocuses appear early this year!

Continuing the longstanding annual Obermeier family tradition of delivering South Dakota's state flower to the *Clark County Courier* is Zed Obermeier, above. This has been a tradition since the 1980s, starting with Jean Obermeier.

She would find the first blooming Pasques of the season on their land in the Crocker Hills and bring them in to Clark to the *Courier*. When Jean passed away, her husband Bill continued the tradition until he passed away. Their son, Fred has kept the tradition alive since. Also joining him is nephew Zed, son of Ted and Jody Obermeier.

It's no surprise that the flowers have bloomed so early with the warm winter we've been blessed with so far. Although, it may be too early yet to start gardening. Lower temperatures and even possible snowfall is on the horizon for Clark County.

Photo by Jody Obermeier

Kay Quale's Sunset Windmill featured on Watertown billboard

By Carolynn Olson

Kay Quale, a Clark High School graduate currently residing in Watertown, had her artwork chosen for a billboard by Home is Where the Art Is, a partnership between Arts South Dakota and Lamar Advertising. The billboard is in Watertown at the corner of U.S. Highway 212 and Broadway.

Quale is the daughter of Jim "Stub" and the late Deb Loterbauer. She has two younger sisters, Jamie and Glenda. Quale was born and raised in Crocker and attended Clark School, graduating in 1990.

She attended five years of college at South Dakota State University for pharmaceutical sciences, graduating in 1995.

Kay has been married to her husband, Lee Quale, for nearly 30 years. They moved to Missouri in 1995 when she was transferred with Walmart Pharmacy. They moved back to South Dakota when Lee became the superintendent of Henry School.

Kay currently works at Walmart pharmacy and has for 31 years. Her husband Lee works at Lake Area Tech as a Dual Credit Coordinator.

According to Quale, she has always had a love for art and has always been doing something involving painting. For awhile, she worked with watercolors and took a drawing class from Mount Marty College in Watertown. Then, she started using acrylic paints. In 2018, she advanced to fluid acrylic paint. According to her, it took about six months to get the hang of painting with fluid acrylic.



Kay Quale of Watertown, formerly of Crocker and Clark High School graduate, is pictured standing in front of the billboard that features her painting *Sunset Windmill*. This billboard and many others throughout the state are part of the Home is Where the Art is, a partnership between Arts South Dakota and Lamar Advertising to promote arts throughout South Dakota.

Submitted photo

"I had to get the right consistency and paints mixed correctly," Quale explained.

Her painting entitled *Sunset Windmill* was selected for the billboard project in January at a Northern Prairie Arts event. She had only completed the piece in December 2023. "The painting I used was one that someone had already requested

and ordered," Quale chuckled. "It sold the night it was chosen to be on the billboard."

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Kay also displays her artwork at Northern Stone in Watertown. Northern Stone is a granite and stone countertop business that also serves as Quale's showroom. "The company had an open house, and we were able to make an agreement for me to use her space to display my art," Quale explained. "The art compliments and livens up the showroom."

Northern Stone is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Quale encourages everyone to stop in to take a look at some of her paintings.

Her website can be found here: Kay-Quale-artist.square.site. Some of her art is posted there along with the prices. One can also view several of her commission pieces on her Facebook page, facebook.com/KQuale.

Quale's plan moving forward with her art is to continue attending festivals over the summer. She plans to travel to different vendor fairs and art festivals.

"So far, I have applied to Fargo, Sioux Falls and Rapid City," she said. One can also see her frequently parked by the Juice Bar in Watertown with an enclosed trailer, which she converted into her own mobile art gallery.

"Art just makes my heart happy!" Quale exclaimed. "The best days are when I get to just paint all day. It's very calming and relaxing."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

"MADISON PICKREL"

Submitted photo

By Danielle Batchelor

Madison Pickrel is the daughter of Emily Repp and James Pickrel. She has an older sister and five younger siblings. Madison has lived her entire life in Clark County and has been attending Clark School District since preschool. One of her favorite things to do is read books. "I like reading because it's peaceful and quiet."

After high school, Madison plans on attending Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. According to her, "My plan is to earn a degree in communications and possibly minor in English."

National Agriculture Week is March 17-24, 2024

Agriculture is the foundation of South Dakota's economy, being the number one industry in the state by a significant margin.

National Ag Day was established in 1973 by the Agriculture Council of America (ACA). The ACA is a non-profit organization comprised of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber communities. They are dedicated to increasing public awareness about agriculture's vital role in providing a robust and sustainable food supply, creating job opportunities and contributing to our nation's overall economic stability. National Ag Day is celebrated every year in March, this year being on Tuesday, March 19.

One of the core objectives of National Ag Day is to educate the younger generation about the significance of agriculture. For many young people growing up in urban environments, the connection between the food on their plate and

the hard work put in by farmers may not always be apparent. National Ag Day bridges this gap by providing resources and educational materials to schools, engaging students and informing them about the opportunities available in the agriculture industry. With the average age of American farmers nearing 60, it is critical to inspire the next generation to take up the mantle and continue to grow our nation's food supply.

To celebrate National Ag Day, there are numerous ways in which individuals can participate and pay tribute to the valuable work undertaken by our agricultural workers. One can attend local events such as farm tours, farmer's markets or agricultural fairs to support local producers and learn more about the industry that feeds, clothes and fuels our population. Another option is to consider incorporating ag-based activities or discussions in schools or community centers to inspire and

educate about the importance of agriculture. More information about National Ag Day can be found here: <https://www.agday.org/>

According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, crop progress and condition as of February 25, 2024 are as follows: the topsoil moisture supplies rated five percent very short, 24 percent short, 69 percent adequate and two percent surplus. Winter wheat condition rated one percent very poor, six percent poor, 35 percent fair, 55 percent good and three percent excellent. The next report will be issued Monday, March 25.

South Dakota ranks in the top 10 states in the production of 25 agricultural commodities. Most of the crops are grown in the eastern half of the state, whereas the majority of livestock is raised in the western half. The most valuable crops that are grown in South Dakota are corn, soybeans, hay and haylage, wheat,

sunflower, sorghum, millet and oats. South Dakota has about 28,300 farms and ranches throughout the state and has been unchanged since 2022. Land in farms and ranches in South Dakota totaled 42.3 million acres, and the average size of operation is about 14,495 acres.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
March 12	71	29	0
March 13	63	31	0
March 14	57	36	0
March 15	54	33	0
March 16	54	29	0
March 17	44	17	0
March 18	29	11	0
2024 precipitation to date 0.63"			
2023 precipitation to date 1.81"			

Easter services planned at area churches

The thief cometh not, but for to steal and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. John 10: 10 & 11. King James Bible.

That is exactly what Jesus did. He gave his life for our sins, and that is what Easter is all about. His death, but then his resurrection three days later - all for his children - us.

Holy Week is upon us starting next week and ends with the culmination of Easter Sunday, March 31. The following is a list of Easter services in our area:

Maundy Thursday
Churches having a Maundy Thursday service in the area on Thursday, March 28 include in Clark: The Plymouth UCC Church will host a community Maundy Thursday service with members of the ministerial association and host Pastor Fawn Lamb leading the service at 6:00 p.m.

Saint Michael Catholic Church will celebrate with a Holy Thursday of the Lord's supper mass with members of the Saint Henry Catholic Church at 7:30 p.m. in Henry at Saint Henry Catholic Church.

At Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church, members from Peace

Lutheran in Clark and Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond will join together at Bethlehem Lutheran for a 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service.

Members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna will gather at 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday. Before the service, a soup supper will be held, with serving beginning at 5:30 p.m.

There will be a Maundy Service service at Spirit Lake Church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Henry will host a Joint Good Friday Communion Worship service at 6:30 p.m.

At Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Lake, a 7:00 p.m. service will be held.

In Carpenter, members of the United Methodist Church will have a 7:00 p.m. service.

At Saint Mary Catholic Church in Bryant, a 3:00 p.m. Good Friday Mass will be held on March 29.

Lake Gospel Church in Willow Lake will hold a Good Friday church service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
In Clark, the Easter service at the Plymouth UCC church will be at 9:30 a.m. with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

At St. Paul Lutheran Church, a sunrise service will be held at 7:00

a.m. with breakfast to follow by WELCA and an additional service at 9:00 a.m.



Reverend Randy Bader will host an Easter Resurrection Festival service beginning at 7:45 a.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Raymond, 9:30 a.m. at Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran in Willow Lake and at 11:15 a.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Henry. This will include members of Peace Lutheran in Clark.

At the United Methodist Church in Clark, Pastor Rob Salmonson will

present the Easter message at the 10:15 a.m.

In Clark at Saint Michael Catholic Church, there will be an 8:30 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.

Pastor Mark Cronauer will officiate at their Easter service which will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Assembly of God Church.

Crocker Lutheran Church will celebrate with an Easter festival service, led by Pastor Jack Homquist, at 10:00 a.m.

Easter services will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Clark.

The First Presbyterian Church in Raymond will hold their Easter worship at 9:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Services at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna will be at 7:00 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Lake will have an Easter Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m.

At St. Mary Catholic Church in Bryant, a 10:00 a.m. Easter Mass will be held.

At 11:00 a.m. Easter morning, Mass at St. Henry Catholic Church in Henry will begin.

In Carpenter, at the United Methodist Church, their Easter Sunday service will be held at 9:00 a.m.

At Lake Gospel Church in Willow Lake, there will be a 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday service.

City of Clark held equalization meeting on Monday, March 18

By: Carolynn Olson

The City of Clark held their equalization meeting Monday night, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ullyot Building. Two appeals were heard, and both were approved. Appeals heard were from Lee and Jeanne Werdel and Chelsi Paulson. The equalization portion of the meeting lasted about 14 minutes.

The City Council adjourned as a Board of Equalization and resumed the meeting at approximately 7:14 p.m. There was no public input.

Other Business

Li liquor licenses were approved for the Clark County Pro Pheasants Banquet, to be held March 22, and the Clark Gala, to be held April 20. Both licenses will be valid from

6:00 p.m. to midnight the day of the events.

Opening day for the second week in April. There will be no free dump day again this year. Dump fees were discussed. The price for dump trucks increased to \$30.00, and side dumps were increased to \$40.00.

The finance office will be getting a new postage machine.

The council will be discussing the quote for lights to be replaced in the community room and the library at the next regular city council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. The next Clark City Council meeting will be April 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.