

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

It's National Agriculture Week!

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Vol. 142, No. 38

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Eric McPeck, Watertown, S.D.

Duenwald Transportation, LLC named 2023 Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year

The annual U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) National Small Business Week (NSBW) takes place April 30 – May 6 across the nation and territories. Each year, during NSBW, the SBA recognizes outstanding small business owners and entrepreneurs across the United States for their business and community leadership and achievements. The SBA South Dakota District Office is honoring SBA SD 2023 Small Business Persons and Small Businesses of the Year in a virtual ceremony May 2, 2023, 11:00 CDT. The public is invited to join at <http://ow.ly/8ZVb50Ne7gS>.

and creativity of our local small business communities,” said SBA Rocky Mountain Region Administrator Aikta Marcoulter. “More than half of all Americans either own or work for a small business, creating nearly 70 percent of net new jobs in the U.S. I congratulate each of our award winners for their pursuit to create equality in the workplace, advance innovation, and increase America’s global competitiveness.”

The SBA SD outstanding small business award recipients for 2023 include:

Small Business Persons of the Year – Denise Cotter and Michelle Marino, Co-Chief Executive Officers, Houndstooth House,

LLC, Sioux Falls

Small Business Exporter of the Year – Alisa Turner, Ruff Land Performance Kennels, Tea

Family-Owned Small Business of the Year – The Willard Family, CAW Industries, Inc., Rapid City

Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year – Dan Duenwald, Dan Duenwald Transportation, LLC, Clark

Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year – Todd Stone, Stone Group Architects, Inc., Sioux Falls

Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year – Tia Berens, The Barn at Aspen Acres, LLC, Spearfish

Young Entrepreneur of the Year – Fallon Deutsch, Distinctly Drey, Langford

Small Business Champion of the Year – Dew Bad Warrior-Ganje, Rapid City

“With approximately 90,000 South Dakota small businesses, the competition is robust, and the 2023 awardees have demonstrated year after year they have the business leadership skills to navigate their organizations and teams to excellent customer service, sales, and community support,” said Jaime Wood, SBA South Dakota District Director. “We’re excited to bring these small businesses forward, to honor their dedication and perseverance.”

Julie McElhone presented with Outstanding Special Education Staff of the Year in South Dakota



Clark School special education aide Julie McElhone is pictured above with her Outstanding Special Education Staff of the Year in South Dakota award.

In last week’s edition of the *Clark County Courier*, it was printed that Julie McElhone, a Clark High School Special Ed Aide, was named as a finalist as the South Dakota Special Educator of the Year. After the newspaper was sent to press last Tuesday, McElhone attended an awards ceremony during which she was presented with the award for Outstanding Special Education Staff of the Year in South Dakota.

McElhone has been employed

with the Clark School District for 13 years and has worked with Cayden Binger for 12 of those years. Binger’s mom Andrea is the person who nominated McElhone.

“Cayden and I decided to nominate Julie because she has gone above and beyond for Cayden both in and out of school. She has pushed Cayden to be more independent and encourages him to step out of his comfort zone and try new things,” said Binger of why her and her son nominated McElhone.

McElhone said that her favorite part of her job is watching Cayden grow and learn and to see the joy in his eyes when he conquers things and can then do it all on his own.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
March 14	24	7	0
March 15	38	17	0
March 16	40	25	0
March 17	27	7	0.10
March 18	11	-1	0
March 19	17	1	0
March 20	26	18	0
2023 precipitation to date	2.32		
2022 precipitation to date	0.63		



Beautiful morning sky illuminates the clouds

The sky in South Dakota is a sight to see, at least it is when clouds aren’t burying it. Tuesday morning, on the drive to work, this picture of the South Dakota sky was taken. The orange hues of the sun are just peek-

ing through the clouds, trying their best to start the day bright. Spring started on Monday, so hopefully we can all get used to this sight once again and say goodbye to winter for the season.

History of National Agriculture Week in South Dakota

South Dakota, the land of vast plains and fertile soil, has a long history of celebrating National Agriculture Week. This annual event, which typically takes place in March, is a time to recognize and honor the contributions of farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers who play a vital role in feeding our nation and the world.

The origins of National Agriculture Week can be traced back to the early 1970s, when a group of agriculture organizations came together to promote awareness of the industry and its importance to the U.S. economy. In 1973, the first National Agriculture Week

was observed, with the theme “Agriculture Feeds America.”

Over the years, South Dakota has been a leader in promoting and celebrating National Agriculture Week. In fact, the state was one of the first to establish its own Agriculture Week in 1976, which has since been merged with the national event.

South Dakota’s Agriculture Week typically includes a variety of events and activities designed to showcase the state’s agricultural industry and educate the public about its importance. These may include farm tours, livestock shows, cooking demonstrations, and educational programs for

school children.

One of the highlights of South Dakota’s Agriculture Week is the annual Governor’s Ag Summit, which brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and others to discuss the latest trends and issues facing the agricultural sector. The summit provides a forum for participants to share their perspectives and ideas for advancing the industry and ensuring its continued success.

In recent years, South Dakota has faced a number of challenges in the agricultural sector, including low commodity prices, changing weather patterns, and trade disputes with key export markets.

However, the state’s farmers and ranchers have remained resilient and innovative, finding new ways to adapt to these challenges and continue producing the high-quality food and fiber that consumers rely on.

As South Dakota continues to celebrate National Agriculture Week and the vital role of agriculture in our economy and society, it is important to recognize and support the hardworking men and women who make it all possible. From the fields to the grocery store shelves, their contributions ensure that we all have access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food.

Halversen is new deputy sheriff

Clark County recently hired De Smet native Anthony Halversen as their newest deputy sheriff. Halversen graduated high school in De Smet in 2011 and is the son of Tony Halversen who works at Lyle Signs in De Smet, and Jennifer Halversen who is employed as a traveling respiratory therapist.

Before coming to Clark County, Halversen was employed as a deputy in Hand County. Halversen opted to come to Clark to be closer to his family in De Smet and his sister and her husband who live on a farm just west of Willow Lake.

When asked why he chose this career path, Halversen said, “I chose this profession to help people when they are in need, or going through tough times to help them better themselves.” He also said that his favorite part of the job is meeting new people and helping some to better their lives.

Halversen has been married to



New Clark County deputy sheriff Anthony Halversen is pictured above with his wife Alisha and their three children.

his wife Alisha for nine years and they have three children together ages eight, six and four. In his free time, he enjoys golfing and spending time with his family.

Bohnet nominated for PAEMST

A nomination for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) was received by Clark Middle School science teacher Bobbi Bohnet. Awards are presented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to a teacher from each of the 50 states.

Bohnet has been teaching middle school science and robotics with the Clark School District for five years and employed with them for six. Bohnet is unsure who nominated her for this award as no one has come forward yet.

“Being nominated means a lot to me,” Bohnet said. “I am teaching and we are not usually recognized for what we do, so when someone takes the time to notice and nominate me for what I do in the classroom, it is quite an honor,” she added.

When asked what she loves most about her job, Bohnet said, “I love all aspects of my job, but my favorites are when students come in excited for whatever we’re doing that day. March Mammal Madness, dissections, rollercoasters and DNA extractions are a few of the classroom favorites.”

Bohnet grew up in the area and graduated high school in Hamlin.



Bobbi Bohnet is the Clark Middle School science teacher. She’s been teaching science and robotics at Clark School for five years.

She went on to attend Black Hills State University and has a background in chemical engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Bohnet now lives in Clark with her two sons Logan, who is a freshman, and Gage, who is in seventh grade.

CLARK AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
LEAVING A LEGACY

Members: Gayle Wookey, Tom LaBrie, Chad Fjelland, Susan Fjelland, Diane Varilek, Greg Furness, David Warkenthien, Nicole Nelson and student members Summer Seefeldt, Conner Mudgett and Nevaeh Rusher.

Contact one of the members if you need any information on how to apply for a grant.