



## Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services

Today, Wednesday, March 2, Ash Wednesday begins the Easter Lenten Season with most churches in the area starting the first of a season of worship services.

In Clark, a community service will be held at the St. Paul Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. for the Ash Wednesday service with a meal being served starting at 5:30 p.m. prior to worship.

Saint Michael Catholic Church in Clark will hold their Mass with distribution of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. In Henry, at St. Henry's Catholic Church, the Ash Wednesday service will be at 4:00 p.m.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will have services at

7:00 p.m.

The Prairie Star Lutheran parish begins their Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service to be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 2 at Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Lake. Future Wednesday services for Lent will include a service that will rotate between the four churches of the parish and also a 6:00 p.m. soup supper hosted by the parish CYO youth.

Moving forward with the Clark Ecumenical Lenten series, the first Wednesday Lenten service will be held on March 9 with a 6:30 p.m. service at the United Methodist Church. A 5:30 p.m. meal will be served prior to worship.

A 6:30 p.m. worship for the remainder of Lenten season, along with a 5:30 p.m. meal being served prior to services, will be held with the dates and locations being: March 16 at the Plymouth UCC Church; March 23 at St. Paul Lutheran Church; March 30 at the United Methodist Church and April 6 at the Plymouth UCC Church.

Holy Week services have been planned for the week of April 11-15 at the Plymouth UCC church at 7:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday services will be held at the Plymouth UCC Church on April 14 at 6:30 p.m. and Good Friday worship will be April 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church.

## Valuation assessments have gone out for 2022

Yesterday in the mailboxes, the 2022 Clark County valuations arrived. The value of your property is dependent upon what type of property you own and where it is located.

In recent years, Clark County has increased non-Ag valuations to qualify with the state sales ratio of 85% of true value.

Clark County Director of Equalization, Jarvis Reidburn, stated that small acreages went up more than residential properties. Residential properties did see a slight increase.

Regarding ag land, Reidburn reported that ag land decreased this

year for the second consecutive year in valuation because of the Olympic 8-year average is decreasing as the higher years of high crop prices are stabilizing or falling off, this creating a decrease in land valuation.

"For those who believe their property is over-assessed, there are appeal provisions," he said. Reidburn explained that any appeals would have to be made to the applicable town/township board in writing by March 17, 2022 unless you live in a different jurisdiction than where the property is located. If that is the situation, you can appeal directly to the Clark County board by April 5, 2022.

Property owners with any questions should contact the assessor's office at 532-3751.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 22	5	-10	0.16
Feb. 23	-3	-16	0.12
Feb. 24	2	-17	0
Feb. 25	4	-9	0.02
Feb. 26	11	-9	0
Feb. 27	30	-9	0
Feb. 28	45	25	0
2022 precipitation to date			0.60
2021 precipitation to date			0.91



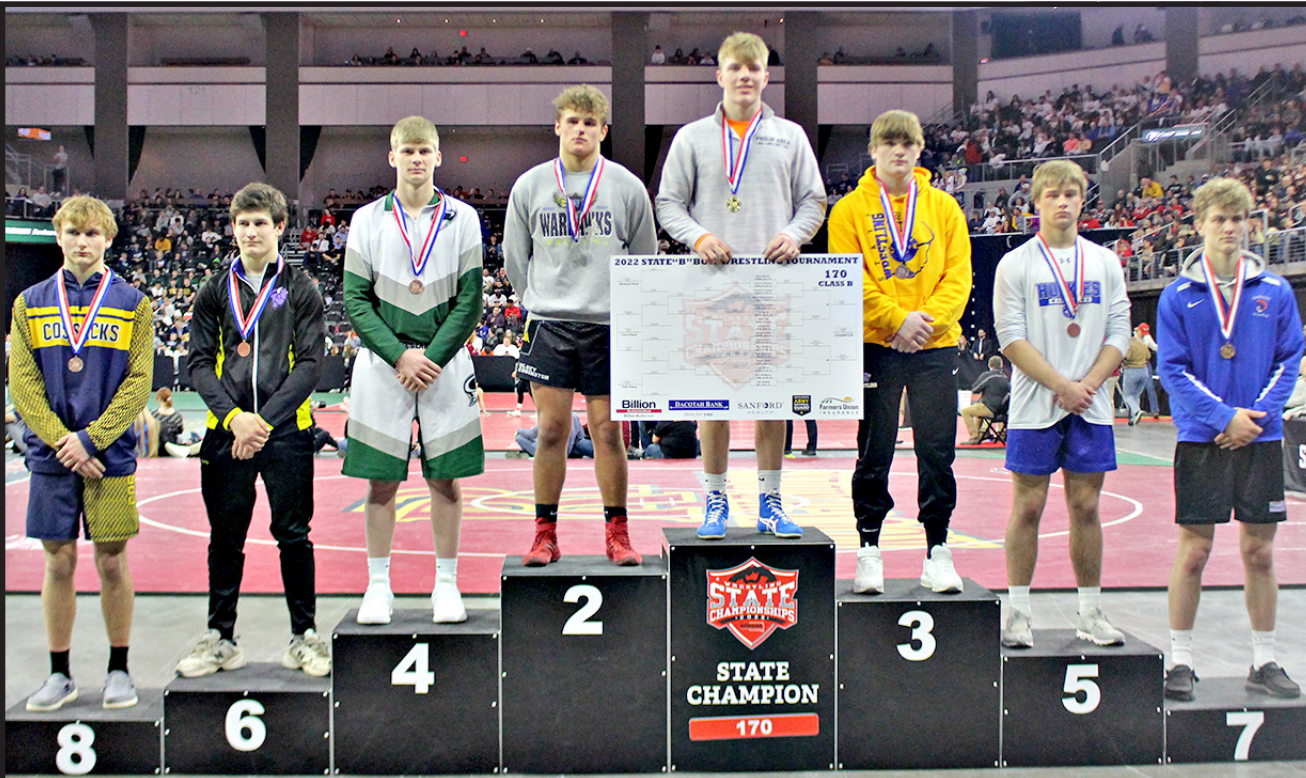
## Pops Concert - the sound of music

Monday evening, Clark Middle/High School musicians were out in full force at the annual Pops Concert. Directed by Amy Nelson, 7-12 band and choral students presented everything from Jack White, to John Williams, to Leonard Cohen to the Beatles.

It should be noted that the Clark Pep Band will per-

form Saturday, March 12 at the State A Girls Basketball Tournament, in Brookings.

At the Pops Concert, the sixth grade band trumpet section is pictured as the band played the Theme from Jurassic Park. Left to right are Wyatt Schlagel, Miles Olson, Eddie Reyes Villegas and Jayla Easthouse.



## Three senior Cyclones place at State B

The combined South Dakota Class A and Class B Wrestling Tournament was held over last weekend, in Sioux Falls.

Eight Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones qualified for the State Class B tournament, with three seniors

placing. Lucas Kannegieter, pictured, was the fourth place winner at 170. Gunnar Kvistad was sixth at 152 and Avery Nichols was seventh at 285.

For more on Clark - Willow Lake wrestling results, turn to the back page.

## 37th annual Pro Pheasants banquet is Friday, March 25

The Clark County Pro Pheasants 37th annual banquet is Friday, March 25 at the Clark American Legion Hall.

Clark County Pro Pheasants Club president Robert Steffen said that the organization is committed to working with their members to increase the pheasant population in Clark County.

In 2021 the organization enrolled 402 acres in the food plot program

in Clark County. "Habitat is very important, but it is hard to compete with farm profit," said Steffen.

The club also helped members in releasing over 2,500 fertile hens in Clark County in the spring of 2021. Steffen said, "We have secured hens for the spring 2022 release an will be providing a limited number of live traps this year. Any programs offered by our organization are available to Clark County

Pro Pheasants members only. There will be an opportunity to sign up at the banquet for anyone interested in participating in any or all programs."

Clark County residents make up a good portion of the Pro Pheasants' membership, but members also come from surrounding counties and from Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio.

## Two municipal elections will be held in Clark County

### ▲ Willow Lake and Garden City need elections

An election will be needed in Willow Lake. As voters go to the polls, the two-year mayor position will be decided. Incumbent Mayor Del Bratland is being challenged by Lane Wirtjes.

In Willow Lake's Ward II, incumbent Steven Johnson will be opposed by challenger Laura Heinle for a two-year council position.

Garden City will also be needing an election for a three-year trustee position. Incumbent Laina Strohfus is being challenged by Marilyn Foster.

No other elections will be necessary in 2022. Municipal election day is Tuesday, April 12.

At Clark, Ward I incumbent Brandon Kottke is the only one to file in Ward I, and will automatically continue two more years.

Raymond incumbent Gale Filippek was the only one to file for the three-year board position.

In Bradley, incumbent Chad Altfillisch was the only one to file, so a council election will not be needed.

At Naples, no petitions have been turned in for the trustee position, so

the mayor will need to appoint an individual.

At Henry School, business manager Gail Thompson announced that there would be no election. Incumbent Nikki Watson filed for the three-year school board position, unopposed. Same for the one-year term filed by incumbent Adam Hartley.

### County Filings

On the county level, individuals

### Municipal Elections (continued on page 3)

## Rising anger and violence toward healthcare workers hampering patient care in S.D.

Bart Pfankuch  
South Dakota News Watch

Increasing anger and even violence toward healthcare workers in South Dakota and across the U.S. is adding great stress on practitioners who are already enduring the pain and hardship of providing care during the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthcare workers in South Dakota have been called offensive names, faced threats at work or at home, had things thrown at them, and occasionally have endured direct physical violence. The aggression is being displayed by both patients and family members.

In the short term, dealing with inappropriate behavior takes the focus of doctors, nurses and aides away from patients who need help. In the long term, the outbursts are

driving some healthcare professionals out of the field, worsening a worker shortage that threatens to reduce overall patient care and efficiency of the American medical system.

Ashley Kingdon-Reese of Huron, is an independent nurse who provides at-home care and runs a nursing consultancy. Preventing violence and anger against nurses and other healthcare workers has been a topic of concern for several years, but especially since the pandemic began.

Kingdon-Reese recently experienced violence firsthand while providing nursing care to a woman with behavioral problems who had a potential infection and needed to be taken from her home to a clinic.

The patient grew frustrated and angry after being forced to wear a

mask at the clinic, Kingdon-Reese said.

"She jumped out of bed, pushed me against the wall and bit me in my thigh, and I had to do what I could to get her off me," recalled Kingdon-Reese, who serves as the government relations committee chair for the South Dakota Nurses Association. "Part of it was obviously behavioral health, but the other part was she didn't want to wear a mask and she was very big into social media that said, 'You can't tell me what to do.'"

Kingdon-Reese and others are asking medical patients and the public to reduce their tension level before entering a healthcare facility. "We're not asking for your devotion or appreciation, we're just asking for decency," she said.

Dr. Kara Dahl, a physician in

the emergency room at the Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center, said incidents of inappropriate, threatening or violent behavior toward healthcare workers has been on the rise during the pandemic.

"You can almost guarantee that you're going to be name-called or disrespected in some capacity at least once a week," said Dahl, president of the South Dakota Medical Association. "The frequency of getting to the magnitude of calling security is rising at such an alarming rate, it's no longer just an occasional thing."

The anger displayed toward healthcare workers has multiplied the stresses of dealing with a deadly pandemic in an industry already beset by worker shortages. The moment anger or violence arises, patient care overall is immediately

damaged, not only for the patient involved but for all patients, Dahl said.

"If we are pulled from a more critical situation to have to deal with a behavioral issue, that is definitely impacting patient care," she said. Many healthcare practitioners see the rise in anger as an outcome of the political polarization surrounding prevention and treatment of COVID-19, and the rise of misinformation campaigns by conservative television and radio commentators and on social media.

Whatever the cause of the rising tension, the result is that the healthcare industry is seeing workers getting burned out and enduring stress that hampers their effectiveness — with some prompted to leave the field completely.

The long-range result may be

that as medical professionals leave the industry, hospitals and clinics will see a worsening of the ongoing shortage of nurses, aides, technicians and physicians, said Dr. Jeremy Cauwels, chief physician of Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

"I think it's reasonable to say that there are people leaving health care because of this, because for many people there are easier ways to make a living than being verbally or sometimes physically assaulted," Cauwels said.

Officials and healthcare providers at Monument Health in Rapid City have been the target of a recent protest campaign by the wife of a man who has been receiving treatment in the COVID-19 ward

### Healthcare Workers (continued on page 4)



## Leave the IT work to ITC!

ITC offers several solutions to assist businesses of all sizes with their IT needs. Our managed services include:

- » IT Support
- » Managed Firewall
- » Managed Wi-Fi
- » Endpoint & Anti-Virus Protection
- » ITC Backup
- » Web Hosting
- » Email Hosting



Visit [www.itc-web.com](http://www.itc-web.com) or call **1.800.417.8667** to see what solutions fit your business.