



Cronauer family doubles in size

Pastor Mark and Tammy Cronauer lived in Wisconsin when they received their first foster children, three siblings, in 2009. After three months those children were able to return home to their natural parents. Now, in 2022, they are the proud parents of four beautiful adopted girls, and are fostering a fifth child in their home.

Mark explained that the foster system's primary goal is to reunite biological parents and children if it is safely possible. Failing that, the secondary goal of adoption is pursued. Legalities must be met, and the search for the right adoptive parents can take time, but the rewards of the effort can be seen in the eyes of this family.

Mark and Tammy, along with perky and happy Daytona, are strong advocates for children in need of foster parents and for adoptive parents when the children cannot return home. They referenced information about fostering and adoption statistics in South Dakota and gently requested the following to be included in this story. It can be found online at <https://AmericasKidsBelong.org/sd/>

According to South Dakota Kids Belong, and affiliate of America's Kids Belong, "Our state has around 1,500 children who are in the foster care system through no fault of their own. Of these children, on any given day nearly 70 are legally-free for adoption and are waiting for their forever family. The rest of the children need a loving, safe and supportive foster family to care for them while they wait to go home to their biological families."

"When children age-out of the system without a family, they are significantly more likely to experi-

ence homelessness, crisis pregnancy, unemployment, incarceration, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Trafficking."

"Foster and adoptive families are greatly needed in South Dakota. When families are unable to provide safe care for children due to significant challenges they are experiencing, foster families are needed. In addition to providing care for children, foster families also provide encouragement and support to the entire family as they are working to make changes so the children can return home."

"In South Dakota, most children adopted from foster care are adopted by their foster parents who have established a relationship with the child and their family connections."

The Cronauers received baby Daytona into their home in 2013 as a foster child. Their move to Clark, South Dakota from Wisconsin in June, 2017 required them to be certified here as foster parents. Following the move, they adopted Daytona at about four years of age. She is now nine.

Here is the next big event in Mark's own words. He wrote them down. Even the punctuation is his.

"We received a call from a social worker on Sunday morning about 8:00 a.m., in late November with the question, 'Would you like to take placement of a sibling group of three girls, a baby which is 4 weeks old, a one year old, and a two year old?'"

"That's kind of a family decision, so Tammy and I talked about it, and then we asked Daytona what she thought. Little did we know, the very night before, Daytona had prayed and asked God, 'If there are any kids that are in need of



The Cronauer Family in their home. Pictured left to right are five year old Akwata, Tammy (Mom), three year old Akech, nine year old Daytona then Afia, who is four, and (Dad) Mark Cronauer. All four children are adopted and the family is currently fostering a fifth child, not pictured.

our help, could you send them our way?' The next morning we get a call at 8:00 a.m.!"

"I wanted a sister. I prayed to God for siblings."
— Daytona Cronauer

"Talk about throwing us into a whirlwind on Sunday morning just

before church service! The girls arrived right at 10:30 a.m., right when our church service starts." (Ed. Mark is the pastor.)

"After the Girls arrived I recall people from all across our community stopping by to drop off all sorts of items that we would need!"

"And I remember the Lutheran and Congregational Youth Groups dropping off a bunch of Christmas presents at Christmas time."

The Cronauers expressed their gratitude toward the Clark and Church communities for the outpouring of love, acceptance and gifts they have received, especially since Akwata, Afia and Akech arrived to their home.

"We are so very thankful for the support that we have felt from our church family, who have supported, embraced and loved on the children, as well as from the greater community of Clark. From the first day that Akwata, Afia and Akech came to live with us, they have been welcomed and received, for which we are very grateful."

Daytona interjected that when she prayed that night, "she asked

God for siblings."

Three years and a couple months later, on January 20, 2022, Mark and Tammy officially adopted Akwata, Afia and Akech, and beaming Daytona really is a Big Sister!

Tammy had two important last comments that she needed to say to us, "May is National Foster Care Month", and "Social workers really try to keep siblings together."

Jon Redmond hired as elementary principal

At April's meeting of the Clark School Board, Jon Redmond was hired as the elementary/colony principal, with a \$60,000 contract.

The bigger story is all of the resignations that have come to the board for approval this last month. At the April meeting, middle school teacher and head football coach Michael Garry resigned his position, as did Silver Lake Colony teacher Jennifer Jensen and Silver Lake County paraprofessional Brenda Jongbloed. Sam Williams resigned from his position as girls basketball coach.

In a recent board meeting, English teacher Corrine Kallemeyn

and Jessica Jans, Title teacher, resigned. At the March regular board meeting, long-time paraprofessional Janie DesLauriers resigned/retired.

The hour and a half executive session followed the hour-long public meeting. Discussion of personnel and negotiations were discussed in executive session with no motions forthcoming at this time.

The meeting started with Tony's Collision Center owner, Tony Werdel, visiting with the board about a drainage issue south of the softball field. Werdel didn't want the drainage direction moved, he just wanted it sloped closer to the trees to get

away from his business. Clausen Construction will do the dirt work. Werdel would like to do this as soon as possible and the board approved this drainage work.

Clark School District is now in S.D. Legislative District 4. Incumbent Representative Fred Deutsch was in attendance at Monday's meeting and introduced himself to the board.

Superintendent Travis Ahrens explained the five-year lease with the city of Clark. The city and school have entered into a five-year

School Board
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Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu found in the area

In the last month, South Dakota poultry flocks have lost nearly 1.5 million birds to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), according to the USDA website. In Clark county alone, two flocks totaling 67,736 turkeys have been affected. The first flock of 43,136 was recorded on March 27, and a second flock of 24,600 infected turkeys was confirmed on April 5.

Three of Clark county's neighboring counties have had infected flocks as well. Spink County has had three affected turkey flocks totaling 116,815 birds. Beadle County had three affected turkey flocks with a total of 134,936 birds. Kingsbury County lost 1 turkey flock of 39,157 birds and one laying hen flock of 121,193 birds. In the four-county neighborhood, 440,815 commercial flock birds have been affected. Nebraska has lost nearly one million broiler chickens. The smallest flock listed on USDA's website at the time of writing was the three birds of a backyard flock in New York, and the largest flock was over five million laying hens in Buena Vista, Iowa. The second largest was another flock of over five million egg layers in Osceola, Iowa. As of April 7, U.S. flocks



H5N1 bird flu is killing turkeys chickens and other poultry in Clark County, South Dakota and across the country. It has directly affected local producers and is driving egg prices up across the Midwest, according to the CDC. Photo courtesy of CDC website.

caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and wild birds (especially waterfowl). Avian Influenza viruses are classified by a combination of two groups of proteins: hemagglutinin or "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1-H16), and neuraminidase or "N" proteins, of which there are 9 (N1-N9). AI viruses are further classified by their pathogenicity—the ability of a particular virus strain to produce disease in domestic chickens."

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus strains are extremely infectious, often fatal to chickens, and can spread rapidly from flock-to-flock. Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) virus strains occur naturally in wild migratory waterfowl and shorebirds without causing illness. LPAI can infect domestic poultry, creating little or no signs of illness."

The Center for Disease Control says the risk to people is low. On March 7, 2022 they published the following:

"To date, highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses ("H5N1 bird flu viruses") have been detected in U.S. wild birds in 14 states and in commercial and backyard poultry in 13

Avian Flu
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Churches celebrate the resurrection of Christ

▲ Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services to be held

Holy Week services continue in the area as Christians throughout the world await the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

Easter services in the area include:

Maundy Thursday

Churches having a Maundy Thursday service in the area on Thursday, April 14, include in Clark: The Plymouth Congregational UCC Church will host a community Maundy Thursday service with members of the ministerial association and host Pastor Fawn Lamb leading the service at 6:30 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 7:00 p.m. in Henry at the Saint Henry Catholic Church.

Members from Peace Lutheran Church in Clark, Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond will join together at the Peace Lutheran for a 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service.

Members of the Prairie Star Lutheran parish will gather at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran



Church in Vienna. Pastor Randy Bader will lead worship at the Lake Gospel Church 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service.

Good Friday

The Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church will host a Good Friday Tenebrae (service of shadows) service at 6:30 p.m. for members of the Peace Lutheran and the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Raymond.

The Lake Gospel Church will be hosting a 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service.

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

In Clark, a Community Good Friday worship is being planned at the St. Paul Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m.

Prairie Star Lutheran members will attend a 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant.

Easter Services
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The Center for Disease Control says the risk to people is low. Job-related or recreational exposure may elevate the risk of infection to people.

reached 24 million birds affected.

The usual treatment for commercial flocks is to depopulate and euthanize the affected flock. Then the facility is cleaned and disinfected, followed by a prescribed wait period, usually 48 hours after disinfecting, before beginning to repopulate with uninfected birds.

The United States Department of Agriculture says on their website, "Avian influenza (AI) is

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
April 5	53	27	0
April 6	53	27	0.26
April 7	46	30	0.12
April 8	36	26	0.04
April 9	47	26	0
April 10	58	33	0
April 11	40	29	0.07
2022 precipitation to date	1.67		
2021 precipitation to date	2.35		