

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

APRIL 15 tax time!

In 2020  
Income Tax due date has  
been changed to  
July 15



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\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Joyce Sanderson, Conde, SD



## Stone Burke is an All-Stater

Clark-Willow Lake senior center Stone Burke has been named to the 2020 South Dakota Class A boys basketball All-State Team.

Named to the second team, Burke, a 6-5 senior, averaged 18.8 points and 10.7 rebounds per game this winter.

Said Cyclone coach Jerome Nesheim of the All-State honor for Burke: "This honor is a true testament of what dedication, commitment and hard work will get you. Stone has all those qualities. He was super coachable and would do anything I asked him to do. This year he was put in a tough situation being the only returning player and did a tremendous job of being a leader to this young team."

"It was a pleasure to watch Stone develop into the player he is today from his freshman year to his senior year. This guy just got better and better and the more I demanded, he would give. As great as a player that Stone is, he is even a better person."

He is the son of J.J. and Kelly Burke.

## Funeral homes have had to adjust to COVID-19

"I've never experienced anything like this in my 47 years of being in this business," stated funeral director Greg Furness of the Furness Funeral Home in Clark.

The grieving process has been completely disrupted for families who have lost loved ones. During this unprecedented time, CDC guidelines for lowering the transmission of COVID-19 are changing the way funerals are being held and how the funeral directors are doing their job to serve the families of the deceased.

Currently at the top of his website, Furness addresses the situation being a critical service provider with the following guidelines put forth by the President of the United

States and the CDC as of March 17, 2020.

The following steps recommend to take regarding the funerals of loved ones are: Private family visitations/services with the pastor or celebrant for prayers and message; private family burials; and offering an additional public memorial service at a later date for no additional expense.

"Families are forced to grieve by not being in touch with each other, but everyone's been good about abiding by these new rules," continued Furness. "Some may have another service later and some have chosen not to have another one. We may be looking at a community service as well, that's yet to be decid-

ed."

### Funeral guidelines

Guidelines dictate that a group of 10 or less may gather at one time and at the funeral home chapel this does not include counting the minister and two funeral staff.

"We're still allowing a funeral service in our chapel, as it's easy to disinfect versus having the service at a church. Generally, I'm seeing all around the area with the funeral homes I'm partnered with, they are all having services in their chapels."

"We've chosen not to do livestream services for those who don't have good Internet connections. Instead we are recording the service and putting it on a DVD for the families to share with each other,

making several copies if needed.

"Cards may be dropped off at the funeral home front lobby at the designated table and box inside and soon we will be having a special drop off box installed outside."

"We will forward cards to the family as well if you send them to our funeral home address."

"I recommend talking to the family first regarding floral tributes," advises Furness.

At the funeral home chapel, they are supplying hand sanitizer and wipes, but not masks. They are using the N95 masks themselves however.

The new protocols have made

**Funeral homes**  
(continued on page 10)

## Two principals are hired by the Clark School District

Two new principals were hired Monday during the April meeting of the Clark School Board. The board meeting was held in the high school gym, rather than the usual library location, so everyone could 'social distance' in this pandemic era.

Rena Dahl was hired as the elementary/colony principal with other duties to be assigned. Travis Ahrens will be the new middle school/high school principal with other duties assigned, including co-athletic director.

These decisions were made following a 50-minute executive session.

Six certified teacher contracts were also approved Monday, includ-

ing: Regan Garry - MS language arts, JH volleyball, girls basketball; Mariah Schelhaas-Jennings - EL Spanish coordinator/Spanish I and II, Wheel; Reagan Florey - kindergarten/JH volleyball; Beth Severson - Colony Special Ed teacher; Jennifer Jensen - grades 3-5 Silver Lake Colony; Travis Barthel - grade 4 teacher, track.

Letters of resignation were accepted from: Tracy Stallman - Fordham Colony; Landon Hammer - JV girls basketball coach; McKenzie Bakken - grade 4 teacher.

### Capital outlay plans

Clark School business manager Mary Nelson reviewed the 2020-21 capital outlay fund with the school

board. The grand total of all recurring expenses and proposed optional items came to just under \$700,000 after the Field House/wrestling room/garage addition bids were opened.

Two bids were opened for the Field House/wrestling/garage addition. Landmark Builders' bid was \$349,921. Boss Construction's bid was \$314,051 with \$4,500 for a linear wall totaling \$318,551. Business manager Nelson had originally budgeted \$410,000 for this project, so it came in roughly \$95,000 under budget. The 2019-20 capital outlay budget was \$736,000.

No decision was made to accept a building addition bid at Monday's

meeting. The school board is meeting tonight (Wednesday) and this matter will be discussed with a decision forthcoming.

Regarding the 20 other 2020-21 capital outlay items, Nelson said she would have more detailed costs per item by the May board meeting. Also at the May board meeting FFA advisor Matti Boomgaarden will be invited to talk more about the FFA greenhouse project. The board wanted more information regarding this \$70,000 proposed project.

### School calendar

Prom and graduation are currently 'on hold' because of the coro-

**Clark School**  
(continued on page 5)

## COVID-19 testing in S.D. is inefficient and imperfect, but remains only option for confirming cases

Nick Lowrey,  
South Dakota News Watch

The ability to quickly, regularly and accurately test for the deadly coronavirus is a key component of the ability of the medical field and the public to understand the extent of the pandemic, and of government officials' ability to adequately respond.

And yet, the testing for the presence of the virus in residents of South Dakota and around the U.S. has been plagued by a series of

problems. Among them: a lack of needed testing supplies; inefficiencies in how the test is administered and how results are analyzed; and the potential inability of the test itself to accurately confirm the presence of the virus.

The consequences of those testing limitations are potentially fatal. Far more people are likely infected with COVID-19 than is known. The lack of confirmed positives has opened the door to downplaying of the depth and seriousness of the

pandemic by government officials and individuals. And in some cases, the opportunity for "false negatives," in which tests do not indicate the presence of the virus in an infected person, can lead to unnecessary spreading of the virus.

South Dakota ranks among the top 20 states in testing per capita for the virus that causes COVID-19, and while state officials tout that fact, experts say testing rates are still too low to know just how widespread the disease really is.

Of the state's roughly 880,000 residents, about 7,100 had been tested for COVID-19 as of April 8, according to South Dakota Department of Health Data. The low rate of testing for COVID-19, though, is due almost entirely to a shortage of critical testing supplies. Similar shortages are being experienced all over the country and are forcing public health officials to put strict limits on who gets tested and when.

**COVID-19 testing**  
(continued on page 4)

## Community residents rising to the occasion



Thomas Dandurand spotted his name this week on one of the hearts by the preschool greetings that decorate the front doors of Clark Elementary. "We Miss You" is the lament of many teachers this spring as school attendance for the 2019-2020 school year came to a halt mid-March due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

Cutout hearts, bears, Easter bunnies and encouraging words are showing up on windows in the city of Clark and throughout the county. In solidarity for the recent stay-at-home order due to the pandemic, many are getting their messages of hope out to the community while still adhering to the rules.

Starting with a social media movement in order to show love and unity (#A World of Hearts), it has become a worldwide movement with residents adding hearts to their front doors and windows.

### Wookey's

At the Fay Wookey memorial Assisted living Center - making hearts for the windows was last Thursday's craft activity for the residents. Owner Gayle Wookey stated, "We thought we'd do something to brighten up the outside so we made hearts for our windows."

All of the hearts had messages on them. Sayings included: Stay Safe; Be Happy; Happy Day; Happy Easter; Bless this House; Pray for All; Be Happy to All and Love Ya!

### Clark Elementary

At the Clark Elementary School, many windows on the front/west side of the school have windows filled with hearts.

Finishing up a week ago on Monday - all of the elementary teachers had their own window section to decorate.

"One of us had a template that we all used so the hearts would all look the same," said instructor Kathy Wookey who is a preschool teacher at Clark Elementary.

"We all really miss our kids and

wanted to do something at the school. All of us added feedback and picked out our color so there would be a nice colorful variety with each class having a different color."

"All of the teachers have been so helpful with each other during this time," added Wookey.

### Bears

Bears and stuffed animals to view from a distance is another practice that some are doing in town.

This is an opportunity to go on a 'bear hunt' with young children, driving around town in a vehicle - 'looking for bears'. Some even wear their own hunting clothes for the activity, especially those under five years old, for instance, little girls sporting their favorite layered look in apparel.

Several bears can be spotted around town. Some are small, a couple are huge and one even high up in a tree in the south part of town.

**Community**  
(continued on page 10)

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
April 7.....	66	44	0
April 8.....	68	43	0
April 9.....	50	28	0
April 10.....	36	24	0
April 11.....	49	24	0
April 12.....	52	25	.06
April 13.....	31	18	0
2020 precipitation to date			2.61
2019 precipitation to date			6.45



Clark/Watertown Dakota Butcher owner Randy Gruenwald has been named South Dakota Small Business Administration's Business Person of the Year for 2020.

## Gruenwald named SD SBA 'Person of the Year - 2020'

The United States Small Business Administration, South Dakota District Office has named Randy Gruenwald, Dakota Butcher from Clark and other locations, as SBA's South Dakota Small Business Person of the Year for 2020. He was nominated by Lori Finnesand, GROW South Dakota, and will be honored on May 7th SBA Small Business Week Celebration in Sioux Falls.

"South Dakota is one of the best states in the nation to start, grow, and expand a small business," says SBA Regional Administrator Dan Nordberg. "Each National Small Business Week winner exemplifies the importance of entrepreneurship in South Dakota. Small businesses

are the fabric of our economy, and deserve all the recognition we can give them for their contributions to our communities."

In addition to honoring the Small Business Person of the Year, SBA will present Small Business Week awards to:

Danny Dale, Advanced Sunflower LLC, Huron - Small Business Exporter of the Year

Sioux Nation Ag Center, Joseph & Brian Swenson, Sioux Falls - Family-Owned Small Business of the Year

VRC Metal Systems, Robert Hrabe, Box Elder - Veteran-Owned

**Gruenwald**  
(continued on page 5)