

For 132 years,
The Voice of Clark County



Vol. 132, No. 42

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

Clark, South Dakota 57225

Wednesday,
April 17, 2013

Hometown Newspaper
of
Gaylon Bratland,
St. Paul, MN.

\$1.00 Includes Tax

“Conflict of interest” is seen on County Commission

▲ Loomis is a commissioner and employee

Douglas Loomis won the District 2 Clark County Board of Commissioners election during the November election and took a seat on the county commission board in January of 2013.

Loomis is an employee of the county, a highway motor grader three employee and because of this conflict he has not been allowed to vote on any motion concerning county roads or the funding of county transportation.

There are five districts represented on the Clark County Board of Commissioners. District 2 represents the town of Bradley and Garden City and the townships of Blaine, Cottonwood, Spring Valley, Warren, Ash, Woodland, Garfield, Elrod, Thorp, Maydell and Eden.

Generally speaking, as he is not allowed to vote on road issues, his constituents would like representation and the parties not in power in this district, such as opposition to Loomis, feel this district needs representation in this area.

The Courier contacted Clark County State's Attorney Chad Fjelland to obtain his position on the matter. Fjelland indicated, "This clearly has the appearance of a di-

rect conflict of interest. This clearly will present many actual voting conflicts of interest; however, after research and consultation with state officials, it appears that there is no statute that directly prohibits an at-will county employee from serving on a County Commission." Fjelland continued, "State law does prohibit any county, municipal, or school official from discussing or voting on any matter where the official decides that a conflict exists. Absent the official voluntarily declaring the conflict, state law mandates that the official remove himself from discussion and voting on an issue in which the official has a direct pecuniary interest or if two-thirds of the governing body votes that an official has an identifiable conflict of interest."

Fjelland concluded, "Obviously, this is a difficult and unique situation. On one side of the coin, an elected official should do everything he can to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest. On the other side, you have an individual elected by the people of his district to serve - and they want him to do that fully."

Added snowfall keeps soil temperatures low

"Once the fields are open, there will be a lot of activity in the fields in one big wave," noted Mark Rosenberg, Agronomy field specialist from the Aberdeen Extension Center. "Cooler weather has resulted in lower soil temperatures and the added snowfall has delayed fields being open for planting."

"Everybody is taking it in stride, however as we've got some good moisture melting into that top soil, which will really help the pastures and stock dams. We won't know for

a week or two how the spring planting season will go concerning the spring wheat. Hopefully the days won't get away from us. The first of May is when most farmers want the wheat in by. Spring wheat thrives in cooler weather. A week or 10 days into May would be the latest one would want to wait."

Laura Edwards, climate field specialist with SDSU Extension guesstimates the soil temp - in the low to

Added snowfall
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Antiques Roadshow chooses Sundvold's painting

▲ Oscar Howe painting one of a kind



"It was the luck of the draw that started it all," say Harlan and Jean Sundvold of their recent participation in the upcoming Antiques Roadshow television show. Filmed in Rapid City on their 2012 summer tour, the show will air on PBS in three parts, April 22, April 29 and May 6, 2013.

Harlan and the Oscar Howe painting 'The Skin Painter' which is one of a kind, will hopefully be one of the approximately 80 people featured in the three part series. The tickets in Harlan's hand started the process of the Sundvolds taking their painting (s) to the road show.

First, their name was drawn after they applied on line to get tickets.

Next, when Harlan and Jean Sundvold received their two tickets in the mail, it started the series of events that led to Harlan being filmed with his Oscar Howe painting (inherited from his brother Glen) for the PBS television show Antiques Roadshow. The show is scheduled to air (taped in Rapid City last July) in three different segments coming up on April 22, April 29 and May 6, Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. central daylight time.

Glen Sundvold and artist Oscar Howe were both professors for a

time at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Howe taught art and Sundvold taught Spanish. They became friends over the years and in 1973, Sundvold bought the painting from Howe for \$900. It as an original and a little different from the abstract style that Howe came to be known for. It shows an Indian woman painting on a buffalo hide with two horses in the background. Harlan's brother Glen died approximate 28 years ago and Harlan inherited the Howe painting. Howe stopped painting in 1978 due to Parkinsons affecting his coordination. He died at age 68 in 1983.

Oscar Howe was a full blooded Sioux Indian, born on the Crow

Creek reservation in 1915. His artwork became widely known and a lot of his paintings had an abstract side to them. He won many national awards over the years and has many paintings in art museums such as the Institute of Indian Studies and at his own Oscar Howe Art Center in Mitchell. "He did a lot of work on the Corn Palace, too, we've learned," says Jean Sundvold. "We have a lot of information on Oscar Howe and even have personal letters from Oscar to Glen including the canceled check and original sale bill for 'The Skin Painter' painting. The Roadshow experience

"It was a long, but fun and interesting day," continued Jean of their

Rapid City Event Center - Roadshow experience. "It was all done on one day, July 14, 2012. Everyone was very nice. We went from one line to another as the day went on. They had 75 appraisers working with over 6,000 people, each having two items, so really 12,000 items were appraised that day. Eighty were chosen for the show and we were one of the 80."

"Bruce Shackelford of San Antonio, Texas, was my tribal arts appraiser," said Harlan. "We had three appraisers the first time around. Bruce will be the one on TV with me. After we were chosen, I was sent to 'The Green Room' for makeup. We also talked to the producer who asked a lot of questions. The actual taping was done out in the middle of the floor. So when you watch the show, the selection process is ongoing in the background. People from all over come that day, it's not limited to only South Dakota residents. We tried getting on the show before, when it was in Bismarck, but didn't get our name drawn. You don't say what you have when you apply for the tickets, you just apply and hope to have your name drawn. I brought all three paintings (two lithographs) I have by Oscar Howe, but they were mainly interested in the original painting. I was told it was worth about \$13,000 but I should have insured for \$15-\$17,000. There were so many interesting things there. It was fun talking to people while being shuffled from one line to another. One lady had to be escorted out as her painting was worth so much. The day went from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

"We were told they do not guarantee we will be on the show and to keep in mind, it's subject to change, so we will be watching all three shows. Jean got to watch the taping 'live' in another room while I was being interviewed. It will be fun to watch the shows taped in Rapid City."



Librarian Sam Hensley is shown putting on the fiction shelf, three copies of the Twilight series written by Stephanie Meyer. "Popular adult fiction, non-fiction and children's books we're always happy to re-

ceive in donation to our library," stated Librarian Hensley of Clark's Emil M. Larson Library located in the Ulyot Building.

'Dig into Reading' and 'SD Titles to Go' are two programs at the Clark City Library

"The second week in June, I plan on starting a reading club focusing on elementary, middle school and maybe even preschool age children. With the theme 'Dig into Reading' I'd like kids to get excited about being able to dig into a good book with a summer reading program," says Librarian Sam Hensley. "We'll continue with the summer story hours on Fridays, maybe a morning session at 10:00 a.m. and again in the afternoon, we'll see how it plays out. More details will be on our Facebook site. I'll let everyone know on there." She is also thinking of starting an adult book club in the fall.

re-organizing her books, getting some located to the sale area where there will be an ongoing sale of various paperbacks.

A mural near the children's books is awaiting the final decision before it is put up permanently with other duties in the library taking precedence.

The SD Titles to Go program is ongoing, putting books onto personal kindles and iPads and talking books for the blind are also available.

"I'd like the public to know I can order specific books on tape including children's books for the sighted as well. Anyone can check out an audio book. For kids, it would be

good on a long car trip for example. I can keep an audio book for several weeks before it needs to go back to the state," observed Hensley.

It was 'snowing' in the library this winter with many homemade snowflakes by local artists, hanging from the ceiling. Next will be flower pages, taken home and colored by local youth, as they return back to the library in time.

Story times are ongoing at the Clark Library on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Thursdays and Fridays the library is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Music concert is Monday

The Clark Music Department will present their music concert for band members in grades 5-12 and choir grades 9-12 on Monday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature songs being performed for contests as well as some songs that were missed when the Pops Concert was canceled due to weather on March 12.

The fifth grade band will play *Centurion* and *Simple Gifts*.

Spectrum, *Mount Vernon March*, *Lean on Me* and *I Get Around* will be played by the sixth and seventh grade band. The 8-12 grade band

Music concert
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Altfillisch wins seat on Bradley town board

It seems as if the Bradley Town Board of Trustees vote for Alderman is always very close. Such was the case last week in the Bradley Municipal Election with Chad Altfillisch defeating Pam Hartman 17 to 16.

The Henry School Board election was moved to April 16, with the results being published next week.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
April 9	24	13	.04
April 10	32	23	.35
April 11	31	24	.15
April 12	31	21	0
April 13	33	21	.19
April 14	31	26	.58
April 15	31	24	0
2013 precipitation to date			3.28"
2012 precipitation to date			5.35"



Clark County Deputy Sheriff Michael Gravning also serves as the county's Emergency Management Director. Next week, April 22-26 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week, with a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, April 24, 2013.

The Storm Ready County jurisdiction has been updated through 2017, based on local response and emergency plans. Gravning indicated that this updated jurisdiction through the NWS involves much time and training for continued preparedness.

April 22-26 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in SD

Next week, April 22-26, is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in South Dakota and Clark County Emergency Management Director Michael Gravning asks one and all to take a minute to make sure one is prepared for a disaster.

Weather disasters take many forms, and with some significant snow in the forecast, along with wind, it's hard to think 'summer', but on Wednesday, a statewide tornado drill is planned!

Gravning, a Clark County Deputy Sheriff, has been the Emergency Management Director for Clark County since last September. His position has him working with the fire department, sheriff's department and all communities to prepare for emergencies as well as overseeing safety and emergency training.

"This third week of April is a good week to emphasize just how important it is to get ready for weather emergencies and to realize that disasters can strike quickly and with-

out warning," said Gravning.

You could be anywhere - at work, at school, or in a car. What would you do if basic services - water, gas, electricity or telephones were cut off? Families can cope with disasters by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Knowing what to do is your best defense against the burden of a disaster. Being prepared and understanding what to do can reduce fear, anxiety and losses that accompany disasters. You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur in your area.

Gravning is in constant communication with regional supervisors and the National Weather Service called this week, he said, inquiring about ice build up and to see if any power lines were down.

In his position, he explained that it is important to be proactive as well as reactive and he urges all residents to be safe, be informed and be prepared.