

Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

**Congratulations Clark FCCLA!
Gold Merit Chapter Award and More!
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The hometown newspaper of Edward Chapin, Sioux Falls, SD

School board petitions available for circulation

Two school board seats open up this year in Clark, and two school board seats also open up in Willow Lake this year.

In Clark, the three-year positions are currently held by Trudi Gaikowski and Nathan Luvaas.

In Willow Lake, the three-year terms are currently held by Aaron Wicks and Trav Bratland.

Petitions can be picked up at the respective school business office. The petitions need to be filed by

May 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Petitions can also be printed off at <https://sdsos.gov/>.

Henry Results

The Henry School Board election was held Tuesday, April 10. Two spots on the school board will be now filled. The results are: James Owen 91 votes, Paul Johnson 86 votes, and David Fuller 56 votes. Owen and Johnson will begin their three-year terms in July.



For the second consecutive year the Clark Comet yearbook has received a superior award. At the 94th Annual South Dakota High School Press Convention in Brookings, the 2017 Clark yearbook staff, consisting of left to right, advisor Kristin Janisch, Fiona Kohrs and Keith Myrvold was one of five South Dakota schools receiving superior honors.

Clark yearbook receives superior award

"Missed it by one," said Kristin Janisch jokingly, as out of all the yearbooks in the state, for 2016-17, the Clark High School yearbook was rated superior, with only five schools receiving a superior rating. The C.H.S. yearbook was second of the top six in the state. A year ago it received the very top honor, causing Janisch to jest about the opening remarks.

The schools receiving superiors at the High School Press Convention, recently in Brookings in the yearbook category, were: Sioux Falls Lincoln - Heritage, Link In to Lincoln; Clark - The Comet; Redfield - Pheasant; Yankton - Arickara, Locked In Time and Dakota Valley - Panther Pride.

Clark High School visual arts instructor Kristin Janisch is the yearbook advisor and the C.H.S. yearbook staff consists of Keith Myrvold and Fiona Kohrs.

Janisch explained that the Clark yearbook is taught as a class twice a week. "My role is to help the staff keep organized and assist when needed. They know my expectations and they work hard to put together a quality yearbook. I am very proud of them," she said.

Janisch said that the theme 'color outside the lines', a play off of adult coloring books, with a Sharpie included, was just unique enough to

Yearbook
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April Proms are upcoming

Hopefully Spring weather will be in the offing as the next two weekends are the dates of Prom at the two Clark County schools.

Willow Lake

The Willow Lake High School Prom is set for this Friday, April 20, at the high school auditorium. The 2018 Willow Lake Junior-Senior Prom theme is "Small Town, Bright Lights". The Grand March is slated

for 8:30 p.m. with the doors opening at 8:00 p.m. The banquet is at 6:30 p.m.

Clark

Saturday, April 28, is the date of the Clark High School Junior-Senior Prom. "A Night In The Greek Garden" is the theme. The Banquet kicks off at 6:00 p.m. at the Clark Municipal Golf Clubhouse. The Grand March is slated for 8:00 p.m.



As the Courier press car was out and about looking for some snow storm clean-up pictures on Saturday a little after noon...look what was found.

At the Kerry Kline residence, across from Clark Elementary, where two foreign exchange students, Kaelig Manac'h of France, foreground

and Sho Sunagawa of Japan, center, reside, a snowball event game of football had broken out. Ntai Stevens is on the left and Emil Melballe, foreign exchange student from Denmark, who stays with the Pete and Donna Weisbrod family, is on the right. In the back is Kobe Red Cloud.



Snow blowers, shovels and all equipment necessary to move snow got quite a workout over the weekend. With the snow coming down sideways, it is pretty difficult to be exact as to how much snow the area received, but most accounts are in the 8-10 inch amount around Clark and more to the south and about the same to the north.



Above left, snow is cleared in front of the City View Apartments, on Saturday. Above right, Leo Tom shovels his sidewalk all the way to the corner.

This storm came up very abruptly over the lunch hour on Friday, causing white out conditions of the sort that nothing whatsoever can be seen.

Spring, as of yet, has not sprung

Here it is April 18 and we have more than half a foot of snow on the ground.

A fast-moving storm out of the Rockies brought heavy snow to the upper Great Plains and continued east bringing snow and rain to the majority of the states east of the Rocky Mountains.

In South Dakota, the southern tier of counties received the most snow. Huron totaled 19 inches and Clear Lake, 18, showing that Clark County was on the edge of heavy snow areas.

"This storm certainly was an historic spring storm," said Ryan

Lueck of the Aberdeen National Weather Service office. "Officially Clark received eight inches of snow and Clark County was on the northern side of the heaviest snow."

Lueck explained that this storm came with 30 mph to 50 mph winds causing white-out conditions almost immediately. "The winds caused the snow to drift and four foot snow drifts were reported in many areas, including Clark County."

Large portions of both interstates in South Dakota were shut down during the storm and the Sioux Falls airport also closed on Saturday.

"Because of the 'perfect storm' conditions to bring moisture in solid form to the state, we did witness quite a large snow storm event," Lueck reiterated and he said that the first half of April is the coldest on record in South Dakota.

As far as whether or not the area will receive any more snow this spring before it really feels like spring, Lueck commented, "We will expect to see snow Tuesday into Wednesday (today) and Clark County could see two to four inches of snow. "It will probably be closer to that four inch number," he said.

Clark principal/activities director Jerry Hartley announced Tuesday morning that the high school track meet on Friday and the junior high meet on Monday, both in Clark, have been canceled. Also, the golf meet scheduled for Webster, on Friday has been canceled. April has proven to be a tough month for spring sports.

Bratland Bruns retires after 24 years at Willow Lake



Tracy Bratland Bruns will be saying good-bye to the students at the Willow Lake School come the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Every year she has made a scrapbook of her year including the activities or favorite projects similar to the one she is holding as well as students taking home their own little theme photo booklet. Taking an early retirement with 28 years of teaching under her belt, she states she will miss the students the most.

"I'm really going to miss the kids," said retiring kindergarten teacher, Tracy Bratland Bruns "I always loved coming to school every day never knowing what they were going to say next or what was going to happen. Every day was a new adventure!"

The 1985 graduate of Willow Lake High School and the daughter of Del and Barb Bratland, she went on to Dakota State University in Madison following high school. She earned her bachelor of science degree majoring in elementary education with minors in physical education with a coaching endorsement and computer education. She later went on to school in the summers at South Dakota State University to earn her masters degree in education.

Her first teaching position was in special education in Madison. From there she went on to teach at Agar as the third and fourth grade teacher. She was there for three years. One of her favorite memories is the one year that she had five students,

who went on a memorable field trip.

"We were able to take a three day field trip to discover eastern South Dakota. We visited the Wessington Springs School, visited the John Green Art Studio in Madison, Dakota State University's Language Arts class and the Lake Herman State Park. From there we went and toured the Laura Ingalls Wilder homestead in De Smet after staying in a bed and breakfast in De Smet."

The Agar school wanted to be known as a business school, and encouraged business projects so one year, Bratland Bruns had her students make 100 Gingerbread houses out of graham crackers to sell. "It was a fantastic learning experience for all of us! We learned a lot about business- getting a loan from a local businessman who we later paid back and still made \$150. We planned on making maybe 40 or so, but then 100 orders came in, so it was a great learning experience."

From Agar, she was fortunate to be able to move back to her home town of Willow Lake where she be-

gan teaching second grade for the next two decades. Most recently she has been the kindergarten teacher the last two years and before that, she was the reading specialist and elementary principal for one year.

Over the years, she has also been a cheer coach, cross country coach, track coach and girls basketball coach for the Willow Lake School district.

"I love the fact that I have been able to teach all three of my daughters, Brittany, Bailey and Brooke in the second grade at Willow Lake," continued Bratland Bruns.

The girls all finished their schooling at Willow Lake, graduating in 2008, 2012 and 2017.

"It has been so nice being able to teach here in Willow Lake, and I really appreciate the fact we were so close to family. My two brothers and their families, (Trav and Connie and Tim and Holly) and my parents all live within a three mile radius of here, so that's been wonderful. The staff at the school has also been great to work with, with

so many familiar faces. The teacher whose class I took over for initially was Lorraine Warne, who was my third grade teacher."

Bratland Bruns has always thought that kids learn especially by doing hands-on projects. "And it's fun, too," she added.

Pen pal projects in second grade, going out and picking apples, having VIP projects, where kids choose and interview local people, have all been memorable memories of learning over the years in Bratland Bruns' class.

With teaching the kindergarten class, often their first full days at school, she has been called "Mom" more times than she can remember. "I'm honored that they feel comfortable enough to call me 'Mom'. They would get excited and say 'Mom, look at this!' for example, probably out of habit."

Being a mom is very important to Bratland Bruns, who always appreciated being able to spend more

Bratland Bruns
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