

# Clark County Courier

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The hometown newspaper of Verna Herker, Comstock, MN



Faye Knutson will reach her 100th birthday on May 6 and will be celebrating this Sunday at the Ulliyot building from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Ulliyot building location is where Faye and her husband Al had their drug store from 1948 to 1993 called Knutson Drug. "We sold a lot of wallpaper and our wallpaper room was in the back of the store. Sometimes I think of that when I'm in the Ulliyot building community room. That is where we used to have our wallpaper room when we were located here." Knutson lives at home and still enjoys good eyesight after all these years, having never worn glasses to read or write.

## Faye Knutson turns 100 on Monday

She turns 100 years old next Monday and doesn't need eyeglasses to read. Not many can say that but Faye Knutson of Clark, can. She enjoys reading and letter writing and can still do both although she is celebrating 100 years old on May 6, 2019.

Knutson was born in Howard on May 6, 1919 in her grandparents' house to Guy and Margaret Lower who lived five miles north of town. She had one older brother Bob and one younger brother John or 'Jack'. "They liked to tease me a lot growing up and always said I was a spitfire. Maybe that's why I've lived so long."

"Just ornery I guess," said Knutson with a giggle. "I've had a lot of good doctors in my life. I've been lucky, my eyes are good and I have all my own teeth."

Knutson has survived two heart attacks, cancer and a stroke over the years, but still lives in her own home and enjoys it.

Knutson's brothers are now deceased but their children and grandchildren have brought a lot of joy to Faye over the years. They are my family now says Faye who has been without her husband Al Knutson since he died in 1995.

"My nieces and nephews are very good to me," she says of her family members.

Faye and her family moved into Howard when she was five years old and her father became the policeman in town. Her first year of school, she recalls her teacher being a little person, not much taller than the rest of her students. She made a lifelong friend in school in the fifth grade who also turns 100 years old in August with whom she corresponds.

"In seventh grade I had my aunt for a teacher and in the eighth grade was our first male teacher - that was different for all of us," recalls Knutson who lived just across the street - kitty corner from the school. She also earned perfect attendance for all of her high school years.

"In physical education, the girls had to buy material to make our own uniforms. We didn't have the activities in school they do now."

Faye worked at Rafferty's Drug store during high school which also had a soda fountain.

She liked bookkeeping so she decided on Nettleton Business College in Sioux Falls. She recalls using an ink bottle and stick pen for writing and being very careful so as to make it last. One time she fell tripping on a rail, but still held her ink

bottle up in the air so as not to spill it. "We thought of money differently than now, you had to make things last. We didn't have all the clothes they do now either, you wanted to keep what you had - nice."

Faye met her husband Al Knutson, who had known her brother Bob in college at SDSU. Al was a pharmacy student from Artesian who graduated in 1941. One of their first dates was being invited up to Hobo Day at the college. Two weeks before his graduation he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

### Married life

The couple married in Durham, N.C. in 1942 at the Presbyterian church, this was where Al was stationed in the Army. Faye began work doing bookwork for a doctor that dealt with a lot of soldiers being 'shell-shocked'. One time Faye was tackled at work by a soldier who was trying to protect her from incoming fire. "He was trying to save me. They had to pull him off of me and tell him it was alright," recalls Knutson.

The couple moved to Clark in 1946 and Al worked for Wilkins Drug store. He'd worked there the summer of 1940 and liked the friendly people in Clark and liked that it was a smaller town. They lived above the store as did 14 other couples at that time in Clark's business district. Two years later the Knutsons bought the store when Wilkins retired. Faye continued doing the bookwork for the next 47 years at the drug store until they sold it. Al died two years after the sale of their drug store where they spent many happy years together.

Faye was in extension clubs and a bridge club for many years. She also enjoys writing letters and corresponding with friends and still has beautiful cursive penmanship after all these years.

Irene Lura was a longtime friend

**Knutson**  
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### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official  
Weather Observer

|                            | HI   | LO | PR  |
|----------------------------|------|----|-----|
| Apr. 23.....               | 63   | 41 | 0   |
| Apr. 24.....               | 69   | 41 | 0   |
| Apr. 25.....               | 76   | 49 | --  |
| Apr. 26.....               | 68   | 34 | 0   |
| Apr. 27.....               | 56   | 32 | .45 |
| Apr. 28.....               | 51   | 34 | 0   |
| Apr. 29.....               | 48   | 35 | .23 |
| 2019 precipitation to date | 7.54 |    |     |
| 2018 precipitation to date | 2.42 |    |     |

## Amazing Grace Daycare is now open

What started with a divine idea last August has mushroomed into the recent opening of the Amazing Grace Daycare located within the United Methodist Church in Clark.

"God made it happen," stated Pastor Joy Tracy, director of the new daycare. "Something would fall through, but then something else would pop up in its place as if it was truly meant to be from the start."

The Methodist Church congregation, led by Joy's husband Pastor Mark Tracy who also assists Joy with the Henry and Garden City United Methodist Churches, voted last September to move forward with the utilization of their extra Sunday school rooms within the Clark church for a Christian daycare.

Soon after a daycare board was formed to move forward. Pastors Mark and Joy are on the daycare board, along with Karen Arthur being the president of the board. Assisting them are Sarah Dykstra, Trisha Marx and Jordan Hallberg, also on the board.

A contest was held to name the new venture with 'Amazing Grace Daycare' becoming the winner.

Most board members are also members of the church with Dykstra representing the community as a contributing board member who will be bringing her baby to the daycare. "It truly is an answer to my prayers," stated Dykstra who was advised when still pregnant last fall to begin looking for daycare. "We were hoping for an education based Christian faith based daycare and they are hard to find. This will be so good for the community and good for the kids too." The time line worked out perfect for Logan and Sarah's daughter to attend the daycare, which opened on Monday. Dykstra works as a child therapist in Watertown.

Work began with a lot of volunteer help in the removal of walls, painting and adding of doors and facilities to make the daycare comply with state regulations.

"The kids' safety and their Christian education are our main concerns," noted J. Tracy of the new



The Amazing Grace Daycare opened for business on Monday within the confines of the Clark United Methodist Church.

Deciding to utilize their extra space in the church, the congregation voted to begin a daycare. The closing of the Little Explorers daycare in Clark made the

opening an extra blessing to the community. Above preschool supervisor Donna Weisbrod works with her three to five year old group. Pastor Joy Tracy, the preschool director, stands to the side of the group in the colorful preschool room.

daycare. Much construction has been done to make things flow from one room to another and all of the rooms have a water source. A changing table with its own water reservoir has been added to the nursery room where the infants to

one year olds spend their day.

The toddler room is for the one to three year olds and three to five year olds are in the preschool room. The daycare is not certified for children older than that. "Right now, this is what we're starting with,"

added Tracy.

Getting state certified with the food program as well as working with state assistance if needed for the parents, has been addressed in

**Amazing Grace**  
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## Students gain tree knowledge on Arbor Day

Cassy Olson, a naturalist from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks department, was on hand last Friday morning in honor of Arbor Day - usually celebrated on the last Friday in April.

Olson gave a presentation on trees, the various parts of a tree, how to identify a tree by its leaves and how to tell how old a tree is by counting the rings of a cross section of a tree that has been cut down.

Making it an outdoor experience, Clark first graders and fifth graders

walked to the swimming pool park in town where Olson gave her interactive presentation. Students were given cross sections of trees to count the rings to determine the age of the tree.

Later the students 'built a tree', bringing together the six parts of a tree. The heartwood, sapwood, cambium, phloem, bark and root parts of a tree were explained by Olson and their different functions were pointed out.

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