

2015-2016 certified staff negotiated agreement approved by school board

May is always a busy month for school boards and the Clark School Board meeting lasted over five hours on Monday. Three hours and forty minutes of the meeting were in two separate executive sessions. The first executive session lasted twenty minutes and dealt with a student matter. The second closed session lasted three hours and twenty minutes for the purpose of administrative negotiations and a personnel matter. No motions were made after either executive session.

The Clark School Board accepted the low bid of Seppanen Contracting for the high school curbing and driveway project on the east side of the high school. This work is to be done by July 3, when the C.H.S. Alumni Banquet is to be held. Seppanen's bid was \$91,797.96.

The Honeywell Building Solutions discussion and motion regarding a feasibility study of school district buildings was postponed until the June board meeting.

High school/middle school principal Jerry Hartley will be the Clark High School Athletic Director for the 2015-16 school year. Superintendent Warren said that she felt

the negotiated package between the Clark School District and certified staff for the 2015-2016 school year. "In a nutshell, the teachers settled for \$500 on the base (\$34,280) with \$300 extra going to all returning staff members," stated superintendent Luanne Warren. Plus colony teachers will receive one-time money of \$500 due to multiple class preparations. The school district also will pay \$415 toward single policy (health) insurance.

The Clark School Board accepted the low bid of Seppanen Contracting for the high school curbing and

School board (continued on page 3)

No school board election(s) needed in Clark County

No school board elections will be needed this June in either Clark or Willow Lake. The respective incumbents were the only individuals to file petitions.

In Clark, Trudi Gaikowski and Amy Sass will serve three-year

terms. Mary Nelson is the Clark School business manager.

In Willow Lake, Caryl Schmidt and Aaron Wicks will be on the school board with three-year terms. Melissa Burke is the Willow Lake School business manager.

Twenty-four seniors to graduate Saturday at Clark High School



Mackenzie Huber



Maddie Schaack



Jill Warkenthien



Rawson Yost

Twenty-four seniors will bid adieu to Clark High School on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. during the commencement exercises in the school auditorium.

The members of the Clark High School Class of 2015 chose Maddie Schaack and Rawson Yost to give the graduation address and superintendent Luanne Warren will introduce them. Giving the Invocation and Benediction will be Reverend Mark Tracy.

The valedictorians are Jill Warkenthien and Maddie Schaack

and the salutatorian is Rawson Yost.

Lola Bartels will direct the Clark High School band as they play the processional and recessional. A senior picture presentation, led by Skylar Welk, will be given by the senior class. Mrs. Brenda Jenkins and Karli Paulson will present "Looking Back".

Scholarship advisor, Mrs. Tammy Paulson will recognize the four honor students. Junior pilots Angela Young and Allyson Monson will lead the processional.

The graduates will receive their diplomas from school board president Robert Steffen. High school principal Jerry Hartley will present the Clark High School Class of 2015.

The members of the CHS Class of 2015 are Patrick Adams, Michael Bethke, Gunnar Hagstrom, Caleb Hansen, Alexa Helkenn, Mackenzie Huber, Tyson Jenkins, Mikal Kirkeby, Kandace Kolden, Kane LaPlante, Cory Lowrie, Cody Nelson,

Clark High School (continued on page 3)

Seven Willow Lake graduates bid farewell on Sunday, May 17



Mikayla Prouty



Jane Hervi



Dylan Wicks

Valedictorian Mikayla Prouty and Salutatorian Jane Hervi will lead the Willow Lake High School seniors through the 103rd graduation exercises, Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Willow Lake Auditorium. Seven Willow Lake seniors will turn their tassels on Sunday.

The valedictorian and salutatorian addresses will be given. Senior class president Dylan Wicks will present the Spade of Knowledge to junior class president Kevin Schuelke. This spade is a symbol of the knowledge that each student has acquired. It is given to the junior

class in hopes they will keep digging for the knowledge they need in the future.

Honor students who will be recognized are Mikayla Prouty, Jane Hervi and Dylan Wicks. Presentation of the Class of 2015 diplomas will be by Superintendent Scott Klautd and School Board President Caryl Schmidt. The speaker for the day will be Mr. Dan Tonak, current Ag teacher and FFA Advisor.

Willow Lake seniors are Luke Efraimson, Jane Hervi, Trevor Nel-
Willow Lake High School (continued on page 16)

Pastures and lawns are now greener

What a welcomed week of rain. As the *Clark County Courier* went to press a week ago, conditions were abnormally dry.

Two weather patterns, one on Wednesday night into Thursday and one on Sunday, have brought considerable moisture to the area.

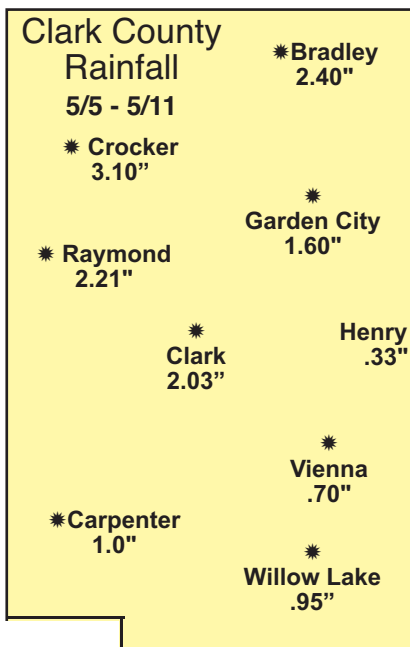
Another rain event is planned for Thursday, as well as Saturday and when we are coming off a dry fall and winter, "more is better".

The Black Hills received snow and southern South Dakota experienced stormy turbulence, including the tragic Delmont tornado, but no damage was reported in Clark County.

Crocker reported the most rain, equally divided between Wednesday and Sunday's downpour. It's also evident that north and west Clark County received more rain.

Cold weather, through Thursday, is to be followed by the mid-

70's through the weekend and then back to the 60's early next week.



Fifteen Henry High School seniors will graduate May 16



Andrea Kramer



Kaitlyn O'Neill

The 2015 Henry High School Graduation exercises are slated for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at the Henry High School gym.

Steve Zirbel, Henry School Superintendent will present the Class of 2015. The diplomas will be presented by Principal Philip Schonebaum and Henry Board of Education representative Adam Hartley.

The valedictorian for the class of 2015 is Andrea Kramer and the salutatorian is Kaitlyn O'Neill. The speakers will be the valedictorian

and the salutatorian.

Music will be provided by the Henry High School choir. They will sing *Home* by Alan Billingsley. Father John Short will give the Invocation and Benediction.

Henry High School class of 2015 members are: Brian Bertram, Dylan Blinson, Zoey Miller, Richard Nelson, Kaitlyn O'Neill, Owen Redinger, Andrea Kramer, Lane Looney, Dylan Mitchell, Benjamin Olson, Cody Pike, Trey Rawlins,

Henry High School (continued on page 3)

Hazel Ness turns 100 on Syttende Mai

"It's been a pretty good life. I've had good health as long as I can remember," says 100-year-old Hazel Ness of Clark. "I've outlived all of my brothers and sisters, I must have done something right I guess."

Hazel Josefina Christopherson was born on May 17, 1915 at home on the Christopherson farm, as were all her six brothers and sisters. Anders (Andrew) and Marie (Kjeikrud) Christopherson were the parents of Nels, Margaret, Clara, Anna, Hazel, Alf and Odean.

With a strong Norwegian heritage, Hazel's parents spoke both Norwegian and English at home and Hazel can speak both languages. When visiting relatives and friends from Norway came to their farm, Norwegian was used in their household. At their church Pleasant Lutheran Church (Pleasant Lutheran Church was located approximately three and a half miles west of Vienna before it burned down in 1963) where Hazel was baptized and confirmed, services were held now and then using the Norwegian language. She recalls when her childhood church burned to the ground. They could see it from their farm about five miles away.

Growing up near Naples

Hazel attended the Foxton School, walking a mile and a half every day to get there. It was a one room school with eight grades. "I carried an old syrup pail and my lunch was usually fruit and a sand-



Hazel Ness was born on the Norwegian Constitution Day, May 17. This year will be a special birthday. She turns 100 years old as she was born in the year 1915 on the Christopherson farm in Clark County which was homesteaded by her grandparents in 1884. Her father Anders was 11 years old when he came to South Dakota from Bynesseth, Norway. "I don't feel 100 years old," says Ness. "I've been very fortunate in my life with pretty good health."

wich. We had a lot of plum and cherry trees and we canned a lot of vegetables, beef and pork.

"Walking to school in four buckle overshoes, our socks would get wet

when the snow was deep and we'd all hang them to dry by the stove at school."

Falling in the strawpile

One memory that stands out was during harvest/threshing time. While the threshers were in the house having dinner, Hazel and her sister Anna decided it was a good time to play in the straw pile. She fell down deep in between the two main piles. "Good thing my sister Anna was hollering loudly - the hired man came and pulled me out. I could have easily suffocated. I think I was about five or six and Anna was a couple years older. We had a lot of fun together," said Ness. "We worked a lot, too, in the garden, in the kitchen, doing chicken and hog chores, bringing in wood and coal and picking corn cobs out of the pens also to burn for heat."

Picking out flour bags at the store made out of material that matched enabled one enough material to make a dress. "You had to have a new dress for a special dance you know," chuckled Ness. "I remember in the late 20's, we'd put an old curling iron in the top part of the old kerosene lamps chimney to heat them up to curl your hair. You'd have to let it cool a little first though, so it wasn't too hot. About then permanents were coming out, too. I had one in high school before I was married."

Ness

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Government Day in Clark is all about democracy at the grassroots level

Seniors from Clark and Willow Lake high schools participated in the annual Clark County Government Day, Monday, May 11.

Held at the Clark County Courthouse, some of the Clark and Willow Lake High School seniors are shown with Clark County Auditor Chris Tarbox as she explains the duties of her office. Bill Luke was one of the many Legion members who assisted with visiting the various offices in the courthouse.

Students visited all the various Clark County government offices after hearing the circuit court cases on Monday's docket.

Lunch was served to the students and the courthouse employees at the Clark American Legion Hall by the Legion Auxiliary.

All Clark County Legion posts aid in making Government Day a success.