

## Brenda Jenkins retires after 33 years in the classroom



Brenda Jenkins was honored last Thursday at a retirement party at Clark High School. A CHS graduate, she's been teaching for the past 33 years, with 31 of those years at her alma mater. Teaching math, computer classes, coaching volleyball, basketball, track and a cheer coach, she has been the school's go-to for computer/technology issues the last 15 years as the technology director. Starting a new chapter in her life, she will be assisting at the Furness Funeral Home as a part of her future retirement plans.

"I really enjoyed my own school years at Clark High School and I wanted to come back," were the sentiments of CHS computer/technology coordinator Brenda Jenkins, who is retiring from teaching.

Jenkins will be retiring this May, having worked the last 31 years at Clark High School. She is a 1979 CHS graduate.

After her graduation from Northern State University in 1983 with a BS in education majoring in math (minor in coaching), her first job was being the technology director in Leola for two years.

From there, she was hired at the Clark School to be the junior high math teacher, followed by the high school math teacher.

"I taught some computer classes too and was then given the choice of teaching math or computers full time. I thought to myself, what would the students enjoy more? I chose technology and from there

**Jenkins**  
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## Thirteen Henry High School seniors will graduate May 21



**Jennifer Jensen**  
The 2016 Henry High School Graduation exercises are slated for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at the Henry High School gym.

Steve Zirbel, Henry School Superintendent will present the Class of 2016. The diplomas will be presented by Principal Philip Schonebaum and Henry Board of Education president Neil Jensen.

The valedictorian for the class of 2016 is Jennifer Jensen and the salutatorian is Ivan Redinger and they will give their addresses. The commencement speaker will be Shana Vander Grift.

A class video will be presented by Jennifer Jensen.

Music will be provided by the

**Henry High School**  
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## Clark School Board will have an election

▲ No election needed at Willow Lake

Two individuals, incumbent Robert Steffen and challenger Jason Steen are running for the three-year Clark School Board position. The election will be held Tuesday, June 21, 2016. Filed petitions were due last Friday.

At Willow Lake no election will be necessary. Two positions are available and two petitions were filed. Incumbent Julayne Thoreson and Rory Burke are the two who filed and will have three-year terms, beginning in July. Incumbent Cory Bratland chose not to take out a petition.

## Two Wheat Walks featured in Clark County next Wednesday

Clark County will be featuring two crop tours next Wednesday, May 25. The SDSU Extension Wheat Walks will be hosted by Laird Larson on the east end of the county and Jim Kopriva in the middle of Clark County.

Field Specialist David Karki will be in attendance to lead the tour and answer any questions a producer may have.

Through grant funding from the South Dakota Wheat Commission there will be no charge to attend any of the Wheat Walk locations. Those attending will receive several Extension publications. Refreshments will be provided.

The east side Wheat Walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. Directions to this field are: On Hwy 212 driving east from Clark, turn north (left) on

**Wheat Walks**  
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WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
May 10 .....	69	50	.13	
May 11 .....	62	42	0	
May 12 .....	57	41	0	
May 13 .....	42	27	.13	
May 14 .....	53	28	0	
May 15 .....	63	34	0	
May 16 .....	66	40	0	
2016 precipitation to date	4.84			
2015 precipitation to date	4.60			



## Twenty-nine seniors say good-bye to Clark High School on Saturday

Another school year has come to an end and Clark High School Commencement, 2016, was held Saturday in the school gymnasium.

Graduating seniors, valedictorian Angela Young and salutatorian Allyson Monson spoke to their fellow graduates and those in attendance, recalling many of the humorous and memorable times. Ironically, they both quoted Dr. Seuss in their speeches.

As the graduates entered the gym, the Courier camera caught these cousins, Bailey Miles and Dylan Miles. These two, from Conde, traveled many miles to and from school and activities, but both really added to the C.H.S. Class of 2016.

## Cindy Warkenthien will miss the happy smiling faces of first graders

"Mrs. Warkenthien is going to 'expire' in May," said one of her first grade students.

Actually, Mrs. Cindy Warkenthien is going to 'retire' in May from 27 years of teaching at Willow Lake and the above comment from the young and innocent first grader(s) she's coached over the years are among the things she will miss the most.

"I'm going to miss those happy smiling faces that would greet me every morning and all of the hugs I have received over the years.

It was always so rewarding to see how happy they were, when they learned to read on their own. They just love it when they find they can read every book in our room. They also love to buddy-read which is to read with a classmate," stated Mrs. Warkenthien.

She started teaching first grade at the Willow Lake School in 1989, after teaching fifth grade one year at Iroquois. "I was so excited when the job at Willow Lake came open," said the 1969 WLHS graduate.

It was her Willow Lake School third grade teacher, Miss. Coralynn Olson who later became Mrs. Fleeger who inspired Warkenthien to want to become a teacher.

"I wanted to be like her. She was so kind and loving yet she made us learn.

"I wanted to make people learn I decided. A college advisor told us to be a teacher first and a friend second, but also to have fun."

"Why do you smile all the time?" she's been asked by students and



Mrs. Cindy Warkenthien will retire from teaching first grade at the Willow Lake School at the end of the year. She's been a teacher for the last 27 years at Willow Lake with one year before that spent at Iroquois. For seven years she also taught elementary music.

A red maple tree was planted on the grounds at Willow Lake School in her honor recently for her years of dedication teaching in the school at which she also graduated. Spending more time with her 12 grandchildren and traveling are among her retirement plans for the future.

also one fourth grader said that he will miss her sweet voice singing in the hallway.

"I can make a song out of nothing," explained Warkenthien who also taught elementary music for seven years to the kindergarten through the third grades along with Mr. Ehrke.

When Warkenthien first started

teaching, the first grade students wouldn't start learning to read until November. By the end of the year, they could read a little. Nowadays they are reading books in the first grade with much bigger words than 'See Spot Run' as in days gone by.

**Warkenthien**  
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## Paul Ehrke's final concert is a memorable one

▲ Thirty years of making music at WLHS

Last Thursday night when music teacher Paul Ehrke's favorite go-to song "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter was played at their spring concert, one after another alumni from the audience came and joined the choir. Approximately 30 former students joined in solidarity for one last performance to bid farewell to the music teacher who

for the last 30 years at Willow Lake High School, has worked hard to instill in his students - the love of music.

"This concert was one of my best memories in teaching music. It was a very special night for me," noted Ehrke who will retire at the end of

**Ehrke**  
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