

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Class of 2021  
CONGRATULATIONS  
Graduates

Clark High School  
Graduation on Saturday.  
Mother's Day on Sunday.



Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Vol. 140, No. 45

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Margaret Hill, Watertown, SD



"You know, you have the best boys," is a compliment that Julie McElhone of Clark loves to hear. She also loves being a mom and being active with her four busy sons. Julie and her husband Steve who live near

Clark, are the parents of above, left to right, Schuyler, Ethan, Mason and Julian who are surrounding their mother Julie in front of the cross country awards at the Clark School.

## Steaks will be grilled on Mother's Day

Mother's Day weekend will be a bittersweet one this year for Julie McElhone as on Saturday, May 8 - she has to say goodbye to the years at home for her oldest son, Schuyler McElhone. He will be graduating with the CHS Class of 2021.

The next two years will also have graduations within the family as Ethan and Mason take their turns

leaving the nest followed by Julian two years down the road.

"At home, there's never a quiet moment and I like it that way," states this year's featured mother in honor of the upcoming Mother's Day holiday on May 9.

"I enjoy a busy household and being active with the boys," continues McElhone. "I just love to run

so we'll go on runs or maybe bike rides, play basketball, baseball or football. When they were younger we'd play tag or hide and go seek. I've always liked physical education (PE) and being active outside."

Excelling in running cross country this year had three of her sons

**McElhone**  
(continued on page 2)



Last Thursday was a trip down memory lane as the Willow Lake High School Class of 2021 members who were formerly in Mrs. Marjean Waldow's third grade class gathered together. The event was to open their 'Memory Boxes' that they filled in the third grade in 2012. From left to right clockwise are Allison Kanne-

gieter, Sam Hovde, Chayla Vig, Mrs. Waldow, Shane Wicks, Morgan Burke, Caleb Bratland and Emily Her- vi.

Artwork, school work, stories they wrote and a self portrait of themselves at 100 years old were among the items in everyone's box.

## Memory boxes opened from nine years ago

It was like being in third grade again with Mrs. Marjean Waldow standing at the head of the class last Thursday. Seven seniors from the Class of 2021 gathered together with their former teacher to open their memory boxes that they had made and sealed in her class back

in 2012.

The *Clark County Courier* did a story on Waldow's retirement that year, mentioning all of their activities, boxes included so this is the rest of the story as graduation looms for the former third graders, only numbering eight that year, the

class now has 23 students.

As each box was opened the memories were triggered from the group on the various projects they did together. Remembering 'Jimmy' and 'Shimmy', the pet garter snakes

**Memory boxes**  
(continued on page 13)

## Brooks sentenced to State penitentiary

Clinton Brooks, age 42, of Clark, South Dakota, appeared before Circuit Judge Carmen Means in Clark County Circuit Court on Monday, May 3, 2021, for sentencing in connection with his earlier plea of guilty to one count of Distribution of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine).

According to Clark County State's Attorney Chad Fjelland, Judge Means sentenced Brooks to an 8 year term in the state penitentiary with 3 years of the penitentiary sentence suspended. In addition, Brooks was sentenced to an additional 5 years in the state penitentiary with 2 1/2 years suspended for revocation of an earlier suspended sentence for Ingestion of Methamphetamine.

The charges stem from a June 2020 investigation conducted by the Clark Police Department and South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

Speaking of Brooks' sentence, Fjelland said, "methamphetamine continues to be an extremely destructive force in our community. It impacts our court calendar every single session in ways beyond simple criminality. In large measure, our current system is designed to try to rehabilitate users and those

**Brooks**  
(continued on page 2)

WEATHER				
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
April 27.....	.62	41	0	
April 28.....	.57	39	.03	
April 29.....	.67	41	0	
April 30.....	.69	38	0	
May 1.....	.70	38	0	
May 2.....	.87	57	0	
May 3.....	.73	45	0	
2021 precipitation to date	4.84			
2020 precipitation to date	3.03			

## The book will close on librarian Annette Boehnke's career

"It's amazing how I've come to know every book in here and where it's located," stated longtime Clark School librarian Annette Boehnke.

Spending her mornings at the high school library and afternoons at the elementary library, she will soon be spending her time wherever she desires as she is retiring at the end of this school year.

"You have to be able to find the right book that fits that student. I'll ask what their hobbies are, what they enjoy - maybe even what kind of movies they like, to get an idea of what they may like.

"They will enjoy reading if it's something they are interested in," continued Boehnke. "Over the years, I've tried to promote a life long love of reading to the students.

"I will miss the kids the most and those hugs from the little kids. I've enjoyed working with them all of these years."

Boehnke went on to say that it helps to be very organized in doing the work of a librarian. Since 2004, she has been the sole librarian for both schools, a job that was former-

## May is the month when city councils begin anew

▲ Andrew Zemlicka elected president, Derrick Dohmann vice president

May is the month when city councils begin anew and as Mayor Kerry Kline started the oath of office process, she announced that as far as age seniority at the table, she was the winner and she told everyone that that is a good thing as younger people are 'stepping up' and being involved.

Oaths of office were given to council members Andrew Zemlicka, Derrick Dohmann, Brandon Kottke, who was appointed to a one-year term in Ward I, Shane Hagstrom and Melissa Nesheim.

Zemlicka, in a unanimous vote was elected president of the city council and Dohmann was elected vice president. Zemlicka had been vice president for several years as Dennis Larson had been the council

president, but chose not to run for re-election.

### Mayoral appointments

The city council then approved Mayor Kerry Kline's 2021 appointments.

The appointments include: Streets, alleys, sidewalks - Andrew Zemlicka; American Disabilities Act - Nick Dalton; Pool - Melissa Nesheim; Rubble Site - Nick Dalton; City Parks - Brandon Kottke; Water & Sewer - Andrew Zemlicka; Fire Dept. - Shane Hagstrom; Zoning Officer - Shane Hagstrom; Finance Office - Derrick Dohmann; Liquor Officer - Derrick Dohmann; Med Van - Brandon Kottke; Recreation Director, Softball and Baseball Complex - Melissa Nesheim; Farm Land Lease - Andrew Zemlicka;

Government Buildings - Nick Dalton; Golf Course/Clubhouse - Derrick Dohmann and Kerry Kline; Code Official - Alaina Wellnitz; City Attorney - Chad Fjelland; Health Officer - Louann Streff; Police Chief - Jeremy Wellnitz; Emergency Management - Jeremy Wellnitz; Hispanic Liaison - Michael Sanchez.

Library Board (3 year term): Patty Rosenau - 2024; Mona Marshall - 2024; Chris Jenkins - 2023; Brenda Jenkins - 2023; Melissa Nesheim - 2024; Barb Pollock, president - 2023.

Park Board: Rae Jean Flora, Deb Schlager, Alaina Wellnitz.

Clark Housing & Redevelopment Board (5 year term): Sandy Altfil-

**City council**  
(continued on page 2)

## Twenty seniors to graduate Saturday at Clark High School



Ericka Dale

Jordan Dessie

Hudson Fuller

Jenna Gaddis



Charity Kabwe

Sadie Streff

Evan Stromsness

Sarah Weisbrod

Twenty seniors will bid adieu to Clark High School on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. during the commencement exercises in the school auditorium.

The members of the Clark High School Class of 2021 chose Sarah Weisbrod and Hudson Fuller to give the graduation address and superintendent Luanne Warren will introduce them.

Tabitha Schmidt will direct the Clark High School band as they play the processional and recessional. A picture presentation will be given by the senior class.

Scholarship advisor, Mrs. Tammy Paulson will recognize the eight honor students. Junior pilots Macy Steen, Teagan Ortberg, Chad Kolden and Tyler O'Neill will lead the processional.

The graduates will receive their diplomas from school board president Robert Steffen. High school principal Travis Ahrens will present the Clark High School Class of 2021.

The members of the CHS Class of 2021 are Darron Adolphsen, Ericka Dale, Jordan Dessie, Brandi Foster, Hudson Fuller, Jenna Gaddis, Charity Kabwe, Connor Lyke, Kalab Marx, Schuyler McElhone, Tristin Meyer, Andrew Myrvold, Lydia Reidburn, Clinton Rutledge, Amy Splinter, Sadie Streff, Evan Stromsness, Jessica Temple, Sarah Weisbrod and JaVonte Zachary.

Honor students are Hudson Fuller, Sarah Weisbrod, Sadie Streff, Charity Kabwe, Jenna Gaddis, Jordan Dessie, Ericka Dale and Evan Stromsness.

The Class of 2021 has selected lilac and silver as their class colors. The class flower is a button mum. Their class motto is "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe."

### Baccalaureate

A Baccalaureate exercises ceremony will be held tonight (Wednesday) at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Jonathan Gossett will have a special message for the 2021 graduates. Ericka Dale and Kalab Marx will read scripture. Sadie Streff will give the opening prayer and Sarah Weisbrod the closing prayer.

**Graduation**  
(continued on page 4)



For the last 21 years, Annette Boehnke has been one's go-to in the Clark High School and Clark Elementary School libraries. Starting as a Title aide at the school, then as a library aide, she became the sole librarian in 2004.

**Boehnke**  
(continued on page 11)