

Dollar General in Clark is under new management

By Carolyn Olson

Dollar General in Clark has a new store manager. Stefanie Oleson started working at Dollar General on April 4. The previous store manager left the position due to medical reasons, leaving the store in need of a new manager.

Oleson moved to Clark from Watertown in 2021. She is the mom to four-year-old Rhykker Alyn and Madyson Oleson, 22.

Oleson was in need of a job that was more convenient and closer to home, as the commute to Watertown daily was a lot of added stress. She got hired right away at Dollar General in Clark and was grateful to be offered the store manager position.

She has faced a few challenges since she started. "It's not only been a catch-up, but it has also been a learning experience trying to figure everything out and get things under control," stated Oleson.

There have been three new hires in the last month-in-a-half, and they are still currently hiring. "We lowered the minimum hiring age back down to 16



Stefanie Oleson is the new store manager at Dollar General in Clark. Photo by Carolyn Olson

years old," she explained. "It has been a steady roller coaster of smoothness mixed with a few complications," Oleson said with a giggle.

Oleson's goal is to have the store 'turned around' by the end of this summer. That includes having all the aisles front and back shoppable and have all the new product out on the floor. "I'm hoping to also have a strong group of workers who enjoy working and keeping the store open," she stated.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Raymond celebrates 140th anniversary

By Pastor Randy Bader

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Raymond is scheduled to celebrate its 140th anniversary this Sunday, June 9 with a special Celebration Service and anniversary activities. Under the theme of "Living in the Light of Our Lord's Extravagant Love," the Celebration Service is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., with Pastor Jon Hadler of Marathon, Wisconsin (who served at Bethlehem from 1990-1999) serving as the guest preacher and Pastor Randy Bader (current pastor) serving as liturgist. Following the service, a meal will be served at the American Legion Hall in Raymond with a program and time for fellowship and reminiscing following. All are welcome and invited.

In 1884, statehood was still a half decade distant for the state of South

Dakota, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ was being proclaimed far and wide in the Dakota Territory. One of those places was the community of Raymond, where a group of German immigrants gathered together under the shepherding of Pastor Franz Johl to organize Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1884.

Early services were held in the home of Reinhard Nommensen and then in a local schoolhouse and later still in the hall above the Nommensen Hardware Store. Bethlehem's current house of worship was dedicated on March 1, 1908. The bell in the church tower, purchased by the Young Peoples Society in 1909, has rung out an invitation to worship ever since. The facility continues to serve the congregation's needs today.



The Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Raymond will celebrate their 140th year of worship this Sunday, June 9. However, the current site of worship, the church, did not open its doors until March 1, 1908. Before that, services were held at the homes of members, local schoolhouses and even businesses. Shown in the picture above is the interior of the church. At left, the beautiful exterior of the building is showcased. Photos courtesy of Randy Bader



Erin Brush is the owner of BSC Dog Grooming. Brush held an open house on Saturday, June 1 at her new facility located at 227 Pudgy Drive in Clark. In the bottom photo, Brush is pictured completing one of the several services she offers at her business. Photos by Carolyn Olson

BCS Dog Grooming holds grand opening in Clark

By Carolyn Olson

BSC Dog Grooming had an open house Saturday, June 1 at their new facility located at 227 Pudgy Drive in Clark. Owner Erin Brush lived in Arizona with her husband Eric and their dog Charlie when she got her first compliment on how well she groomed her dog. "Our next-door neighbor thought I had done a fantastic job and said maybe that was my calling," she explained.

They moved to Clark in 2014. She started taking their dogs Charlie and Odin to see Christy Zoss of CZ Pet Grooming when she would come to Clark. When CZ Pet Grooming closed, Erin had conversations with Christy and got word from people in the community how inconvenient it was to take their dogs to Watertown for grooming services. "I then remembered what my neighbor had said, and I started shadowing Gerri Gallup of Gallup Pet Parlor in Redfield," Brush said.

She started her business on a part-time basis in July of 2022. Her first clients were some friends' dogs that were gracious enough to trust her with them. From there, word spread, and Cross Country Vet Clinic in Clark was more than happy to let her groom out of their facility.

In June of 2023, Brush made the decision to go full time and began looking for a location. "We caught word that Tony Werdel and Ron Clausen

had purchased the old McCain potato plant, so my husband reached out to Tony, and from there, they thought the building that was previously the scalehouse would be ideal to rent, as there was already water, septic and electricity," Brush shared.

They began to update the inside of the building in January of 2024, and Erin started grooming dogs out of that facility. Tuesday, June 4 was the first day as a full time business. "I never dreamed in a million years that this would take off the way it did!"

While Brush ran her dog grooming business part time, she worked full time at the Clark County Highway Department office from 2016 until May 30, 2024.

Her favorite part of the job is all the dogs. "It's absolutely amazing to see a dog come to you that's nervous and unsure," she stated. "Then, after a few times, they greet you with ears perked up and a wagging tail!"

BSC Dog Grooming services include a dual shampoo and conditioning to the specific needs of the coat type of the dog, a tear-free blueberry facial, ear cleaning, nail trim and anal gland expressing. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and every other Saturday. Evening appointments are available upon request.



On Tuesday, March 12, 2024 the building at 125 First Avenue East in Clark was demolished. The building had become unstable and was no longer safe. Many businesses and individuals once called the building home. In its prime, before it had neighboring buildings on the street, left, it was known as the Ware & Griffin Bank. The S.A. Keenan Law Office was

The building is history; chronicle of Ware & Griffin Bank

By Carolyn Olson

Preparations for the building demolition at 125 1st Avenue East, Clark began on Monday, March 11. It wasn't until Tuesday, March 12 that the building was torn down by Forest Excavating.

The reasoning for the demolition, according to new building owner Jim Zeck, was because they discovered that the foundation and the east wall were not holding up anymore.

The building was built in 1900. According to the Clark County Register of Deeds, the original owners of the building were Stephen A. and Eva Keenan. They operated the S.A. Keenan Law Office until 1908 when they sold the building to George Griffin, of Ware & Griffin Bank. The bank had already been occupying the lower half of the building since 1904 when they first opened.

Griffin partnered with Fred Ware to buy and sell real estate. Griffin lived in Sibley, Iowa where he remained until 1904 when the Ware & Griffin Bank in Clark was ready to open.

After the S.A. Keenan Law Office was closed, the R.A. Dunham Law Office took up residence above the bank. It was operated by Ralph Abner Dunham, Sr. Dunham also owned the Clark Pilot Review newspaper for

three years before selling it in 1914. His son, Ralph Dunham, Jr. was the Attorney General of South Dakota from 1951-1955.

Ware & Griffin Bank was a very successful business even after the death of Ware on September 22, 1907. Ware was on vacation with his wife and three children in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the time of his death. The cause of death was an automobile accident. What caused the accident is unknown. His wife and three children survived the accident.

Ware's partner, Griffin, was found dead on April 2, 1930. It was reported that he committed suicide with a revolver due to the failure of Ware & Griffin Bank as the Great Depression set in. His body was found in the garage at his residence along with a letter to his wife, Nina Brown.

In 1938, the building was sold to Gust Dixon. After Gust's death, his relative, George Dixon owned the building and sold it to Floyd and Mary Monahan in 1976. It is unknown what businesses occupied the building during this period. However, the top portion of the building was being rented out as apartments as soon as 1941.

In 1984, a liquor store managed by Les Solberg, former mayor of Clark, was opened. He rented the space from



above the bank at the time. Later, the building we now know as Heather's Bistro & More, was built. At the time of the right photo, Heather's Bistro was a post office, and the R.A. Dunham Law Office was housed above the Ware & Griffin Bank. The dates of the photos are unknown. Photos submitted by Greg Furness

the Monahan family.

The building and its neighbors were sold in 2002 to Clay Yeoman, who ran Clark County Mercantile, an antique store, at 121 1st Avenue E, Clark. The liquor store remained in the bank building until the fall of 2011.

After purchasing the building, Yeoman discovered old display cases and items he believed were for reloading ammo and repairing guns. He later found out the items were left by the Johnson family who had lived upstairs. They also ran a jewelry store and gun smithing business at one point.

Solberg managed the liquor store until January 5, 2007 when Eric Stevens bought the business. Then, in the fall of 2011, Clark Liquors was sold to Randy Gruenwald and moved into Dakota Butcher.

After the liquor store was moved out, Catch a Falling Star, a home decor store, moved in. Janelle Holzworth owned the business. They were originally on the north side of U.S. HWY 212, but moved because the bank building offered more space for merchandise.

In June of 2014, Yeoman sold the buildings to Heather Johannsen. She operated Heather's Bistro & More, up until her passing in July 2023.

theran Church of Henry (which started in 2023). Many other things have changed, through times of depression and prosperity, abundance and drought, but the constant through it all is the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Savior and the unchanging Word of Truth which He has given to us.

The members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Ladies Aid organization have served our Savior and His people in countless ways over the many decades. Their most recent meeting was their 1001st, in support of the ministries of the Bethlehem congregation.

From the days of horse and buggy travel to our era of interplanetary exploration, the amazing grace of our Savior God has remained the constant we can count on.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
May 28.....	69	50	0.16
May 29.....	66	45	0
May 30.....	75	46	0
May 31.....	72	51	0.35
June 1.....	67	51	0
June 2.....	78	52	0.35
June 3.....	75	54	0.05
2024 precipitation to date			10.17"
2023 precipitation to date			4.64"



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