



Today is Roger Chapin Day in South Dakota!

By proclamation of Gov. Kirsti Noem, today, Wednesday, July 1, 2020, is Roger Chapin Day in South Dakota. 'The Clipper' moved to Clark 40 years ago and earlier in this pandemic, he retired. When asked what he and wife Jeanette will do in retirement, he commented, "Go to the doctor's office."

Most corn is knee-high in the county by the Fourth of July

On the Madsen farmland since 1883 the corn continues to grow tall.

This year Scarlett and Larkyn Madsen, the daughters of Kaley and Heidi Madsen of Carpenter were available to show the county just how tall this year's corn has grown so far. "Knee-high by the Fourth of July" has been surpassed regularly in Clark County over recent decades according to photos annually with the *Clark County Courier* tradition.

A new pet bottle calf on the farm was asked to join in the photo this year and easily went where he was led. The Sim-Angus calf is only a week old. Scarlett thinks 'Bella' is a good name for him and Larkyn thought 'Cookie Bow' was appropriate. "It's 'Bella the Bull' I guess," said their father Kaley with a chuckle.

Kaley manages the cattle part of the large farming operation and farms with family members, Kim and Valerie Madsen, Brock Madsen and uncle Kirk Madsen.

"My girls are the sixth generation on this farm," stated Kaley Madsen. Nels Madsen was the first homesteader in 1883.

The little cowgirls in their sparkly boots were happy to have the calf with them for the photo opportunity and he cooperated nicely last Friday morning.

This 220 acre field is a part of the 3,500 acres that the Madsens have put to corn this year. "We got it in the first week of May this year," stated Madsen. "We've had some nice shots of rain this year so far.

Knee-high
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Knee high and then some - definitely is this year's height in the corn fields of Clark County this Fourth of July. Above, Scarlett Ann and Larkyn Claire are shown with a new pet in Madsen Farms cornfield near Carpenter. 'Bella' or 'Cookie Bow' depending on

which young cowgirl you ask, is a one week old orphaned twin Sim-Angus bottle calf.

Scarlett, five-years-old and three-year-old Larkyn can easily disappear in this tall corn north of Carpenter. They are the children of Kaley and Heidi Madsen.

It's Red, White and Blu at the Linneman house

▲ Rowdy Red was born unexpectedly Jan. 9, at home

"I've delivered a lot of babies, but this is my first human one," stated cattlemaster/farmer Ty Linneman who lives northwest of Clark.

Technically his wife Liza was the trooper who managed childbirth at home when their third child decided it was time to be born a couple weeks early.

"We were a good team that night working together," stated Liza of the birthing experience.

Rowdy was born in the downstairs bathroom as his siblings slept peacefully upstairs. They never did wake up and found out the next morning that they had a new baby brother.

He was born on January 9, 2020 although his due date was January 27. January ninth is also his grandmother Sue Berg's birthday.

Liza's parents are Jim and Susan Berg of South Shore and Ty's parents are Bob and Robin Linneman of Clark. Both Bob Linneman and Susan Berg played a part that snowy evening when Rowdy arrived.

"I kidded my mom in a text earlier that maybe I'd have the baby on her birthday," noted Liza. "She said 'What's that mean?'. Little did we know then, that was Rowdy's plan.

"When I called her that night to come and get the kids, as that was our plan, I told her 'Happy Birthday - Can you come to the house now?'"

Rowdy's birthday

The evening started out as any other with the family all down for the night. Liza later woke up Ty showing him her pregnancy app on her phone that showed contractions lasting about a minute and a half and 2-5 minutes apart.

"I went downstairs and called Prairie Lakes and talked to the OB department," continued Liza. "As I was talking, I had another contraction while on the phone and the nurse said - 'You'd better come



Not only are the Ty and Liza Linneman children dressed in red, white and blue for this holiday edition photo, their middle names also reflect the holiday as they are also, left to right, Red, White and Blu.

Rowdy Red, Trigg White and Stella Blu are all under four years old. Keeping their parents hopping even

young Rowdy was in a hurry at the beginning being born so fast his father Ty ended up being the 'attending physician' at home.

Rowdy Red surprised everyone coming two and a half weeks early during inclement weather in January, 2020 northwest of Clark.

in'. It was 12:30 a.m. and kind of bad out weather-wise. There was a deep drift already by the front step."

With the bad weather and grandma being a little over an hour away in good conditions, Ty tried calling his father, but he didn't answer.

Then he thought who would have their phone on at this time of night, so he called his teen-aged hired

help, the last few years - Matt Streff of Clark. "Turns out, this was the night he had his phone taken away for punishment and didn't have it nearby as high school kids usually do I thought," recalled Ty.

"So I tried Dad again and this time he answered and said I'll be there as soon as I can."

The next call was to 911 dispatch as Ty heard the water break. The

operator realizing the situation helped to guide Ty and asked if he could see the head yet. It was a no. But in the time it took Ty to take the phone from his ear and put it on speaker and set it down, the head was coming out.

"That's when I had an adrenalin

Linneman
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Experts express optimism on future of small towns during virtual town hall discussion

Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Optimism for the future of South Dakota's small towns — and resilience in overcoming obstacles to stability and growth — were the main takeaways from a virtual town hall meeting held June 25 as part of an ongoing South Dakota News Watch series examining the past, present and future of small towns and how they have been affected by COVID-19.

The News Watch series called "Small Towns, Big Challenges" is now online at SDNewsWatch.org. One goal of the project was to spark in-depth conversations about how to keep small towns stable and vibrant. In an effort to kickstart those conversations, News Watch assembled a group of four panelists, each with a unique perspective on small-town vitality, to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing small towns via video conference.

The meeting's four panelists included: Travis Anderberg, owner of the Rexall Drug store in Miller, S.D.; Tawney Brunsch, executive director of Lakota Funds, a community development financial institution on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; Ben Winchester, a rural sociologist with the University of Minnesota Extension Service who studies small towns; and Thomas Worsley, president of Spearfish Hospital and Hills Markets for Monument Health.

The wide ranging, hour-long discussion covered topics such as the challenges facing farmers and ranchers, the lack of housing in rural small towns, ideas for job-creation and economic revitalization, challenges in providing access to health care and services such as high-speed internet. Throughout the discussion, all four panelists

acknowledged that small towns face significant hurdles, but all expressed optimism that solutions to problems can be found and that once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, rural communities will be able to grow and thrive.

"I am very, very positive," Worsley said. "Small communities come together, they get things done, they have a can-do attitude, they have a resolve, they don't rely upon external forces to come in and solve problems for them. They tend to come together and see what's possible rather than what the limitations are so, I share the optimism of the group."

Winchester challenged the notion that small towns were at risk prior to the pandemic. Data from the U.S. Census and other sources show that many of South Dakota's small towns have struggled for generations with slowly declining populations, a lack of economic opportunity and, more recently, sharp drops in the prices of grain and cattle. Health statistics also show that rural residents have higher rates of death from illnesses like cancer, heart disease and accidents than their urban counterparts. Despite

Small towns
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
June 23	72	56	.06
June 24	74	57	0
June 25	82	62	0
June 26	83	65	.45
June 27	83	62	0
June 28	84	68	0
June 29	85	69	0
2020 precipitation to date			9.09
2019 precipitation to date			15.76



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