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The hometown newspaper of Corey & Jill (Bjerke) Worth, Beresford, SD

The sight and sounds of birds are enjoyed

▲ Barb Pollock is proud to be a 'birder'



"Yellow finches are a popular bird to watch," said local 'birder' Barb Pollock of Clark. 'Birder' is a shorter term for bird watchers, and this has been a hobby of Pollock's for about 35 years. "It's addicting once you start watching them," she says with a big smile. "Baltimore Orioles are another colorful bird that we have around here. Orange and black with white markings on their wings, they have unique nest that hangs from a tree branch in a big ball made of woven leaves and grasses."

Birders. That's the shortened version description of bird watchers says local bird enthusiast, Barb Pollock of Clark.

This summer, she's filling her 10 bird feeders with thistle seed, sunflower seed and millet and will occasionally put out peanuts in the shell for her blue jays who visit. "They'll pick them up and go hide them,"

stated Pollock of the blue jays. "I'll find peanut shells in flower pots and trees around the yard. Blue jays mate for life and are here all year long. I had six around last winter but now I'm down to two again. I think the young go off and find their own places to nest."

It was a bird feeder that hooked Pollock into bird watching as she

got one as a gift from her mother-in-law after moving to Clark, 35 years ago. Now she has 16 of them with several being more wintertime feeders.

Pollock is now one of a few in South Dakota who is a bird ambassador reporting to the World Wide Bird Count through the National Audubon society which has teamed up with the Cornell University of Ornithology. She advises if one went to gbcb which stands for Great Backyard Bird Count, from there they could link to their site. One could look up different birds and when clicking on the small microphone, could hear what their songs sound like. The Northern Mockingbird is an exception. He does not have his own sound, he constantly 'mocks' or imitates the sounds of other birds. Birdweb.org is another site that will soon be adding the sounds of birds to listen to for identification.

Pollock enjoys the sound of a cardinal, which she enjoys hearing in larger bunches at her daughter Chris' home in Peoria, Ill. "Once you hear it, you'll know it as no other bird sounds like them. I hear the Northern Cardinals in the southeast corner of Clark singing. They are a pretty red color if they are a

Birds

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Sunshine and warmth needed for row crops

▲ July has been awfully dry

"On the farm front, things look pretty good," stated Mark Rosenberg, SDSU Extension Agronomy/Weeds field specialist out of the Aberdeen office.

"The corn crop is progressing nicely. Tasseling will develop shortly if not already in some areas of the county. The hot weather coming out will push that along. Corn gets one chance to pollinate and hopefully with weather that's decent, we'll be right on schedule. The cooler weather recently may have slowed things down a little," he reported.

Soybeans

The beans look good continued Rosenberg. "We've seen some blossoming but would like to see the plants a little taller before flowering. Around the first of August is a critical time for soybeans, if we have hot weather along with no rain. The flowers need sun and heat but they also need the rain.

Some fields are lagging behind in growth a little."

Wheat

The field specialist noted that the wheat looks promising. "It's been a light year for insect problems due to the conditions and environment this year. The big thing is if scab has developed. We've had some scattered reports of scab showing up in the grain heads, producers need to be looking for that. But nothing significant with disease problems and with insects - nothing major. We've had pretty adequate moisture this growing season so a good spring wheat crop is in the forecast."

Hay

"The hay crop has really benefited from all our moisture and the cooler weather," Rosenberg said. "The first cutting was above average I suspect in quality and most of our second cutting looks good, too. This is going to be a good year for

forage," said Rosenberg.

"Right now everything's on target. Weed control is always a concern and some are looking at doing some spraying.

"We need sunshine and warmth to get the crops moving," ended Rosenberg. "Our forecast sounds like it will be just what we need."

WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
July 15	68	47	0	
July 16	72	50	0	
July 17	74	57	0	
July 18	73	59	0	
July 19	77	60	0	
July 20	81	66	0	
July 21	84	64	0	
2014 precipitation to date	10.82"			
2013 precipitation to date	15.58"			

Clark School budget is \$4,409,594

Two-thirds of the Clark School administration team is in transition, but the school's 2014-2015 budget, is not. The 2014-2015 Clark School Budget will not be finalized until the September board meeting, but this budget has been in the works the past six months.

Outgoing superintendent Brian Heupel and outgoing business manager Heidi Sigdestad are the main authors of the 2014-2015 Clark school budget and Sigdestad detailed the budget documents to the Clark School Board members at the July budget hearing.

Sigdestad stated during the budget hearing that the budget would need to be approved, at the latest, during the Sept. meeting.

Incoming Clark superintendent Luanne Warren and new business manager Mary Nelson have the task of carrying out this budget.

"The budget was pretty set before I took over," Warren reiterated. "Some 'wants' were trimmed and I think our biggest project is going to be the high school tuck pointing. We need some exterior concrete work done at both the elementary and the high school and we are sloping the basketball court at the elementary, taking away the sharp edges," said the new superintendent. "Also, the CHS juniors and seniors will be getting new computers this fall, as many students take AP classes and we were in need of

2014-2015 Budget in comparison to previous years

	General Fund	Capital Outlay	Special Ed
2014-15	\$2,665,410	\$585,450	\$565,995
2013-14	\$2,597,446	\$514,106	\$531,374
2012-13	\$2,447,258	\$415,160	\$443,370
2011-12	\$2,330,235	\$248,584	\$282,855
2010-11	\$2,536,580	\$434,830	\$282,169
2009-10	\$2,578,280	\$261,508	\$359,216

a computer upgrade for these classes," said Warren.

As the new superintendent was talking budget, she had the fact that every position, certified, classified and coaching in the district has been filled. "We are very fortunate in that regard as we know how bad some school districts are struggling to fill personnel."

Back to the budget, Warren noted that if the school district had not opted out over a year ago, that the Clark School District would be \$68,000 in the red.

"With the (\$300,000) opt out, our financial numbers should be strong and it's a good problem to have seeing our school enrollment numbers starting to be back on the increase after so many years of a downward spiral," she said.

The 'problem' would be that with more students, more teachers would be needed. The district did hire two new teachers more than a year ago and with 34 pre-schoolers for 2014-2015, more staff may be needed in

that area.

When asked about her role in carrying out the budget, Warren responded, "It's paramount to be fiscally responsible. That's a very important aspect of the superintendent's job."

She was then asked what she's been doing this summer to get ready for school, which is only a month away. "Cleaning! We've been doing a whole lot of cleaning," she replied.

"My door is always open and I'm really looking out for all patrons of the district. As I make decisions I truly ask myself, 'What is the best for all patrons?'"

The Clark School budget, in all six categories, is projected to be \$4,409,594, up from \$4,276,185 a year ago.

The current Clark School fund balance is \$358,460. Schools are urged to have a 15 percent fund balance (cash reserve) needed for cash flow purposes to avoid borrowing during periods of low cash balance. This amount is right at 14 percent



Changing of the Guard. If the reporter would have known that Robert Steffen was to be elected the chairman of the Clark School Board, he probably wouldn't have taken a picture with him (Steffen), the only person not pictured.

New business manager Mary Nelson gives the three new school board members the oath of office

with new school superintendent Luanne Warren to the right.

Left to right on the Clark School Board are Shannon Huber, elected to three-year term; Steffen; Todd Fjelland, elected to a three-year term; Trudi Gaikowski and Amy Sass, elected to a one-year term.

Steffen is elected chairman of the Clark School Board

▲ Amy Sass elected vice president

The 2014-15 Clark School Board has a new look, with two new administrators and a new board member. Superintendent Luanne Warren and business manager Mary Nelson are both beginning their first years in their new positions and Shannon Huber is the new board member. Todd Fjelland and Amy Sass also both won election to the board last month.

Bob Steffen was elected president of the Clark School Board on a unanimous ballot and Sass was elected vice president, also on a unanimous ballot.

Committees

School board committees include: Negotiations - Todd Fjelland and Robert Steffen; Policy - Amy Sass and Shannon Huber; Buildings and grounds - Trudi Gaikowski and Todd Fjelland; Technology - Amy Sass and Shannon Huber; Athletic Co-op - Robert Steffen and Todd Fjelland; Transportation - Trudi Gaikowski and Amy Sass. Robert Steffen is the board member designated as the voting member of the ASBSD; NESC Co-operatives: Trudi Gaikowski as board representative with Shannon Huber and Amy

Sass as alternates.

Budget Hearing

Outgoing business manager Heidi Sigdestad led the budget hearing and this budget is primarily Sigdestad's and out-going superintendent Brian Heupel's work.

One of Sigdestad's talents was to provide financial information in a very forthright way, with easy to understand numbers, charts and graphs.

The budget story appears elsewhere in this edition. This budget needs final approval by the board at the September meeting.

Track project

Bob Bjerke, representing the Track and Field improvement committee visited with the board about the track project.

The discussion lasted almost an hour and a half, with funding being the main topic of the track project at this time.

As the discussion ensued, the main contention was whether or not the track committee/group had raised enough money for the school board to go through with the \$100,000 committed in next year's

budget for this project.

Bjerke asked the board as to where they were at with the money, as he was interested in getting the track rubberized late this summer or early this fall.

The rubberized track cost will be approximately (a little less than) \$100,000, so with the school board commitment of \$100,000, this could become a reality.

The board voted two to three to go forward with this money commitment, so this motion failed. Gaikowski and Sass voted in favor. The three against this motion, Huber, Fjelland and Steffen wanted to see more donated dollars from the track project committee.

"I'm not against this project," said Fjelland, "I just don't understand why you waited so long to raise money. My biggest concern is that we get half way through this track and field project and we run out of money."

Bjerke explained what has been done to this point and what remains to be done.

Clark School Board (continued on page 3)

The Clark County 4-H Achievement Days are right around the corner



The Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Vienna will be running the lunch stand this year. The chicken barbecue, served by the 4-H Leaders will be Thursday, August 7 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The program featuring the style show and exhibit showcase will follow the barbecue at 7:15 p.m.

The static exhibits will be judged from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5. Interview judging will also be done at that time and all static exhibits must be entered by 5:30 p.m. This change was made six years ago so the public is able to view the exhibits without judging interruptions. The 4-H exhibits will be open to the public at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 6 and the lunch stand will also be open. Livestock exhibits will be entered from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday.

The livestock shows begin on Wednesday, August 6 with the rabbit/poultry show at 3:00 p.m. Ag Olympics and ice cream will start at 7:00 p.m.

Early Thursday morning, August 7 at 9:00 a.m. is the swine show with the goat show scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. The sheep show is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and the beef show will be at 1:00 p.m.

for a cash balance currently.

As mentioned, things are quite positive going into the 2014-15 school year regarding state funding and student numbers.

State funding increased by 3.35 percent per student. In the funding formula Clark will receive \$4,781.14 per student in 2014-15, up over \$150 per student from a year ago.

"Now with a more steady enrollment, along with the opt-out and the increase in state aid funding, we are definitely on more stable ground," said Warren.

In the capital outlay account, the levies are being lowered because of an increase in valuation by 20 percent. Capital outlay levies are going from \$1.25 per thousand to \$1.20.

Special education levies are going from the current \$1.00 per thousand to \$1.15.

Warren continued along the lines of how the district and the board are being very frugal, but at the same time doing what needs to be done.

"We have a rich school district as far as valuation. Many schools are paying the maximum of \$4.78 per thousand (total) for the capital outlay special education and pension funds. We are at \$2.45 per thousand and we feel very good about our school's finances going forward."