

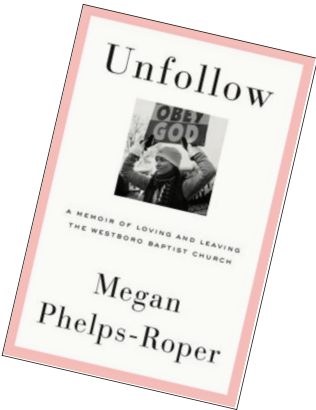


## Megan Phelps-Roper to release new book in October

"I think they're good people who have been trapped by bad ideas," writes Clark resident Megan Phelps-Roper of her family members who are still part of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan.

Phelps-Roper is excited about her first book being released in under five weeks. The memoir telling of her journey in life so far will be published on October 8, 2019.

In a way, much of the story can be found in the book's title - *Unfollow: A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church* - which references how social media helped change her world. After a lifetime of indoctrination by her family members - including her grandfather Fred Phelps, the minister who established the church in 1955 - Phelps-Roper left the church with her younger sister in 2012. Westboro's loss turned out to be Clark's gain in December 2013.



To support the book, Phelps-Roper will go on a tour of 20 U.S. cities, as well as another week-long book tour in the U.K. The tour launches on October 4 at the South Dakota Festival of Books in Deadwood - coincidentally, where the events of Chapter 8 of *Unfollow* take place. She will also be at DDR Books in Watertown on November 6.

The book is currently available for preorder at the Clark Flower & Clark's gain in December 2013.

**Unfollow**  
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## Ericka Dale chosen for National FFA Band

Ericka Dale, a Clark High School junior recently received the exciting news she was chosen to play her clarinet in the National FFA Band this coming fall.

Dale, Clark FFA's Vice President, decided early last spring, this year she should audition to play in the National Band. To do this she had to fill out an application and work with her band teacher, Mrs. Bartels, to perfect her audition video. When asked why she wanted to audition Ericka said, "Three years ago I was watching the National FFA Convention on TV and when I saw the band playing, right then I decided someday I wanted to be sitting on the stage in one of those seats."

Thousands of members all over the nation apply to play at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana and very few receive the news they made it. Dale will leave October 25 and come back November 3.

Dale says she is most excited to meet people from all over the United States and to gain the experience, but she is also nervous about having to learn new music and per-



**Ericka Dale**

form it in two days. "Clark FFA is so proud and excited to have Ericka represent our chapter and state at the 92nd National FFA Convention," said Clark School FFA adviser Ms. Boomgaarden.

## It's Labor Day weekend and crops are looking good...for June

As producers head to the State Fair this week, it will be very interesting to hear what conversations will be out there between the farmers. Big questions are out there regarding the weather, commodity prices, global tariffs and the like, making this a summer to remember...or maybe forget.

South Dakota State University Extension Agronomy Field Specialist David Karki was at Dakota Fest last week, but could only be there one day, rather than three days as scheduled, because of wheat and oats harvest. Wet ground has played havoc with small grain harvest this year, he said and then he talked crops, from his vantage point.

"For the most part the winter wheat harvest has wrapped up and it looked really good, with decent yields, leaning toward very good," said Karki. The spring wheat is around 50 percent harvested and it also looks pretty good, noted Karki. "The row crops problem is that heat units are needed," said the agronomist and he stressed that highs during the day in the 60's and 50's at night slows the growth of the respective row crops.

"Corn ears are a big question as the corn is in the milk stage and it is a nice looking crop, but especially the delayed planting corn, will they make a crop?" he questioned.

Karki then talked about the excessively wet spring, noting that

there was only a one or two day window in which to plant.

"With all the variables out there, both with the livestock and the crops, it is very stressful," said Karki.

"Lots of things bring about a guessing game right now and I'm fielding many questions about cover crops for open fields that weren't planted. What should be planted? If it is winter wheat, now is the time to be doing that. Farming is a guessing game," said Karki and then he compared this year, at this time, to a year ago.

"Last year, we couldn't harvest when the crop was ready because of the dew and wet conditions, much like the weather has been lately. Traditionally, the first frost around here is in early October. We really need heat units to get the crop to mature."

**Crops**  
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WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 20.....	83	59	0
Aug. 21.....	83	59	0
Aug. 22.....	75	56	0
Aug. 23.....	76	56	0
Aug. 24.....	77	57	0
Aug. 25.....	77	61	0
Aug. 26.....	69	62	.18
2019 precipitation to date	26.78		
2018 precipitation to date	12.79		



Last Thursday, a full-scale exercise of an active shooter took place at the Willow Lake School.

The Willow Lake School does not open until next Tuesday, Sept. 3, the day after Labor Day. This event was held in conjunction with the teachers being in the school, in their own rooms, during the inservice. ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), was held in

Willow Lake last week on Tuesday.

The shooter, Aaron Hemmingson, has already been fired upon in this mock-drama, by Clark Deputy Sheriff Tad Heaton, in the Willow Lake auditorium. Clark Police Chief Jeremy Wellnitz is to the right and Clark County Deputy Sheriff Michael Gravning is on the left. Hemmingson went on a rampage at the school.

## Shooter rampages Willow Lake School

▲ Willow Lake School participates in active shooter exercise

An active (simulated) shooter entered the Willow Lake School a little after 9:00 a.m. last Thursday morning.

"Communication is always key, a top priority in an exercise of this vital safety importance. I'm thankful it was just a drill and it gave us a chance to evaluate how we would respond to an emergency," said Willow Lake Police Chief Melissa Terhark of the mock active shooter drill. "I think it was a great learning opportunity all the way around, both from an education standpoint and from the law enforcement side."

Terhark played a dual role in this exercise, as she is both a school employee and the Willow Lake police officer. She then reiterated how important communication is from law enforcement response, response of the school staff as well as First Responders.

Because of the national multiple

mass shootings that keep reoccurring, wherever groups of people are gathered, schools included, Terhark felt the timing was right to simulate an event with an active shooter to help staff and law enforcement better prepare for a situation such as this.

Plus, on Tuesday of last week an ALICE training was held for the Willow Lake School staff and this was a great opportunity to involve the entire school/law enforcement/fire department/EMT communities in a real-life mock live shooter event.

"All responders did well," added Clark County Deputy Sheriff/Clark County Emergency Management Director Michael Gravning and he plugged the ALICE training held two days prior, to talk the ALICE process - Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. The Hamlin County EMT, Dave Schaefer, cri-

tiqued this event as Gravning was involved on the law enforcement side.

Terhark explained, "In an active shooter situation one has to run, or hide, or fight. You need to follow your best decision. Thursday's drill allowed us to check and evaluate all systems within the school structure."

Aaron Hemmingson was the simulated shooter and as he entered the school, he first went to the elementary wing and fired off two rounds. The shots sounded very loudly. He then went to the middle school and did the same and then to the cafeteria, shooting off multiple shots as he went.

These live rounds (blanks) simulated a realistic gun shot, echoing throughout the entire school.

It was in the gym where Hemmingson was waiting for the officers. After he was secured, medics

came in to access the injured.

Everyone treated this like a real-life situation, as no one knew where the shooter was and where he was headed, but reacted accordingly.

Afterward the entire school was searched, victims were escorted out by law enforcement and the critiquing process began, checking to make sure everything that could be done, was done properly.

Terhark spearheaded the exercise and represented the Willow Lake police department. Also involved were the Clark Police Department, the Clark County Sheriff's Office, the Clark Ambulance and Willow Lake Ambulance, Willow Lake Fire Department, the school staff and several community members.

**Shooter**  
(more pictures on page 2)



## Clark School Class of 2032 starts kindergarten

Wednesday, August 21 marked the first day of school classes, at Clark, for the 2019-20 term.

Getting a hug from her teacher is Railyne Jordan, left, alongside Mrs. Ashley Dandurand, who also is pictured on her first day as a certified instructor with the Clark School system. Tash and Ashley Jordan are Railyne's parents.



At right, Hunter Marx, the son of Jimmy and Trisha Marx is pictured with his mom.

This year 30 new kindergarten students begin their school careers in Clark, 15 in Mrs. Stephanie Hagstrom's class and 15 in Mrs. Ashley Dandurand's class.