

Senior Features of 2014

## Almost Gladys Irene, Finstad is proud to live in 'God's Country'



Carol (Hilmoe) Finstad of Bradley likes to keep busy. A hard working farm wife, who farmed and raised cattle (and four children) along with her husband Dave Finstad, she grew up and has lived near Bradley for most of her life.

Finstad is shown sitting in a swing her father made along with a stone wishing well in a garden she's constructed that she calls 'Dad's garden', as it has several handmade projects of his. A chip off the ole' block, Finstad also enjoys projects with woodworking among her many talents.

"I don't feel like a senior. I've always said maybe if I work hard enough and go fast enough, I won't get old," says Carol Finstad of Bradley.

Carol Irene Hilmoe was born on June 22, 1943 in the Bradley Hospital. She remembers hearing how on the night she was born, her father Roy Hilmoe drove over a flooded road to get his wife Margaret (Warwick) Hilmoe to town to deliver. Thinking it would take a while, he went home to do some chores and when he came back, young, curly haired Carol Irene was born and her name already filled out on the birth certificate.

"Good thing too, cause Dad wanted to name me Gladys Irene," laughs Carol. "I wonder if Mom planned it that way. She wanted to name me Carol."

Carol joined one brother, four year old Dick Hilmoe at home. The family lived four miles west and three miles north of Bradley on a diversified farm. They raised cattle, milked cows, had sheep and pigs and farm dogs usually named 'Rex'. "Mom helped Dad with everything on the farm and loved being outside. She always had lots of flowers and a big garden. She was known for her homemade chocolate cakes with white, sticky frosting that she made for family birthdays and with a lot of family in the area, there were always get-togethers for birthdays and holidays. Roy Hilmoe loved carpentry work and although a farmer while raising his family, when he retired, he did a lot more carpentry projects. Right before they retired, they both hauled in 10,000 small, round bales one summer.

### Grandparents

Ole and Johanna (Brende) Warwick came from Norway with Ole coming first in 1902 and Johanna coming later when seven months pregnant on

### Finstad

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## Students' time on the school bus affected by district boundaries, open enrollment

A story by  
**Dakotafire**  
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Look around in Bristol, S.D., on a school morning and you might spot three school buses with three different district names on their sides, all in town at the same time. The kids on those buses ride for quite a while before they start their school day.

When the Bristol school closed in 2005, the district officially became part of Groton Area, but students could choose which of the surrounding districts they wished to attend. Some students in the former Bristol district go to Langford Area or Webster Area instead, according to Monte Nipp, Langford Area superintendent.

As part of open enrollment agreements, the nonresident school district often agrees to provide

transportation (though this isn't mandatory—the responsibility for transporting open-enrolled students is the parents', according to the 1997 law that established open enrollment in South Dakota. In North Dakota, the Century Code states transportation may be provided by either the resident district or the admitting district).

Nipp says that student and family choice through open enrollment has affected the length of bus routes even more than the reorganizations did.

"Back in the '70s and early '80s the routes were probably as long or longer because there were more kids. The biggest change is that we didn't use to drive buses into other school districts," Nipp said. "You go where the kids are. That's the sign of the times. We wouldn't be going to all these other places if not for open enrollment."

These long distances can lead to long bus rides for some children, which can have a significant effect on the rest of a child's day. Superintendents in the Dakotas say they do their best to keep the bus routes as short as possible, but open enrollment and school district reorganizations can make this challenging.

### One hour is the goal

Many of the superintendents reach for this goal: Kids should be on the bus for no longer than one hour each way. Not all routes achieve it.

"We try to keep the routes to no more than an hour, but they sometimes do get a little longer," said Brian Jandahl, superintendent at Elkton (S.D.) Public School. "7:00 or 7:06 is about as early as we want to be picking up, and they're being dropped off here at the school around 8:05 or 8:15, and that allows them time to eat breakfast if they've signed up for it. School starts at 8:30."

Britton-Hecla (S.D.) school buses drive a total of about 600 miles a day, according to Dan Yelkin, Britton-Hecla bus manager.

"(The) longest ride time on the bus is 70 minutes," Yelkin said. "One route picks up its first kids at 6:50, and another starts at 6:55 a.m."

All buses arrive at Britton-Hecla at 8 a.m., which allows time for breakfast.

The earliest bus headed toward the Deuel (S.D.) School District picks up its first rider at 6:50 a.m., but most start pickups at 7 a.m., according to Dean Christensen,

Deuel's superintendent. "Our goal is that the longest rider would not be on the bus for more than an hour."

School bus pickups start at 7 a.m. in the Clark (S.D.) district, and at 7:10 a.m. for LaMoure (N.D.) students, according to their principals.

"We don't have as many bus students as we did 10 years ago," said Luanne Warren, Clark superintendent, "but our district boundaries seem to grow. Many of our buses go farther distances to pick up students."

### School bus (continued on page 7)

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Sept. 9.....	61	46	tr
Sept. 10.....	48	41	.18
Sept. 11.....	50	40	0
Sept. 12.....	51	32	0
Sept. 13.....	61	38	0
Sept. 14.....	55	38	tr
Sept. 15.....	58	37	0
2014 precipitation to date	14.32"		
2013 precipitation to date	16.96"		



Clark High School 2014 Homecoming Royalty is Queen Alexa Helkenn and Marshal Mike Bethke. The pair will reign over the remainder of the Homecoming festivities after being crowned Monday evening during the Coronation ceremony.

Helkenn is the daughter of Ryan and Heather Helkenn. Bethke is the son of Pam Ambrose.

## Helkenn and Bethke reign over CHS Homecoming

Homecoming, the 84th annual at Clark High School, is going full tilt. The festivities began Monday at Coronation with the 2014 royalty being selected. Mike Bethke and Alexa Helkenn were named CHS Homecoming Marshal and Queen, respectively. They were crowned by the 2013 royalty, Marshal Trevor Mudgett and Queen Cecilia Streff.

Other royalty candidates included Tyson Jenkins, Patrick Adams, Cody Nelson, Kandace Kolden, Morgan Nelson and Jill Warken-thien.

During Coronation all classes and the faculty presented skits to the Homecoming theme - 'Movies'.

### CHS Homecoming (continued on page 3)



Bradley Christian School is beginning its third year and has added new students, making for seven students at the one room school in Bradley. Shown above on the front steps are, top row, left to right, Jessie Post Townsend, Mrs. Beverly Schlotte, Mr. Gene Wilson, Mr. Bobby Postal, second row, Evan Schwartz, John Schwartz, Noah Schwartz, Grace Olson and Tyler Stormo. In the front row are Vincent Post-Kays and Mason Postal. "There's always room for more," added Wilson.

### In its third year of existence

## Seven students attend Bradley Christian School

The Bradley Christian School started their third year in session, starting the Tuesday after Labor Day.

"The energy level at the school has been jacked up this year," said Mr. Gene Wilson, a new teacher to the school for 2014-2015.

What Wilson is referring to is

the addition of two freshman boys, Noah Schwartz and Evan Schwartz and one junior, John Schwartz. Tyler Stormo is a sophomore, making for four boys in high school.

The three kindergartners this year are Mason Postal, Grace Olson  
**Bradley School**  
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## Patriotic theme goes over well at Clark High School

Monday's 2014 Homecoming theme was 'America Day or Stars and Stripes Day' at Clark High School. Showing their patriotism for the beloved U.S.A. are CHS students, from left: Joslyn Hurlbert, Hannah Gruenwald, ShyAnn Springer, Liz Schmahl, Lauren Fjelland, Rory For-

est, Jess Karber and Braxton Hartley.

Monday was a big day at the school as Coronation was held in the evening. (See Homecoming story elsewhere on this page.)