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Autumn begins tomorrow



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School numbers show stability

The 2016-17 school numbers show stability in all three area schools and all three schools have stabilized in population. Clark is down 15 students from a year ago; Willow Lake is down five and Henry is up eight from a year ago.

Enrollment for the three area schools is at 786 compared to 798 a year ago, 827 two years ago and 811 three years ago.

Clark

Two years ago Clark had 404 students PK-12, last year there were 391 when school started, so the 2016-17 number of 376 is a loss of 28 students from two years ago.

There are 66 students in Clark High School, down from 80 a year ago. The first grade class with 34 students is the largest class with the third grade at 24 students being the second largest. The average number of students in each grade at Clark, K-12 is nearly 20 and including colony schools it is 27.

There are 99 students at colony schools compared to 100 a year ago. "School is off to a nice start at Clark," said superintendent Luanne Warren.

Clark	16	15	14	13
Pre-school	22	25	34	22
Kindergarten	21	32	21	27
Grade 1	34	20	28	20
Grade 2	19	24	20	22
Grade 3	24	17	21	17
Grade 4	17	20	18	21
Grade 5	19	18	21	19
Grade 6	17	23	20	14
Grade 7	22	18	15	18
Grade 8	17	14	20	16
Grade 9	12	17	16	21

Grade 10	19	13	24	30
Grade 11	13	21	30	27
Grade 12	21	29	24	22
Hillcrest	29	27	26	27
Fordham	26	24	20	20
Silverlake	44	49	46	45
TOTAL	376	391	404	388

Willow Lake

At Willow Lake, school started with 227 students, down five from last year.

Starting at preschool and going up, there are 57 students in the first four grades and superintendent Scott Klaudt said that that is very positive.

There are 45 high school students this year, with slight drop in the top two classes, totaling 25 students, 12 in the junior class and 13 seniors.

The three colony schools in the Willow Lake district have 48 students.

Homecoming is at the end of September at Willow Lake. Coronation is set for Monday, September 26 and the parade and football game are on Friday, September 30.

The sixth grade with 19 students is the largest class, with fourth grade and the junior class each having 17.

Willow Lake	16	15	14	13
Pre-school	13	13	18	10
Kindergarten	15	19	11	17
Grade 1	20	10	15	12
Grade 2	9	14	12	11
Grade 3	14	13	10	13
Grade 4	12	10	11	13
Grade 5	9	12	14	11
Grade 6	12	14	13	7
Grade 7	14	16	6	16
Grade 8	16	7	14	10
Grade 9	6	12	10	19
Grade 10	14	10	18	19
Grade 11	12	16	17	10
Grade 12	13	17	8	11

Shamrock	12	11	11	12
Mayfield	16	16	16	22
Collins	20	22	23	26
TOTAL	227	232	227	238

Henry

Henry has 183 PK-12 students for the 2016-17 school term, which is up eight students from last year.

"We've been holding steady," said Henry superintendent Steve Zirbel, regarding student numbers. Zirbel said that the new school year is off to a good start.

"We have a new sign in place - 'Home of the Falcons,'" said Zirbel, and he said that one thing which was new this year are the kitchen tables.

There will be 53 students in high school, 52 in middle school and 78 in elementary.

Homecoming is coming quickly at Henry, as it will be Friday, September 30.

The sixth grade with 19 students is the largest class, with fourth grade and the junior class each having 17.

Henry	16	15	14	13
Pre-school	17	16	15	14
Kindergarten	12	16	21	13
Grade 1	11	17	12	18
Grade 2	16	9	17	9
Grade 3	10	16	8	14
Grade 4	17	10	17	14
Grade 5	10	18	11	14
Grade 6	19	10	15	9
Grade 7	12	15	10	13
Grade 8	11	9	15	16
Grade 9	11	15	13	11
Grade 10	17	15	11	10
Grade 11	14	11	14	16
Grade 12	11	14	18	13
TOTAL	183	175	196	185

Dr. Landon Weber is the new dentist at Clark Family Dental

A new era has begun at the Clark Family Dental Center. Long-time Clark dentist Dr. Harvey Spieker has retired, except for orthodontics and Dr. Landon Weber is now on-board.

"This was a big move for me and my family, but it really made sense and we decided to 'go for it' and we are excited to be here," said Dr. Weber.

Dr. Weber formerly was at Mitchell, at Dental Designs, with Dr. Brett Farnham, for three years.

"With my wife and I both being natives of northeast South Dakota, we were looking at this part of the state," he said. "I found out about this opportunity through my wife's cousin, who lives in the Turton/Doland area and I got together with Craig."

Dr. Craig Spieker has been a partner with his father Harvey for more than a decade and with the elder Spieker's retirement, a dentist position was open in Clark.

"I heard great things about this dentist office, all positive and progressive and I came and shadowed Craig and got even more excited about this dentist position," stated Dr. Weber.

"Everyone has been 'over the top' friendly and I really like this fit," he continued. Dr. Weber is a 2005 graduate of Aberdeen Roncalli High School, a 2009 graduate of the University of South Dakota and he earned his Doctorate of Medical



Dr. Landon Weber is the new dentist at the Clark Family Dental Center. Dr. Weber and his family of four are in the process of moving into their new home in Clark. He started at the dental office at the beginning of September.

Dr. Weber (continued on page 2)

Lonna DesLauriers attends Produce Safety University

Clark food service director chosen to represent South Dakota



Lonna DesLauriers was chosen this summer to attend the United States Department of Agriculture's Produce Safety University. The food service director for the Clark School was one of two people attending from South Dakota. She later attended a procurement class in Pierre in August to learn more of the upcoming bidding process in buying food that the schools must adhere to by the end of the year.

"As far as I'm concerned, one can never get enough education on food safety," noted Lonna DesLauriers, food service director for the Clark

School system.

This summer she was one of only two chosen from South Dakota to

attend the USDA 2016 Produce Safety University in Beltsville, Maryland.

"Our state office for school lunches sent out applications to most schools and I was chosen to go along with Beth Henrichsen from the Child and Adult Nutrition Services office in Pierre. We were in classes from June 6 to June 10."

Topics covered were: Produce from Farm to Fork, Food Safety and Fresh Produce, Good Agricultural Practices, Market News, School Gardens, Quality and Conditions Fresh-cut produce, Buy Smart Save Smart and Writing Specifications, Receiving and Storage and Safe Preparation and Service.

The goal of the University is to help school food service professionals identify and mitigate food safety risks in fresh produce that originate from a range of sources such as traditional suppliers, local farms and school gardens. They covered all aspects of the fresh produce supply chain, from growing and harvesting to storage and preparation.

"We talked about what's good and what's not," explained DesLauriers. "Some foods will look bad but aren't and others can look fine, but not be good at all because they're not ripe."

"Lettuce is probably our biggest challenge to keep fresh. We always use Romaine lettuce which covers our dark green vegetable requirement. We're supposed to serve dark green vegetables, red/orange vegetables and beans every week. A half cup of vegetables or fruit must be on every plate to be reimbursable by the government in our food program."

The Clark School has offered breakfast also to the elementary for many years. The middle and high school students have had breakfast available to them the last couple of years. It's considered a cold breakfast. At the elementary building - a hot breakfast is served.

"I'd like to see more kids grabbing a breakfast here. It's available from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.," advised DesLauriers.

"The University was a lot of learn-

ing and cramming in a few days. It was an honor to be chosen to attend these classes," noted DesLauriers.

One new thing she learned was that an avocado ripens from the bottom up - not from the top down like most other fruits.

Her class took field trips the third day of the school. They toured 'The Class Produce Group' - a place where they take in fruits and vegetables from the farms/producers and prepare them to be shipped out to distributors, like a centralizing location for produce.

"We toured the whole facility watching them cut up and package the produce to get ready to distribute to distributors. The day we were there, they were doing Romaine lettuce, watermelon and muskmelon."

They toured the banana rooms, all temperature and light controlled for the different stages of the ripening bananas. Four rooms in total to get the job done.

The group toured 'The Kids Farm' nearby to see what a Maryland school district is currently doing.

"They had different buildings and green houses and even apple trees, that the school kids maintain, down to the herbs and spices that they use in their school lunch program. "It was awesome to see," said DesLauriers who also mentioned the fact that the Clark Elementary experimented this year in planting a salsa garden with tomatoes, peppers, onions and cilantro.

Cross contamination was covered, such as washing off the outside of a melon for instance before cutting. "Dirt on that knife from the outside can get into your produce when cutting the inside."

The classes also went over dry storage versus refrigeration. Tomatoes, watermelons and bananas for example are best at dry storage.

They also went over ethylene producing foods and what foods are more sensitive to them and may change in flavor because of it. The ethylene producers are apples, avocados, bananas, melons, pears,

DesLauriers (continued on page 3)

Fall temperature and precipitation forecast is difficult to predict

2016 has been warmer than average for South Dakota

Climate outlooks for the remainder of the fall season turned less certain this week, as the likelihood of La Nina has been reduced, explained Laura Edwards, Acting State Climatologist and SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

"As of September 8, 2016 NOAA's (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's) Climate Prediction Center removed their La Nina Watch status, and are now favoring Neutral conditions," Edwards said.

She explained that El Nino and La Nina are generally the best long-term forecast indicators for the late fall and winter season. "For the last several months, computer models and forecasters had been projecting a weak La Nina to affect our climate in North America this winter, following the strong El Nino from earlier this year. With the status removed, it makes climate predicting a little less certain," Edwards said.

Neutral conditions means sea surface temperatures in the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean, and other atmosphere and ocean indicators, are near the long-term average.

La Nina is when ocean waters are cooler than average in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, with sustained temperatures of just under 1 degree Fahrenheit cooler than average for three consecutive months.

September Climate Outlook

The climate outlook for October and the season ahead was issued by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center on September 15, 2016.

Edwards said this update continues to show warmer than average temperatures favored in South Dakota for the month ahead. "This outlook is given with a little less certainty than we had seen in previous outlooks," she said.

The precipitation outlook for Oc-

tober is also less clear for the state, as it is in a region that has equal probability of being wetter, drier or

Clark County Rainfall	*Bradley .70"
9/13 - 9/19	
*Crocker .43"	
*Raymond .30"	Garden City .49"
	Henry .96"
	Clark .76"
	Vienna tr
*Carpenter .12"	Willow Lake 1.20"

near average for the month.

"This could be good news for eastern region farmers who are looking for some warm and dry, or even near average rainfall, conditions to help dry down corn and soybeans for harvest," Edwards said.

Fall temperature (continued on page 3)

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Sept. 13	52	39	0
Sept. 14	65	39	0
Sept. 15	67	55	.76
Sept. 16	62	53	tr
Sept. 17	72	48	0
Sept. 18	78	53	0
Sept. 19	76	53	0
2016 precipitation to date	16.80		
2015 precipitation to date	18.86		



City fire hydrants are being flushed this week

City of Clark water/sewer superintendent Darin Altfillisch is flushing water hydrants this week. Altfillisch said that this is an annual occurrence and September is a good month for this maintenance, to ensure the fire hydrants are working properly.