

POW/MIA Recognition Day is Friday, September 15

The Raymond Baker Unit #209 of the Department of South Dakota, American Legion Auxiliary would like to share information about POW/MIA Day with our community. The event is always celebrated on the third Friday in September. In 2023, it is Friday, September 15.

The term POW and MIA mean prisoner of war and military personnel who went missing in action.

Many service members suffered as prisoners during the several wars that have happened throughout the history of the United States. National POW/MIA Recognition Day was initiated as the day to commemorate with the family of many of the tens of thousands of service members who never made it home.

The day was first observed in 1979 after Congress and the president passed a resolution to make it official following the demands of the families of 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs who asked for accountability in finding their loved ones. It is also mostly associated with service members who were prisoners of war during the Vietnam War.

Regardless of where they are held in the country, National POW/MIA Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned as well as the memory of those who remain missing in service to the United States.

The day is celebrated by raising the POW/MIA flag, which is always flown below that of the United States. The motto of the flag is

"You Are Not Forgotten". This flag was designed by Mary Hoff, wife of a missing veteran, years before the remembrance day became official.

Until 1979, there was no formal day set aside for these important men and women, and the first observance of POW/MIA day included a remembrance ceremony at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Since then, the Pentagon is where the official observance happens, with other celebrations happening at military bases around the country and elsewhere.

America's White Table will be on display at the Clark Elementary School, September 11 - 15. The table honors the men and women who served in America's Armed Forces, especially those missing in action—MIA's and those held prisoner of war—our POW's. They are not with us today.



The new staff members at Willow Lake School include front row, left to right: Claire Mohr, Kristin Brekke Vandersnick, Tiffany Myers, Michelle Severson, Megan Nuttbrock and Emily Meginness. In the back row, from

left to right: Brook Begeman, Tyler Neeman, Grayson Florey and Chayla Vig.

Photo by Christina Kannegieter

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Aug. 29	77	56	0
Aug. 30	82	60	0
Aug. 31	88	64	0
Sept. 1	85	60	0
Sept. 2	82	57	0
Sept. 3	79	56	0
Sept. 4	81	57	0
2023 precipitation to date	15.53"		
2022 precipitation to date	16.62"		

Ten new faces greeted Willow Lake School students

Tuesday, September 5, the 2023-2024 Willow Lake year began. Superintendent Chris Lee and Principal Claire Mohr greeted students yesterday morning as they all began a new school term.

Ten new faces will be involved with the students in the Willow Lake school system. New to the Willow Lake School for the 2023-2024 term will be Claire Mohr, Kristin Vandersnick, Tiffany Myers, Michelle Severson, Megan Nuttbrock, Emily Meginness, Brook Begeman, Tyler Neeman, Grayson Florey and Chayla Vig.

Claire Mohr

Claire Mohr is the PreK-12 Principal and Curriculum Director. She is a Revillo native and graduated from Custer High School in 2006. She attended South Dakota State University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education.

Her previous employment includes: Pierre Indian Learning Center, Georgia Morse Middle School in Pierre and the Clark school system. Claire and her husband Shawn,

live outside of Watertown with their children: eight-year-old Thea, who is in third grade; six-year-old Ada, first grade; and two-year-old Otto.

Brook Begeman

Brook Begeman is the high school social studies teacher at Willow Lake School. He will also be the head boys track coach and will be a volunteer assistant high school boys basketball coach. Begeman is from Isabel, where he graduated in 1997. He currently lives in Clark with his wife Andrea and their four children. Bo is in ninth grade; Shelby, seventh grade; Sadie, fourth grade; and Colt, first grade.

He graduated from Dakota Wesleyan in 2001 with Double Majors in History and Business with an emphasis in Finance. He then received his Masters in Teaching certificate from the University of Sioux Falls in 2009.

His previous employment includes: CorTrust Bank from 2001 to 2008, followed by teaching positions at West Central 2009-2010, Sioux

Falls Christian 2010-2022 and Watertown 2022-2023.

Grayson Florey

Grayson Florey is the K-12 health and physical education teacher in Willow Lake. He is from Clark, graduating from CHS in 2019.

He received a Bachelor's of Science and Human Education degree in 2023 from South Dakota State University.

Florey lives north of Clark and is single. This is his first teaching position.

Kristin Vandersnick

Kristin will teach sixth through twelfth grade choir and give band lessons. She is a Willow Lake native, where she graduated in 1997. She resides northeast of Willow Lake with her husband Matt and two daughters. Ella is fifteen and is a sophomore, and Claire is a ten-year-old fifth grader, both at Willow Lake School.

She attended Augustana University, where she graduated MagnaCum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English/Writing in 2001.

This is Vandersnick's first teaching position.

ing position.

Emily Meginness

Emily Meginness will be a teacher at Mayfield Colony. She is an Andover, Minn. native and graduated from Aberdeen Central High School in 2011.

She attended Northern State University for Art Education and Mounty Marty University for Elementary Education.

Meginness and her husband Ryan live in Clark area with their five-month-old son Liam.

Her previous employment includes Aurora Plains Academy, Watertown School District and Clark Elementary School.

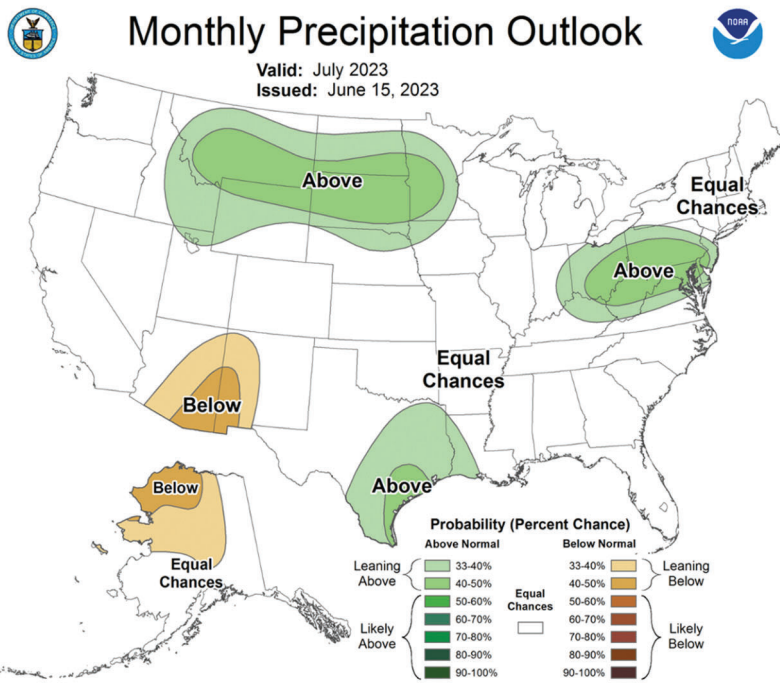
Michelle Severson

Michelle Severson will be a paraprofessional at Clark Elementary School. She is from Redfield, where she graduated in 1987.

She has been employed with Moeller Sheet Metal in Clark since 2019 and has been a school bus driver in Willow Lake since 2021.

Willow Lake School Staff
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Climate outlook for end of summer 2023



Laura Edwards
SDSU Extension State Climatologist

The better part of summer is behind us, so we are looking ahead to what lies ahead for our farms and gardens. The recent run of warm temperatures across South Dakota and exceptional dry conditions in the central and east have accelerated drought concerns.

Drought Update

Concerns about dryness and drought have eased in some areas of western South Dakota while they have increased in the central and east.

Drought impacts from this dry period have been amplified by very warm temperatures. This amounts to crop stress and loss of soil moisture, with small grains currently experiencing the worst losses, particularly in oats and barley.

Precipitation

For the remainder of summer, odds lean slightly towards wetter

conditions for the remainder of the season. This is somewhat driven by a developing El Nino pattern that is originating in the tropical Pacific Ocean. As fall season approaches, historical data points to a slightly wetter pattern in the fall season for our region.

Temperature

At the same time temperatures will have equal chances of warmer, cooler or near-average through September. What this means for South Dakotans is a potential to recover from the current short-term drought. The seasonal drought outlook, also from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, points to an improvement in drought conditions in the coming months. With summer being a season with the highest impacts, we may still see some fluctuations up and down in drought severity from week to week, depending on what areas receive rainfall, how much and over what time period.

PDR Hunt to be held in Clark September 22 through 24

Mike Costanzo
PDR Hunt volunteer

Preparations for the eighteenth annual all expenses paid PDR deer hunt for disabled adolescents are underway. Bullseye targets are ready for practice rounds at the rifle range, and handicapped-accessible deer stands are set up in Whitetail rich fields.

This year, nine special needs hunters will be in Clark, South Dakota, September 22 through 24, enjoying the adventure of an authentic South Dakota big game hunt. The kids may come with hesitant anticipation. But, after a weekend-long deer camp with peers of similar circumstance, they leave with a sense of empowering accomplishment.

Pride often comes from hands-on experience. These youngsters' attitudes about themselves and their capability seem to rise with every trigger-pull. The PDR Hunt registers a direct hit, enlightening their spirit and lingering in the memories of these kids. With the patience of their accompany-

ing parent and helpful input from their individual hunting guides, a young hunter's initial "I think I can" attitude evolves into a happily surprised "Why, yes, I sure can!". It is one of the amazing stories of transition that happens at the PDR Hunt.

These nine hunters coming to the 2023 PDR Hunt include Andrew Haiar, Mitchell; Zachery Keith, Mitchell; Thomas Kosinski, Elk Point; Kristopher Moke, Mitchell; Justin and Jen Scheff, Montrose; Cory Lauren Stager, Ipswich; Koby Syverson, Volin; and Seth Tarbox, Clark.

PDR Hunt founder, Dean Rasmussen states, "When the smoke clears, the PDR hunt is not merely about the deer harvest." There's a recoil from this weekend. It comes when these kids' excited smiles ultimately strike people's hearts.

For more information about the PDR deer hunt for disabled youth, contact Dean Rasmussen at 605-233-0331, or log onto www.pdryouthhunt.com.



Home destroyed after couch fire

On Thursday, August 31 at 2:30 p.m. the Clark Police Department along with the Clark Fire Department were dispatched to a couch fire in the 300 block of 2nd Avenue NW.

Three children were in the home at the time of the fire. The child dialed 911 and got two younger siblings outside. Through the investigation it was discovered a candle was near the couch which caught the couch on fire and the fire spread through half of the mobile home, the home is considered a total loss. No injuries were reported.

Assisting units: Clark County Sheriff's Office, Clark Fire Department, Clark County Ambulance and Clark County Emergency Management.

Clark Police Department



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