

Gardening vertically and in holes is 45-year hobby



"Gardening vertically is something I've been doing for years since acquiring my grandparents' home-made tomato cages," stated Kimberly Harrington who lives north of Raymond. "Experience and trial and error are the best teachers I believe in addition to my

family members and friends. These tomatoes are usually trimmed to six feet tall. Since having these five foot tall cages and mulching more with newspaper and grass clippings, the tomatoes are doing great in the James River Valley this year with good rainfall."

Kimberly Harrington of Raymond is in her 20th year working as a writer for the *Clark County Courier* and with this story about her garden, she will be writing it in first person.

"I don't claim to be an expert by no means, but gardening has been a hobby of mine for 45 years.

Now that I'm older and have more experience through trial and error, I thought I'd share for that

younger gardener out there, some of the tips and suggestions that have helped me over the years. Things that I would have liked to know in my earlier gardening years.

The best tips I've gotten have

come from other people.

Advice like when planting green beans, plant one for you, and two for the birds. One year I planted green beans four times and most all of them disappeared. Since doing this method it's not a problem anymore and surprisingly, it's working. (Maybe the good Lord wants us to share).

Parents and grandparents started the interest in gardening. I grew up on a farm north of Watertown, the oldest daughter of Gene and Lois (Kannegieter) Monahan. We always had a garden. I also spent a lot of time with Tom and Lottie Monahan and Art and Olive Kannegieter, all retired farmers who had big gardens.

When I married Doug Harrington in 1975, we received an upright freezer and I already had some frozen green beans to put in it. Since then I've had about eight gardens in the various locations we've lived. This location in Raymond is the best spot I've had yet, surrounded by trees and bush for wind protection.

Just last week I once again froze up green beans. I now grow the Masa variety of green bean, a smaller and skinnier bean that doesn't get too big and woody if you don't get out there to pick them in time. I need that kind of bean. They are very prolific.

Gardening
(continued on page 3)



Todd Obele is the new superintendent at Henry School. Mr. Obele, a Minnesota native, was at Selby for the 2019-20 school year.

Obele is Henry School superintendent

"I'm excited to be here," said new Henry School superintendent Todd Obele. Obele is very impressed with the Henry School professionalism and how well the school term has begun.

"Even with the pandemic, it is good to be in school," said Obele and he looks forward to getting to know the students even better.

"It's why I do what I do," he said and emphasized that it is truly important that students know that educators care. "A student really doesn't care until they know you care! We have to do everything we can for the student."

Obele furthered that point using how in these pandemic times, that

schools offer interaction, bonding and communication, all of which are very important in students' lives.

"COVID-19 has been very time consuming, but I appreciate what a nice job the Northeast Area superintendents have done in accepting me, as they've answered many questions and they are a great group of individuals to work with," said Obele, as the pandemic is a very fluid situation whereby schools need to react and protect the individuals in the system.

Obele has an extensive business background and got into education

Obele
(continued on page 3)

School numbers show growth

▲ Area schools continue to gain students

In the three area schools, Clark, Willow Lake and Henry, there are 928 students combined, the largest total in many years.

The reasons for this are several; it's an up-cycle trend, with mainly new move-ins and some open enrollees. Larger preschool and kindergarten classes continue to replace smaller 2020 graduated classes.

Enrollment for the three area schools is at 928 compared to 899 a year ago, 858 two years ago and 808 three years ago. These numbers always fluctuate throughout the school year, but these are the school numbers starting the 2020-2021 school term.

Coronavirus nullifies the positivity of the school growth element, as when historians look back at the start of the 2020-21 school year, COVID-19 is the big story.

The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) will not be letting out college and public school coronavirus numbers. It is up to the individual schools to have virus plans in place and to handle individual and collective school closings on the local level.

All three area schools, Clark, Willow Lake and Henry have spent countless hours preparing for pandemic protocol and all three area superintendents, Luanne Warren, at Clark, Chris Lee, at Willow Lake and Todd Obele, at Henry, along with their respective school boards, are hoping for on-site education, but have remote learning details ready to incorporate.

The *Clark County Courier* has featured and will continue to feature what the various schools are doing to combat this disease. However, this story deals with school numbers.

Clark
As one looks at Clark's numbers, several figures stick out. The 458, up from 377, just three years ago is impressive. The middle school numbers of 113, in grades 5-8 are strong and there are 40 students in the fifth grade class.

"Our numbers continue to look strong," said superintendent Warren. "Kids are wanting to come back home and that is a great thing for the hometown."

Last year Clark gained 22 students and this year, 21. That makes 43 new students in two years.

"To be honest, our school year will be devoted to education with emphasis on keeping things very clean because of coronavirus," Warren continued. "That takes manpower and extra financial costs."

There are two new classrooms at Clark Elementary because of the growth and Covid. Teachers have had to rearrange their rooms and all couches have been removed to ensure social distancing. Dividers have been installed in classes which use tables. In labs, shields are provided for partner work.

Extra entrances are used to take student temperatures as they enter the school.

Individual classroom ionizers have arrived and been installed.

Warren noted that all three Clark administrators will be teaching at least one class. Warren will be teaching U. S. History. Principal Travis Ahrens will be teaching government and elementary principal Renae Dahl will be teaching S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math).

| Clark | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Pre-school | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 |
| Kindergarten | 27 | 30 | 22 | 18 |
| Grade 1 | 33 | 24 | 18 | 21 |
| Grade 2 | 27 | 20 | 19 | 31 |
| Grade 3 | 19 | 19 | 34 | 18 |
| Grade 4 | 24 | 34 | 18 | 26 |
| Grade 5 | 40 | 19 | 29 | 17 |
| Grade 6 | 20 | 30 | 19 | 19 |
| Grade 7 | 32 | 19 | 21 | 17 |
| Grade 8 | 21 | 23 | 20 | 24 |
| Grade 9 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 19 |
| Grade 10 | 24 | 29 | 20 | 13 |
| Grade 11 | 28 | 19 | 11 | 20 |
| Grade 12 | 21 | 15 | 20 | 12 |
| Hillcrest | 29 | 29 | 27 | 26 |
| Fordham | 36 | 34 | 31 | 26 |
| Silverlake | 34 | 38 | 41 | 42 |
| TOTAL | 458 | 437 | 413 | 377 |

Willow Lake
Chris Lee begins his third year at Willow Lake. Willow Lake has nine more students than a year ago and 32 more than two years ago.

"Our numbers are better than awesome," said Lee of the 295 students pre-school-12. "Our staff is in place and it is a talented, experienced group." The only new staff member is principal Linda Merkwan.

Willow Lake has four classes with 20 or more students and no class is smaller than 13 students.

The first official day of school will be Monday, Sept. 14. The days of

Sept. 8-11 will be used as a scheduled open house for each family.

"Again, we have a great staff, great students and I'm very pleased to be the leader of this great school," ended Lee.

| Willow Lake | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Pre-school | 16 | 20 | 16 | 13 |
| Kindergarten | 20 | 22 | 13 | 14 |
| Grade 1 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 17 |
| Grade 2 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 22 |
| Grade 3 | 17 | 16 | 22 | 11 |
| Grade 4 | 16 | 22 | 12 | 16 |
| Grade 5 | 22 | 12 | 16 | 14 |
| Grade 6 | 13 | 18 | 15 | 10 |
| Grade 7 | 17 | 16 | 11 | 14 |
| Grade 8 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 15 |
| Grade 9 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 19 |
| Grade 10 | 15 | 16 | 23 | 7 |
| Grade 11 | 18 | 23 | 9 | 14 |
| Grade 12 | 23 | 9 | 16 | 13 |
| Shamrock | 16 | 14 | 12 | 13 |
| Mayfield | 25 | 22 | 19 | 16 |
| Collins | 16 | 15 | 19 | 22 |
| TOTAL | 295 | 286 | 263 | 250 |

Henry
Henry has 175 PK-12 students for the 2020-21 school term, which is down one from a year ago.

"Coming into Henry, district members have been very welcoming to me," said Henry's new superintendent Todd Obele. "We have a great staff. That makes my transition as easy as it could be in today's world."

"This pandemic shows just how important school is," Obele continued. "The interaction. The bonding. The communicating. All so very important."

Homecoming is Friday, Sept. 18, at Henry. A year ago Henry School went to a new format with co-deans, Matt Mohr and Tyler Grassel. These two individuals will again split the day regarding administrative duties.

| Henry | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Pre-school | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 |
| Kindergarten | 11 | 16 | 8 | 13 |
| Grade 1 | 8 | 14 | 16 | 10 |
| Grade 2 | 13 | 15 | 12 | 12 |
| Grade 3 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 15 |
| Grade 4 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 6 |
| Grade 5 | 16 | 13 | 6 | 19 |
| Grade 6 | 14 | 8 | 16 | 10 |
| Grade 7 | 19 | 12 | 15 | 11 |
| Grade 8 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 14 |
| Grade 9 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| Grade 11 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 15 |
| Grade 12 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 14 |
| TOTAL | 175 | 176 | 182 | 184 |

FAA announces grant for Clark County airport

The Federal Aviation Administration formally announced last week the Clark County airport will receive an Airport Improvement Grant worth more than \$1 million.

According to a press release, Clark County Airport has received \$2,231,194 to rebuild a runway with asphalt as well as rebuild a taxiway.

According to Helms and Associates - the contracted engineering firm for Clark County Airport

- Project Engineer Brooke Edgar, the federal government grant, combined with a previous grant as well as money from the CARES Act, will cover the entire cost of a runway and taxiway project. Clark County Airport is a general aviation airport used for agricultural and recreational flight.

With the grant money secured, Edgar said the improvements at Clark County Airport will commence next spring and are expected

to be completed by next September. According to the FAA press release, the Clark County airport grant was one of the 434 airport improvement grants awarded by the Trump administration to 405 airports to all 50 states as well as six United States territories. More than \$1.2 billion was awarded to airports through the grants for infrastructure improvements.



Clark High School Coronation was held Tuesday, Sept. 1, at the high school gym. Crowned Queen was Charity Kabwe, left and Hudson Fuller was crowned Marshal.

Kabwe and Fuller reign over Clark High School Homecoming

Homecoming, the 90th annual at Clark High School, has begun. The festivities began Tuesday, September 1 at Coronation with the 2020 royalty being selected.

Hudson Fuller and Charity Kabwe were named CHS Homecoming Marshal and Queen, respectively. They were crowned by 2019 Queen Olivia Sass.

Other royalty candidates included, Lydia Reidburn, Sarah Weisbrod, Brandi Foster, Javonte Zach-

ary, Evan Stromsness and Schuyler McElhone.

During Coronation all classes presented virtual skits to the Homecoming theme - 'Commercials'.

Following Coronation the students and those attending Coronation, went out into the warm night to play kickball downtown.

The Cyclone volleyball team played Arlington on Tuesday, in Clark. The annual Homecom-

ing football game will feature Clark-Willow Lake taking on the Florence-Henry Falcons, Friday, at 7:00 p.m.

The theme for Homecoming 2020 is 'Commercials'. The parade will be Friday, Sept. 11 at 1:00 p.m. Parade entries are asked to line up on Idaho Street. The parade route will be south to US Highway 212, east

Homecoming
(continued on page 3)