



All State Chorus members have been selected at Clark, Henry and Willow Lake Schools pictured on page 14

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Vol. 135, No. 17

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

\$1.00

The hometown newspaper of Delores Henderson, Sioux Falls, SD

## Steve Haug to undergo liver transplant



Steve Haug, left, needs a new liver to survive. He now is on the transplant priority list at the University of Minnesota Hospital Transplant Center and waiting. Steve is shown with his sister Jan Voigt and his older brother Dave. He has lost over 100 pounds, as the inset photo illustrates.

**Editor's note:** As the Courier office learned of Steve Haug's liver condition and transplant need, we contacted Steve's sister, Jan Voigt, of Rapid City, for information.

The Clark County Courier takes pride in putting together articles and as you will read, Jan did a tremendous job telling the story of her brother's trails and tribulations and this is her story.

Steve has been a part of the Carpenter/Willow Lake communities all his life. For 19 1/2 years after our Dad passed, in addition to working full time, he devoted himself to the care and well being of our Mom Jessie who was afflicted with Muscular Dystrophy.

Over a year ago Steve began to notice that he was feeling extremely fatigued, bruising easily, having difficulty focusing on his job and daily tasks and becoming more and more sleepy. Toxins were already building up in his brain causing the problems with concentration, memory and mental functions. He was unable to work.

Initially he was treated for iron deficiency and other blood related maladies. As time went on it became clear that there was something more serious happening. He was diagnosed in August of 2014 with cirrhosis of the liver. I remember getting that call from Steve.... Oh my goodness Steve has liver

cancer?? How? Why? The questions were too numerous to answer. What we did find out was that cirrhosis does NOT mean cancer.. it simply means the liver damage is so severe it cannot be reversed. Steve has the non-alcoholic form of cirrhosis referred to as NASH-non alcoholic steatohepatitis.

Thus began Steve's journey! He became so ill in March he nearly died. Not only had his liver failed but now his kidneys had shut down as well. He was hospitalized for two weeks receiving treatment for his liver as well as kidney dialysis. After recovering fairly well from that, he was referred to the University of Minnesota Transplant Center and introduced to his Liver Team. The team includes hepatology, nephrology, gastroenterology, social workers and case managers as well as the surgeons. He had several critical hospital stays throughout the summer.

Steve spent the following months with many hospitalizations or follow up appointments in either Sioux Falls or Minneapolis. When hospitalized it was almost always for hepatic encephalopathy or building up of toxins in Steve's brain being caused by his non functioning liver. He would become non responsive and require intensive medical intervention. When he

**Haug**  
(continued on page 14)

## Nice weather was evident for pheasant opener

"Smaller groups fared better than larger groups," said Clark County Game, Fish and Parks conservation officer Kyle Lenzner about the pheasant opener this past weekend.

"It's a numbers game," Lenzner continued as to why the smaller groups were more successful. "If say 17 hunters harvest 20 birds and a group of three gets their limit, the smaller group had better success and a higher average of birds."

Lenzner thought the average bird count per hunter was less than one bird in the eastern part of the county but probably around one bird or better in the western part of Clark County.

"There seemed to be better success the farther west one goes, as well as more hunters," said the G, F & P officer. "It was a successful opener especially the farther west, not only in Clark County, but in South Dakota, with the Winner, Pierre, Chamberlain, Mobridge and Mitchell areas showing the most success."

The weather was pretty nice all weekend, with Sunday being a little more breezy. "Saturday was a very nice day to hunt," said Lenzner. "The crops aren't all out yet and that makes a difference. I was out and about on Monday morning of this week and I saw roosters."

According to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Secretary

Kelly Hepler, "We are pleased to see production was up for the second year in a row, however sustaining pheasant numbers and the S.D. hunting tradition will require long-term habitat efforts," Hepler said. "I believe the future of pheasants and pheasant hunting is strong. Across this state, people look forward to and depend upon pheasant season for our livelihood and our quality of life."

"The traditions of South Dakota's opening day of pheasant season are known worldwide. The camaradery, the laughter, the food and the chance to chase the wily ringneck with lifelong and even new friends is a special occasion. It is really second to none."

### Waterfowl

Waterfowl conditions continue to be good, except there has been no migration yet from the north.

### Pheasant opener

(continued on page 6)

**Mystery Snowman Clue**  
47th Annual  
Snow Queen Festival  
Mystery Snowperson Contest  
"Frosty has lived in three states and is now planted in Clark County"  
Send guesses to Janene Gehrke, 209 1st Ave. W., Clark, SD 57225.

## Clark's blood drive is Thursday, October 29

Clark's blood drive, sponsored by the Clark Lions and Lionesses will be Thursday, October 29, at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, from 2:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Joyce Helkenn is the coordinator of the drive, and one can make an appointment to donate blood by calling Joyce at 532-3808.

The Community Blood Drive welcomes new donors. The need for blood is constant and volunteer blood donors contribute to nearly all the blood used for patient care in the United States.

Volunteer blood donors must be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old. I.D. is required and volunteer donors are asked to bring a list of any

medication taken within the last month. Diabetics who take insulin may now be eligible to donate.

WEATHER			
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 13 .....	64	34	0
Oct. 14 .....	66	37	0
Oct. 15 .....	56	27	0
Oct. 16 .....	50	26	0
Oct. 17 .....	56	28	0
Oct. 18 .....	65	41	0
Oct. 19 .....	71	48	0
2015 precipitation to date	18.86"		
2014 precipitation to date	14.93"		

## Dorothy Shirk has subscribed to the Courier for 60 years



It's always a joy to see Dorothy Shirk come in with her sunny disposition to renew the Courier for herself and several family members. A stickler for details and being precise - she always has the exact amounts for each subscription and never needs a reminder card. She's on top of it all.

This year, 2015 marks her 60th year renewing the Clark County Courier newspaper. Shirk on the left, is being assisted by Annette Helkenn in renewing her subscription and those for family members.

"I don't even count her money because I know she always has the right amount," says Annette Helkenn at the Clark County Courier newspaper office.

Who she is referring to is long time subscriber to the local paper, Dorothy Shirk of Clark.

Shirk's latest visit to the office this year marked her 60th anniversary in renewing her hometown paper - the Clark County Courier.

Not only does she renew for herself, she orders the paper for her daughters for their wedding anniversaries and for her granddaughters' birthdays.

Her daughter Mary Morlock has received her gift subscription for 45 years and daughter Sally Waterfall for 31 years.

Waterfall's daughters who grew up in Clark, also enjoy their hometown paper, so Tonya Hibbs and Trina Lien also get the paper for their birthdays from their grandmother.

This is Hibbs' 19th year receiving the paper as a birthday gift and Lien's 17th year.

"She told me not to send her a reminder card for her subscriptions, she'll remember and she always does - right on time," complimented Helkenn.

Shirk has been subscribing to the newspaper since January of 1955. Back then, she and her husband Carrol or 'Tad' Shirk had just moved into Clark from a farm southwest of town.

She enjoys keeping up on the news and reading as well as writing, which is a hobby of hers. She's written her autobiography and several articles for her family on the Depression and rationing during World War II.

She also continues to make about 1,000 chocolate cream balls for

### Shirk

(continued on page 10)

## Old coin medallion found after church Ackerman and Ness are inducted into the 10<sup>2</sup> Club



Seven-year-old Wesley Leibke found a 50 year jubilee medal near the First Baptist Church in Clark on October 4, 2015. The coin is dated 1914 for the 50 year anniversary of the U.S. secret society - The Knights of Pythias. The fraternal order's charter was granted by President Lincoln in 1864.

Wesley Leibke of Garden City really likes coins and trinkets he says and on October 4, he found something kind of special. While playing outside with friends after church services and the potluck dinner held at the First Baptist Church south of Clark, Leibke spotted and picked up a 50 year jubilee medal of the Knights of Pythias.

"I like to look for stuff like that," said the seven-year-old son of Jake and Anna Leibke who lives in Garden City. "I added it to my treasure

bag."  
"Wesley plans to do a school project on the coin and show it to our home school group at presentation time," said his mother Anna who homeschools their three sons, Wesley, Wyatt and Cameron. "We meet with the Coteau Area Christian Home Educators every other week in Watertown and he's going to make a tri-fold display board with information on the coin for his presentation."  
"We started doing research on the Internet about the coin and found

out there was a lodge in Redfield years back.

"We wondered how it ended up in Clark. He found it in the dirt behind the church where our annex connects to the church. They brought in fill, when the church was constructed years ago - who knows what the story is on how it got there," questioned Leibke. "It was so random!"

### Coin history

According to the Coin Quest website, there were thousands of medals and medallions minted by the Freemasons and other fraternal organizations and secret societies. This coin/medal was made in honor of the 50 year jubilee anniversary of the Knights of Pythias.

The Order of Knights of Pythias is an international non-sectarian fraternal order, established in 1864 in Washington, D.C. by Justus H. Rathbone. It was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an Act of Congress.

The charter was granted by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. (He was assassinated in 1865.) "That's my favorite part about it," says young Leibke of President Lincoln's part in the society.

On the back of the coin is a coat of arms type of symbol with the letters FCB at the bottom. Within the fraternal order, the acronym stands

**Coin**  
(continued on page 3)

"They make a big difference when you can't see!" said Hazel Ness of Clark about the talking book readers for the visually impaired. Ness was recently inducted into the 10<sup>2</sup> Club established by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to honor lifelong readers who are 100 or more years of age. Ness is 100 years old.

The 10<sup>2</sup> Club is a special nationwide club for readers 100 years of age, or older.

Mary Winifred "Winnie" Ackerman is one year and a day apart in age to Ness and is currently 101 years old. Ackerman and Ness are both residents at Roetel Senior Housing and both enjoy the talking books they get from the library.

Ackerman was also inducted into the 10<sup>2</sup> Club and the ladies received a pin, certificate and a coaster to note the membership in the club. A lifelong reader, Ackerman stated, "My parents and my teachers also read to me. My teachers read to me every morning for 15 minutes." Ackerman has been listening to the talking books the last 10 years. "When I'm nervous, I just put my headphones on and listen to a book and it relaxes me," says Ackerman. "I've learned a lot from them."

Ness enjoys listening to history books and stories of past presidents. "I read a lot in school, but not as much when I became an adult. When I lived on the farm, I didn't have much time to sit down



Clark residents Winnie Ackerman and Hazel Ness became Century Readers last week, a special club for talking book readers who are age 100 or over. They are now members of the 10 squared club (10<sup>2</sup>) nationwide.

Winnie, seated, is being pinned by Dorothy Liegl, interim director for the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library. Janet Roehrich, standing on the left is manager/owner of Roetel Senior Living where both ladies reside. Hazel Ness on the right displays her certificate and coaster that they both received as well as the pin.

and read."  
Ackerman added, "I learn more facts now than I did in high school I think."

"Come back when I'm 105," said Ackerman to the library director, who presented the appreciation gifts last Tuesday.

There are 28 members of the 10<sup>2</sup> Club in South Dakota. The South Dakota State Library is an affiliate of the National Library Service.

The talking book library is available at no charge to people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page.

For more information, contact librarian Kim Taylor at the Emil M. Larson Memorial Library in Clark.