



Says Clark Elementary Principal Renae Dahl

“Every child matters and they need to know they matter”

“Our goal at Clark Elementary is to make sure that our students know that they matter: “every child, every day”.

“Every child is a gift and a miracle and we want to treat them as such,” stated Renae Dahl, the new elementary and colony principal at the Clark School.

Dahl is a 2001 graduate from Watertown High School. She earned her degree in Elementary Education at Mount Marty in 2008 and went on to get her Master in Administration from the University of South Dakota (USD), in 2017.

Her first teaching job was in South Shore teaching the combined third and fourth grade with the Waverly/South Shore School District.

From 2009 to 2012, she lived in Rapid City and commuted to the Shannon County Rocky Ford School. Since, the school has become the Oglala Lakota County School District.

There she taught middle school students. “A humbling and much needed experience, we made a lot of progress at the school,” she added.

From 2012 to 2020, she was at the Rapid City School - Canyon Lake Elementary, teaching first grade and kindergarten the last year. It was here that she became more accustomed to the elementary grades in making a bigger impact.

The summer of 2019, Dahl worked as the summer school administrator for the Rapid City Area School - (RCAS).

Dahl and her family moved to Clark this past June from Rapid City. She began her principal duties at the Clark School in July



Renae Dahl has been hired as the 2020/2021 Elementary and Colony principal at Clark. The mother of five children, ranging in age from three months to 17-years-old, she believes that building strong relationships with children brings better learning opportunities. Having moved to Clark this past summer, Dahl and her family really enjoy living in Clark with all that it has to offer.

She began her principal duties in July with a short break after November due to giving birth to her youngest daughter Tylan.

which also includes being colony principal.

Having family in Watertown and being familiar with the area, she loves being back closer to her ‘hometown’. Her father Rick Dahl and several cousins, also educators, live in the area. Her mother Sherry Sesso lives in Rapid City.

Renae has five children with three of them being in the Clark School system. From oldest to youngest, she has: Jonah, 17, who is a junior in high school; Isabella, 11, is in the fifth grade; Haven, 7, started first grade this year; Kyren, 4, will be in preschool next year and

Tylan is three-months-old.

Dahl added that she plans to continue Clark School’s tradition of academic excellence and its positive school culture.

“Mrs. Warren has been a good mentor, the staff is great and the students are good to each other. I live it here,” admitted principal Dahl.

“Working around a pandemic we are trying to mitigate with as much normalcy as possible, still maintaining a positive, fun and engaging

Dahl
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Clark School looking at life skills education for special ed

The first 90 minutes of the February meeting of the Clark School Board was a presentation and discussion of a proposed program for consideration.

By way of a ZOOM presentation, Heidi Johnson, of Mitchell, talked of a PAES Lab, which would provide a variety of options for students with a disability, regarding work skills, work behaviors and work paths.

Clark High School special education teacher Susan Schmit and superintendent Luanne Warren were very impressed when they saw Johnson’s program in action and felt even though it is a ‘cutting edge’ option and it would be new to this part of the state, that it is a great opportunity and would like the school board to explore this possibility.

PAES is an acronym for Practical Assessment Acclimation System. Johnson explained that “it’s a formal assessment” in a ‘work lab setting’ with six to eight levels, providing a variety of ‘life skills’ for disabled students. Teachers are the boss and students are the employees, with stand up work tables in five different work areas and 264 job boxes.

Three sets of parents were in attendance and they also were impressed with the options and opportunities. The initial cost of this program would be \$26,352 for the equipment and software, computers, etc.

The consensus of the parents is that it would be a helpful ‘little boost’ and the program would be an asset to the goal of adult mainstreaming.

No decisions were made at this time, but this offered a timely sequi into capital outlay discussion for 2021-2022.

“Bids are coming in slow,” said superintendent Warren of the bid process for potential capital outlay building projects. The cost for new tile in the commons and hallway areas is \$64,000. Plus, if the Field House has new flooring, there is over 6,000 square feet of space, as well. The flooring of the new areas would be much different and no decisions have been made in these projects.

In other business:

▲ It was reported last month that current superintendent Warren is retiring at the end of the school year and after a 50-minute executive session, the three remaining administrators, Travis Ahrens, Renae Dahl and business manager Mary Nelson were rehired on a unanimous ballot.

▲ The school board then spent the next hour and a half reviewing superintendent applications. The board adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

▲ Warren reported that currently there are two staff and two students out of school with COVID-19, or quarantining.

▲ Said Warren, “I’ve done more

rapid COVID tests this week than I have in a long time.” She is hoping that teacher vaccinations will occur around the first week of March.

▲ Contracts were offered for: Beth Helkenn - moving to district librarian; Emily Repp - football cheer coach; Michael Garry - middle school instructor/head football and Adam Calhoun - high school social studies, building trades, CAD and assistant football coach.

▲ The board looked at projected student numbers. There are currently 459 students, up 25 from the projected 434 for this year. These added enrollments are equal across the board: elementary, middle school and high school. By the 2023-24 school term, the projected number is 495.

▲ Next week is School Board Recognition Week. All board members received a signed executive proclamation by Gov. Kristi Noem.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 2.....	24	14	0
Feb. 3.....	30	16	0
Feb. 4.....	30	8	0
Feb. 5.....	15	-1	0
Feb. 6.....	14	-7	0
Feb. 7.....	-2	-14	0
Feb. 8.....	-5	-19	.05
2021 precipitation to date			0.60
2020 precipitation to date			1.03

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services

Next Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday begins the Easter Lenten Season with most churches in the area starting the first of a season of worship services.

In Clark, a community service will be held at the Plymouth UCC Church at 6:30 p.m. for the Ash Wednesday service.

Saint Michael Catholic Church in Clark will hold their Mass with

distribution of Ashes at 7:30 p.m. In Henry, at St. Henry’s Catholic Church, the Ash Wednesday service will be at 5:30 p.m.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will have services at 7:00 p.m.

The Prairie Star Lutheran parish begins their Lenten season with an

Lent
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Cracker Barrel set for February 15

The Legislative Cracker Barrel will be held on Presidents Day, Monday, February 15 starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Ulyot Building in Clark.

All District II legislators, Sen. Brock Greenfield, Rep. Lana Greenfield and Rep. Kaleb Weis will be in attendance to discuss legislative issues.

Clark/Day County Farm Bureau will sponsor the event. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Clark was home to Comet, Gopher and Packer star tackle Urban Odson

As one watched the Super Bowl last Sunday, the Tom Brady-led Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs. To get to the Super Bowl the Bucs defeated the Green Bay Packers.

Is it possible that somebody who played for the Green Bay Packers grew up in Clark County and graduated from Clark High School?

The answer is Yes!

Urban Odson, who graduated from Clark High School in 1936, went on to star for the University of Minnesota and then was drafted in the first round of the NFL draft, the ninth overall pick. His NFL career was put on hold, as Odson served in World War II.

In 1980 he was elected to the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame. In 1953 the Sioux Falls Argus Leader called Odson the greatest South Dakota athlete of the first half of the 20th Century. In 2000, Sports Illustrated, in the 50 greatest athletes from each state, rated him 14th.

In preparation for this story, Bruce Odson, Urb’s son who lives in Vermillion and also is a newspaper publisher, was contacted and he offered snippets of his Clark days and Minnesota Gopher years highlights, 1939-1941. The write-up following the bullet points is by Kelly Rübke, who wrote this resume for the South Dakota Sports Hall of

Fame.

Clark Comets

- At Clark High School, Odson won four letters in football, two letters in basketball and four letters in track.

- The Comets were Conference champions in 1935 and 1936.

- He was Captain his senior year and wore number 59 and in his junior year he wore number 16.

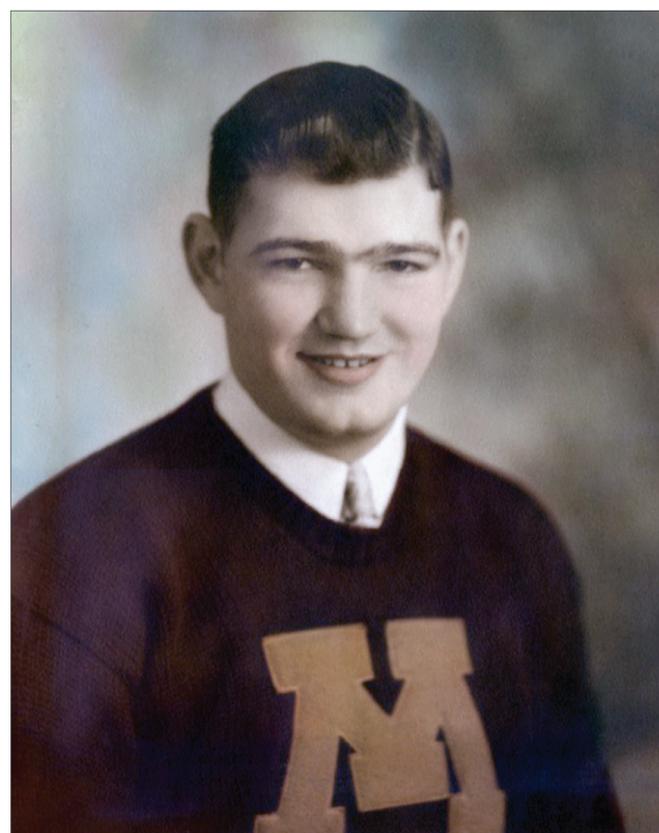
- He was president of the C-Club.
- He was vice president of the senior class.

- Among all the news clippings and awards the family has, there were copies of the Clark school newspaper Maroon and White, plus his letter certificates and letters.

- He was recruited by a local doctor who his son believes was Dr. Paul Scallin, to go to Mississippi. The SEC had started full scholarships.

- Urb’s uncle in Amboy, Minn., who was married to his mom’s sister, wanted him to go to Minnesota who had already won three national titles. His uncle drove all the way to Clark to drive him to Minneapolis. Also sports writers took an active part in recruiting and Urban received a two-page letter from the sports editor of the Minneapolis Star as to why he should go to Minnesota.

- The USD coach at the time,



Urban Odson

Harry Gamage, told Bruce Odson a story that he came to Clark to see his dad at the farm. “My dad said he had to get the hay in so the coach walked beside him as he picked up bales by alternating hands and threw them on the hay wagon, one hand at a time.”

University of Minnesota Gophers

- Once in Minnesota, Urb took up residence at Fire Station 19 where he lived the entire time he was at the University. He received free room for washing the fire trucks and through the generosity of the firemen, many meals. Because of Urban and other players who stayed there the building was saved when the new TCF stadium was built.

- His uncle in Amboy bought him his football shoes.

- Being a farm boy living in the center of the Twin Cities was a challenge. He would take the street car to the end of the line and go visit farms. Even after 35W was built he asked to come in on Lyndal, his favorite street car route.

- The 1940 team was ranked as one of the best all time. Half the teams the Gophers beat were in the top 10 in the final AP poll.

- At year end Coach Bernie Bierman started his year end wrap up with this statement: The spectacular play of Urban Odson at tackle

made quite a difference in Minnesota’s season.

- Odson came back to Clark in January, 1941 where he was honored by approximately 200 people. He was accompanied by two Gophers, Joe Mernick their great kicker and full back Bob Schweiger. The told how he missed out on being captain by one vote to future Heisman trophy winner Bruce Smith.

Urban Odson, of Clark was a football stand-out on a team full of all-stars for the Minnesota Gophers from 1939-1941. Odson’s college career at Minnesota took place during the Gophers’ dynasty years and the team was crowned National Champions in 1940 and 1941 with Odson as a starter who played a key role in the program’s success.

Honors and Accolades

During a time when only 11 players could be selected to an All-American team, Odson was recognized frequently. He was a consensus All-American in 1940 and averaged 54 minutes of playing time per game as a tackle on both sides of the line. In 1941 he received five All-American awards, as well as Big Ten honors, during a season that had Odson playing the entire year with an 18-pound knee brace

Odson
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