



## Valentines Day is Friday, February 14



With Valentines Day coming up next week, the Courier visited with a few residents at the Fay Wookey Assisted Living Center in Clark on how the day was recognized in their marriages as well as little acts of

kindness shown to one another. Above are, left to right, Donna Hilsabeck, John Foiles, June Herke, Shirley Tipton and Sharon Branhan.

"Black Hills Gold jewelry was a popular gift that men would give to their wives for Valentines Day or a special occasion," stated Donna Hilsabeck of Clark. "It was unique South Dakota made jewelry that everyone liked."

### Donna Hilsabeck

"For Valentines Day I remember my husband Neil would give me yellow roses as he knew I loved those flowers. Often flowers and a nice card was my Valentines Day gift. One year he gave me a nice di-

amond heart necklace which I think is my favorite Valentines Day gift. Although when I got yellow roses, they were my favorites, too."

Neil and Donna met in California when he was serving with the U.S. Navy. They met through mutual

friends and eventually married in April of 1958 in Las Vegas, Nev. and were married for 59 years when he passed away a couple years ago. He was in the Navy for 23 years and Donna still has one special letter that he wrote to her during that time.

### John Foiles

"I was a stubborn bachelor," stated John Foiles who was single for many years before he married his wife Alvira. On their first date, she told him she was going to Pakistan to work for her church. He gave her a ride to the airport so "he got his foot in the door" he said. They wrote to each other during that time.

After she came back they got together again and in John's words, "we kinda hit it off". They both were in their mid 30s when they married in December of 1960. "I guess I was waiting for my Vi," stated Foiles.

For Valentines Day, he said he would give her a nice card and take her out for supper usually. "She spoiled me and was a good cook. She worked really hard and really

### Valentines Day (continued on page 3)

## "Choose Clark County" opens Economic Development office

Clark County's new economic development office has opened its doors. "Choose Clark County" has gained IRS non-profit status, hired staff and established an office on Clark's main street.

"With bringing Kristin Vandersnick on board as a staff member, Choose Clark County is ready for action," said Greg Janisch, president of the Choose Clark County board of directors.

The board interviewed candidates in late December and chose Vandersnick as the organization's first executive director. Vandersnick brings a professional background as a communications director for large non-profit organizations, including the American Coalition for Ethanol and the South Dakota Farm Bureau, as well as fundraising, grant writing, and community organization skills.

"Economic development is something I truly believe in," said Vandersnick. "It goes way beyond the dollars and cents. It's all about the people. If we plan correctly and have the right growth-mindset in place, we can take our communities - which are already good - and



Kristin Vandersnick

make them great. We can make sure that everyone who wants to live here, do business here, and raise a family here has the opportunity to do so."

Kristin and her husband, Matt, farm in southern Clark County, about halfway between Willow Lake and Vienna. The couple has two daughters in the Willow Lake school: Ella, a sixth grader, and Claire, a first grader. Kristin is the daughter of Lloyd and Cheryl Brekke of Willow Lake. She is a 1997

### Choose Clark County (continued on page 3)

## Gov. Noem defends critical comments about news media

By Dana Hess  
For the S.D. Newspaper Association

Gov. Kristi Noem started her remarks before a gathering of newspaper editors and publishers with praise for the work that they do. Soon she was defending remarks she has made about the news media.

Noem talked Thursday to a group of editors and publishers in Pierre for Newspaper Day at the Legislature, sponsored by the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

Noem thanked more than 30 people who work at newspapers for the way they help improve their communities.

"You're really the heart of every single community," Noem said. "It really is important work."

Noem has, at times, found fault with that work. She was asked to respond to a quote from one of her campaign letters that said, "You

know as well as I do that we can't trust the media to tell the truth." She was asked Thursday if any of the media organizations represented in the room couldn't be trusted to tell the truth.

"There's always instances that we could specifically point to where you feel like it wasn't a fair article or coverage," Noem said. "I could give you specifics today, but I don't know if that's beneficial to the conversation."

Noem said her family was aware of the scrutiny they would face when she became governor.

"You get to be attacked and looked at and examined," Noem said.

The governor said her criticism wasn't leveled at newspapers in the state.

"Everyone in this room knows, in their heart of hearts, that this doesn't apply to all of them," Noem said, noting unfair coverage at a na-

tional level. "There are times where there has been biased and unfair reporting."

One area where South Dakota and the governor have come in for criticism is the "Meth. We're on it" advertising campaign.

"It was a provocative campaign and we knew that it would be," Noem said, adding that she did not anticipate the level of discussion that it would spark.

Noem said the next part of the campaign will be a call to action that provides South Dakotans with the tools they need to help people in their lives who are addicted to methamphetamines.

"Overwhelmingly, that's what people are looking for," Noem said.

The state's initial investment of \$5 million in ConnectSD has resulted in \$25 million in internet infrastructure, Noem said, connecting 6,500 homes and 150 businesses to

the internet.

Through the program, Noem said the state became aware of internet providers who weren't doing all they could to connect more customers.

"It kind of pointed out to us where providers in this industry weren't necessarily investing in infrastructure," Noem said.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 28	19	14	0
Jan. 29	24	19	.02
Jan. 30	27	20	0
Jan. 31	31	27	.18
Feb. 1	32	19	0
Feb. 2	45	31	0
Feb. 3	39	25	0
2020 precipitation to date			.69
2019 precipitation to date			1.17

## February city council meeting hears from 'Choose Clark County'

Newly hired Choose Clark County economic development executive director Kristin Brekke Vandersnick shared with the Clark City Council about her new position at the council's February meeting, Monday.

Vandersnick, who is half time, working mainly Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week, gave an overview of her position. She detailed the first year goals of: introduction of the economic development office, make business connections and study housing needs. She will come to council meetings quarterly, or when needed.

Housing needs, especially on the rental side, are always of interest in rural communities, as nice, affordable rental property is always at a premium. Said Vandersnick, "Business development and housing need to go hand-in-hand. We will study housing needs in our communities and develop a plan for meeting those needs."

The city of Clark and county of Clark both helped in financially creating an executive director for Choosing Clark County.

The employee update portion of the meeting was quite lengthy, as lead employee Darin Altfillisch, fi-

nance officer Jackie Luttrell, police chief Jeremy Wellnitz and golf club managers Melissa Nesheim and Tammy Rusher all had discussion items of note.

Altfillisch started off talking snow removal. He said that the snow pile at the fairgrounds is getting full and a bull dozer might be needed. He requested and was granted, a flat bid for his old pickup and he also talked water and sewer, briefly.

The golf club managers were next, talking booklet, workers, schedule, lessons, parking and Friday night progressive gaming.

Finance officer Luttrell noted that five council positions and the mayoral post are all up for election this year. Petitions are due by the end of the month of February.

Luttrell also talked about potential swimming pool equipment and pool related solar panel analysis, as a money saving option.

Police chief Jeremy Wellnitz is working on the updating of municipal ordinances. Wellnitz also compared 2019 enforcement statistics to 2018, noting that there are significant enforcement activity numbers for a town our size.

The resolution for the schedule of

fines was passed by the council and next month the ordinance for 'snow bird cars', those cars that aren't moved during snow removal, will be re-written.

Luttrell interjected that she, at that same time, would like to go to a two-year dog licensing program, rather than annually.

In March there will be two council meetings, on March 2 and March 16.

### In other business:

▲ The February police report had 30 calls for service. Five were traffic stops and there were three citizen assists. Miles traveled were 1,185. Three citations were issued and two warnings were given.

▲ Hudson Fuller observed Monday's meeting, as he is working on a Boy Scout merit badge.

▲ The Municipal district meeting is Tuesday, March 17, at Roslyn.

Council president Dennis Larson was on speaker phone for the meeting. Andrew Zemlicka was absent. Those who were also present include councilpersons Kerry Kline, Belinda Hanson, Terry Schlagel and Harvey Spieker. Also present were Mayor John Pollock, finance officer Jackie Luttrell and city attorney Chad Fjelland.

## Hannah Webb is the FCS student teacher at Clark School

"I've always loved my FACS class when I was in high school at Groton," stated Clark's new student teacher, twenty-two year old Hannah Webb.

Webb is a senior at South Dakota State University working on her FCS - Family and Consumer Science degree. As part of her education she is now at the student teaching level of her education and is working with Clark's FACS/FCCLA instructor Tammie Paulson. She started on January 20 and will continue working daily with Mrs. Paulson until April 17, 2020.

The daughter of Kent Webb and Lori Webb, both of Groton, will graduate in early May of 2020. She has one brother Turner who also attends SDSU and is majoring in Ag Science with this year being his junior year.

Student teacher Webb will take on a new class every week as Mrs. Paulson's assistant and then at the end of her time in Clark, the tables will turn with Miss Webb being the teacher for a week with Mrs. Paulson her assistant.

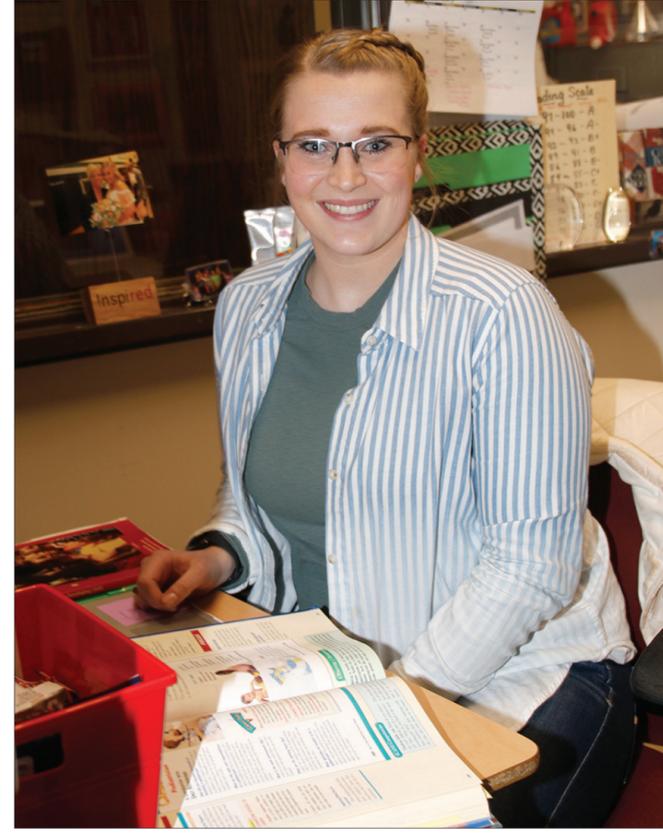
The past two weeks were spent in Child Development and Culinary Arts.

"I like all the parts of FACS class," stated Webb. "I've always liked cooking and sewing and I really like interior design."

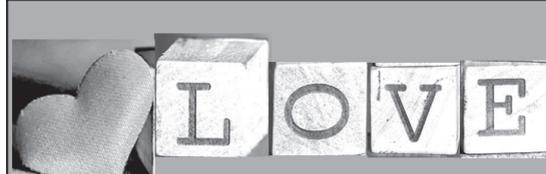
Webb has worked for Malchow's

### Webb

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Hannah Webb, a 2016 graduate of Groton High School who is currently finishing up her education at South Dakota State University is now a student teacher at Clark High School. Working with Tammie Paulson at the school, Webb is a Family and Consumer Science major.



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