

## Region IV One Act Play Contest today

The Region IV One Act Play Contest is being held Wednesday (today) at Great Plains Lutheran High School in Watertown. Area schools participating include Clark, Henry

and Florence.

More coverage on the One Act Play performances will be available in next week's edition.

## Furness Funeral Home welcomes new director Emerald Anderson

By Carolynn Olson

Emerald Anderson is the new Funeral Director and Assistant Manager at Furness Funeral Home in Clark. Anderson started full time January 1, 2025.

Anderson began working for Eidsness Funeral Home in Brookings in 2015 as a mortuary science student attending Des Moines Area Community College. She graduated in August of 2016 with a degree in mortuary science. She became a licensed funeral director in South Dakota in January of 2018.

Emerald also is a graduate of the University of South Dakota, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in General Studies as well as her Master's Degree in Adult Education. She became a licensed funeral director in Minnesota in August of 2018.

Anderson decided in high school that she wanted to pursue a career in pre-mortuary. "I had an opportunity to work in a funeral home when I was 18 years old, and I really enjoyed it. That led to me pursuing going to school," explained Anderson.

Emerald is originally from Mason City, Iowa. She lived in Brookings for 17 years before coming to Clark and has a son, Braydon. She is a member of the Optimist Club of Brookings, and on January 1, 2023, she became a partner in the Pioneer Enterprises, an employee-owned affiliation of South Dakota and Wyo-



oming funeral directors who promote local ownership and management.

Anderson is excited to become a member of the Clark community and serve the families within Clark County.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
January 14.....	9	-17	0
January 15.....	11	-10	0
January 16.....	33	11	0
January 17.....	39	20	0
January 18.....	36	-1	0
January 19.....	5	-18	0
January 20.....	2	-16	0
2025 precipitation to date	.17"		
2024 precipitation to date	.29"		



Just as the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones boys' basketball team was busy last week, so was the girls' team, as all of the games last week were doubleheaders. The ladies took on the Castlewood Warriors, Deuel Cardinals and Flandreau Fliers. The only team they lost to were the Fliers by a single point.

## Lady Cyclones whip Warriors 50-39, pass Cardinals 62-19, fall to Fliers 41-40

By Heather Jordan

The tide turned, as Clark-Willow Lake claimed a 50-39 win over Castlewood on January 14 in Willow Lake.

The Cyclones held off the Warriors nursing a five-point spread for most of the contest before pulling away in the final frame to cement the victory.

According to Head Coach Andrea Begeman, "It was a bit of a sloppy game on our end. We had too many fouls and got ourselves out of position on defense. We let it get close but stayed composed and finished the game scoring 10 unanswered points."

Sophomore Brynn Roerich made her mark notching a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds, while teammates Tehya Vig added 17 points, and Shelby Begeman

chipped in 11 to lead the Cyclones.

A balanced scoring attack coupled with strong guard play elevated the Cyclones to 7-2 on the season.

"I think it makes it difficult for teams to decide who they need to key on night to night," added Coach Begeman. "We have had six different girls lead us in scoring through 11 games which leaves even our coaching staff surprised night to night on who is going to step up!"

The game featured a tale of turnovers, and Clark-Willow Lake controlled the ball committing only 14 miscues compared to 32 by Castlewood, leading to valuable possessions for the Cyclones.

"It seemed like a sloppy game, but we did a good job at the end controlling the ball by not turning it over," explained Coach Begeman. "Our guard play with Kamryn, Te-



dinals in Willow Lake on January 17. Left, Cyclone Tehya Vig keeps hold of the ball despite being surrounded by Cardinal players. Teammate Brynn Roerich is pictured in the background coming to Vig's aid. Right, Cyclone Johanna Vandersnick heaves the ball toward the basket aware of the Cardinal guarding her side.

Photos by Cheryl Hovde

## senior spotlight "valley roebke"



By Charlee Peterson

Valley is the daughter of Kathy Roebke. She has two younger brothers, 15-year-old Ivan and nine-year-old Erving. Valley has lived in Clark her whole life.

Activities Valley is involved in include volleyball, basketball, track, cheer, softball, FCCLA, NHS, Special Olympics unified partner, choir and SADD. Valley enjoys playing volleyball and hanging out with her friends.

"My favorite things about school are seeing my friends and teachers every day, and I'll miss that the most," she stated. "I will also miss all of the extracurricular activities like volleyball, FCCLA and especially choir."

Her plans after graduation are to attend Lake Area Technical College for financial services sector and then possibly continue her education at USD.



Pictured above are the before and after shots of Tony's Collision Center located on the east side of Clark on U.S. Highway 212. The left photo shows what the old McCain Foods building looked like before improve-

## Tony's Collision Center transforms, relocates to McCain Foods site

By Catie Noethlich

The eastern side of Clark has experienced a remarkable transformation in recent years, most notably the old McCain Foods site. In recent years, the property had gradually fallen into disrepair, losing its appeal amidst the accumulating debris.

This sparked a vision for improvement within the community. While several businesses have previously expressed interest in the location, none succeeded in turning the tide and igniting the revitalization witnessed today. As the local community continues to flourish and progress, this transformation is vital for the bright future of Clark.

With the unwavering support of his family, a few tools, a dump truck and a year of relentless dedication, Tony Werdel and his family of Clark embarked on an ambitious project that many might have deemed impossible. They transformed rundown structures, discarded materials and chaotic surroundings into a vibrant space that now fuels their thriving business, Tony's Collision Center, with potential for even more.

The front building, prominently visible from U.S. Highway 212,

has experienced an extraordinary metamorphosis—from a mere shadow of its past to a magnificent facility perfectly suited for services like auto body and paint, fiberglass repair, semi-truck repair and refinishing, windshield repair and replacement, along with all other automotive needs.

Tony's Collision Center has moved to 121 Pudgy Drive, the former McCain Foods site, across from Big C on 212. This new name honors David "Pudgy" Clausen and signifies Werdel's commitment to growth and service for the Clark Area. The business was previously located on the west side of Clark at 602 First Avenue, U.S. Highway 212 in the former Ritter's Repair building.

The process of relocating began many years prior. Tony's Collision Center had swiftly outgrown its previous shop on the west side of Clark, and the demands of the community and services offered evolved.

A larger facility and more parking space were essential to accommodate the rapidly growing segment of the business, focusing on heavy equipment and semi-truck body repair and refinishing. Furthermore, additional storage space was required to hold all the neces-



sary parts and supplies. Relocation initiatives began in early 2023, as all elements began to align for a successful transition.

Photos Courtesy of Catie Noethlich

## ments were made on it. The photo on the right showcases a more recent view of the building, now Tony's Collision Center.

Tony's new facility officially welcomed visitors starting July 15, 2024. While the future of the original building remained uncertain, it sparked the interest of Clark School Board members who envisioned launching CTE programs for students. This collaboration would breathe new life into the old space and cultivate a pathway for students and future professionals to flourish.

Tony's Collision Center current full-time staff include Shane Patenode, an auto body technician, who has been employed since the business began in 2012 and Layne Stromsness, who started as an auto body technician on November 1, 2023.

Bryce Klancke, who began as a part-time assistant in the summer, continued as an intern through his senior year at Clark High School.

Zane Werdel, Tony's son, works full-time during the summer and part-time throughout the school year. He participates in the internship program at Clark High School and plans to join full-time after

graduating in May 2024.

Bryce and Zane spent many hours during the summer working on the building and were a big part of the construction of the new building.

Jackson Werdel, Tony's eldest son, helps by managing some of the after-hours tow truck calls.

Tony's brother Shane Werdel has joined the crew for the winter months while he takes a break from his concrete work.

The transformation, although impressive, is just beginning. As Werdel's business, along with the Clark community express their excitement for the new facility, the vision grows and evolves. The old freezer is gradually being updated, ensuring it remains viable and ready for its next chapter. Whether it becomes a community space a business, or something entirely unique, the possibilities are limitless.

In the coming years, the area south of Tony's Collision Center will also undergo beautification, creating a welcoming environment for the community to enjoy and enhance the inclusive atmosphere we strive for in Clark.