

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

Groundhog Day

is Tuesday,  
February 2



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The hometown newspaper of Everett & Erlene Hanson, Watertown, SD



One main purpose of regional FCCLA meetings, in person, is to elect officers. Incoming 2021-2022 Region 4 Executive Council members from left to right are, Junior High Representative Jerica Ratigain of Redfield, Secretary Macy Steen of Clark, President/State Officer Lilly Blume of Redfield, Vice President Owen Burns of Brookings and Treasurer Sara Thonvold of Clark.

## Clark hosts Region 4 FCCLA meeting

Clark FCCLA hosted the Region 4 FCCLA meeting on Friday January 21. Students from nine schools attended to run for 2021-2022 Region Officer positions, attend Leadership workshops, and compete in Professional Presentation events. Fifteen members from Clark attended Friday's meeting.

Sarah Weisbrod 2020-2021 Region 4 Vice-President and Sara Thonvold 2020-2021 Region 4 Junior High rep worked with three other officers to plan, prepare and run the meeting. Running for Region offices for the 2021-2022 year from Clark were Macy Steen and Sara Thonvold. Steen is the new 2021-2022 Region 4 Secretary and Thonvold is the 2021-2022 Region 4 Treasurer.

Clark FCCLA students competing in Senior Quiz Bowl were Hudson Fuller, Gunnar Kvistad, Amy Splinter, Macy Steen and Sarah Weisbrod. They won their first round and advanced to the stage to take the Region 4 Championship. They will compete at the State level

in April. Competing in Junior Quiz Bowl were Jack Helkenn, Aaron Zemlicka, Madison Pickrel, Sara Thonvold and Musonda Kabwe. This team also won the Championship round and will also compete for the State title in April.

Competing in Professional Presentations were Jenna Gaddis and Ella Wellnitz. Both received superior ratings and will be competing in April at the State meeting. Jenna Gaddis also received top score in her station to earn a Top Superior placing.

Heath Hemmingson, a member of the National Out Reach team ran a workshop concentrating on Positivity. Sarah Weisbrod and Macy Steen, members of the Trends team ran a workshop focusing on Coping With Covid. Both teams are part of FCCLA State Leadership teams.

Donna Weisbrod was presented with FCCLA Honorary membership for all her hard work and help throughout the last nine years.

**FCCLA Region**  
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## Questions swirl around who qualifies next to get COVID-19 vaccine in S.D.

Bart Pfankuch,  
South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota health officials and medical providers have been near the top of the nation in administering COVID-19 vaccines as they become available, but a significant new challenge awaits as the state moves into a much larger, more difficult-to-define population of people who may qualify for a shot.

That upcoming subset of people will include an estimated 80,000 residents with two or more underlying medical conditions as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With that next group potentially in play as early as February, state officials and health providers as of Jan. 20 did not have a firm plan in place to definitively determine how they, and members of the public, will figure out who qualifies for a vaccine in that population group, how potential vaccine recipients will verify their conditions and whether proof of medical diagnoses will be required before shots are administered.

Health providers across the state have increasingly been fielding questions from residents with existing medical conditions who want to be vaccinated as soon as possible and who so far are unable to get clear answers about when they can get shots.

As of mid-January, the state and medical providers had not developed concrete plans on how to determine who qualifies in the Phase 1D subgroup of patients with two or more underlying conditions, said Scott Peterson, director of pharmacy at Monument Health in Rapid City.

"There's been no decision that has been made on that yet," said Peterson, who is leading that system's vaccination efforts. "At this point in time, there is not a definitive plan on that."

The state recently entered the fourth phase of its long-range, seven-phase vaccination plan after completing initial phases that included front-line health-care workers, long-term care residents and staff, law enforcement, EMS and correctional workers and a few other small groups.

After having success in phases 1A through 1C, the state sped up entry into Phase 1D on Jan. 18 by making shots available to a newly created subset of 1D that includes the highest-risk patients within the group — those 80 and older, people with cancer, those on dialysis and very high-risk people in congregate settings.

In addition to all residents 65 or over, teachers and college staff and funeral service workers, Phase 1D also includes "persons with 2 or more underlying medical conditions," a population estimated at roughly 80,000 people.

The state is basing vaccinations in that group on a list developed by the CDC of 23 medical conditions that are known or believed to put someone at higher risk of complications or death if the person becomes infected with the coronavirus.

Verifying if someone qualifies within the two underlying conditions category could be fairly simple for a doctor or practitioner who has extensive experience treating or diagnosing a patient, said Dr. Michael Wilde, vice president and chief medical officer at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

But determining whether a person has two of the CDC-listed conditions will be difficult if not impossible for front-line employees who will check in patients at hospitals, clinics or pharmacies where COVID-19 vaccines will be delivered, Wilde said.

Identifying and verifying who  
**COVID-19 vaccine**  
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## Town of Willow Lake water supplier is now Clark Rural Water Systems

Clark Rural Water has come to the town of Willow Lake!

The town had an early Christmas present recently when the town switched from their own well water to Clark Rural Water Systems.

Water is now piped from Clark Rural Water Systems plant just south of Clark to the corner of 427th Ave. and SD Highway 28.

There, it hooks up with the 'blue building' or older well house and travels on east to the Willow Lake town water tower. Then from the tower it goes to everyone's homes and businesses.

"It's been a good decision for the town," stated Del Bratland, mayor of the town for the last six years. "Our water over the years had become even more hard and rusty with more minerals and seemed to be getting worse, not better, so something had to be done. We were spending so much on chemicals to treat the water and it wasn't getting any better, so the time had come to go another route.

"Also, one big reason was the cost involved with updating all of our systems and pumps which were ag-

**Willow Lake water**  
(continued on page 6)



Willow Lake mayor Del Bratland is shown next to the site where Clark Rural Water comes to the distribution building better known in the area as 'the blue building' or the older well house. The town of Willow Lake is now being supplied by Clark Rural Water, a project that got rolling about eight years ago.

## Two 4-wheelers are submerged at Reid Lake

▲ Both men are alright

Two 4-wheelers went into the ice/water, Saturday, at Reid Lake. According to Clark Deputy Sheriff Tad Heaton, the call came in about 6:30 p.m.

Dan Scott of Nebraska, along with his associate Ted, went into the lake on the north side, about 50 feet off shore.

"The duo was heading back from being parked on the south side and as they went over a heave, both 4-wheelers went into the lake," reported Heaton.

Neither man was injured or hospitalized. The Clark County Ambulance joined the sheriff's office on the 911 call.

## WEATHER

**Robert Cole - Official**  
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 19.....	29	17	.08
Jan. 20.....	29	5	0
Jan. 21.....	43	22	0
Jan. 22.....	30	2	tr
Jan. 23.....	22	2	0
Jan. 24.....	24	5	.19
Jan. 25.....	18	7	0
2021 precipitation to date			0.55
2020 precipitation to date			0.49

## Region VIB One-Act play competition is today

The cast of the One-Act play at Clark High School has been busy practicing their lines before school this month in preparation for the region contest.

Clark High School was moved to another region this year, so on January 27 the cast of the One-Act play will be traveling to the Sisseton Performing Arts Center. Clark competes with six other schools, at Sisseton, in Region VIB

At this region performance, no audience members may attend and only those from the participating schools are allowed to watch performances.

The play *Double, Double* by Kathryn Funkhouser, a comedy/drama has been chosen for this year's entry.

In this tale of loyalty, anxiety, skittles and doom, the main character Emily is obsessed with trying to make her school's drama production of *Macbeth* go off without a hitch. She tries to predict the disasters of the future trying to learn from awkward interactions of the past. Meanwhile three witches send strange visions to turn Emily and her classmates against each other, so no one can predict what happens next and comedy ensues. The witches' goal is to sabotage the production of *Macbeth* so they can escape the mortal realm.

Before the charm is wound up, all will face their fears eventually.

Cast members include: Heath



Maddie Pickrel, left and Nevaeh Rusher, right, work on their lines for the CHS One-Act play, *Double, Double* by Kathryn Funkhouser. Pickrel and Rusher are part of the 15-person cast. The play focuses on the cast of a high school performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Hemmingson - Mr. Lucas; Logan Hurlbert - Emily; Maddie Pickrel - Jess; Nevaeh Rusher - Annie; Emma Rahm - Diana; Ericka Dale - Ursula; Sarah Weisbrod - Tamora; Chad Kolden - AJ; Hudson Fuller - Logan; Jordyn Maynard - Tiger;

Sadie Streff - Lennox; Brianna Dale - Brianna; Amy Splinter - Amy; Brandi Foster - Brandi and Veda Geilvoet - Veda.

The play is approximately 45 minutes long and the director of the One-Act play is Corrine Kallemeyn.



## Local assistance in the Lemmon fire courtesy of Farm Rescue

A large prairie fire started northeast of Lemmon on January 14, 2021. The cause was unknown and horrific winds spread it more than 21 miles with the width of the blaze burning four miles wide at times. Residents voluntarily evacuated with 19 farms and ranches being in the general area. Livestock, horses, fences and grazing grounds were lost. An estimated 15,000-20,000 acres were burned.

This was a perfect situation for Farm Rescue where their mission is to help farmers and ranchers who have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster by providing the necessary equipment and manpower to plant, hay or harvest their crop. Livestock feeding assistance is also available to ranches. Farm Rescue helps farm and ranch families in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

Farm families from Clark County helped to supply hay to two families affected by the Lemmon fire. Ferg Nelson and Keith Glanzer of Carpenter are shown working together to load two semi loads of hay bales to help the Lemmon farmers.

